

has served on several boards and commissions committed to helping children in need.

Mr. Dinh Nguyen is a shining example of what the United States of America is all about. This Nation was built on certain ideals including community, self-sacrifice, and caring. Mr. Nguyen has demonstrated, through his career as a social worker and by his voluntarism, that he is committed to those ideals that Americans value.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my own congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Huu Dinh Nguyen on behalf of my constituents in the 16th District of California and the U.S. House of Representatives.

PORT WASHINGTON YOUTH ACTIVITIES HONORS RUDY HOTAREK, TOM ROBERTSON, AND TOM BROWN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents in the 5th Congressional District of New York, and the citizens of the Village of Port Washington, in Nassau County, in recognizing the Port Washington Youth Activities [PYA] as it celebrates its Fifth Hall of Fame Dinner Dance.

This year, the PYA will honor three individuals, Rudy Hotarek, Tom Robertson, and Tom Brown, for their dedication and support of youth activities in the community. These individuals will be inducted into the Port Washington Youth Activities Hall of Fame.

Rudy Hotarek was a significant force in the developmental days of PYA; he served as coach, officer and member of the board for more than 10 years.

Tom Robertson was a distinguished and involved coach of young people for more than 12 years. He lent his exceptional efforts to PYA's football, basketball, and lacrosse programs.

Finally, Tom Brown is being honored for athletic achievements in basketball and football at the collegiate level in the 1970's. Much of the PYA's reputation for skillful competition and dedication to excellence was developed during Tom Brown's participation as a young man in PYA football, basketball and baseball programs.

All three of these gentlemen are being recognized for their individual and collective contributions to youth sports. Their achievements are an excellent reflection upon themselves, their families, and their community, and represent the true American spirit of dedication and volunteerism embodied by the PYA. These three men are most deserving of this honor, and merit the special appreciation of their neighbors and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Rudy Hotarek, Tom Robertson, and Tom Brown, and in congratulating the Port Washington Youth Activities for its generous contributions and dedicated service to the community.

HONORING ALISON GAVRELL

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in June, a very talented young woman from my district in California will be traveling to Washington to receive a major literary award. Alison Gavrell will receive the Silver Award at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards national exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery of Art for her short story, "Don't Believe Everything You Read."

This prestigious program, which honors talented young writers and artists from across the Nation, is designed to encourage some of America's finest and most gifted students in the pursuit of excellence. Alison plans to read from her story at the Library of Congress Saturday, June 17, and will be part of the ceremony and reception for all national award winning students at the Corcoran the following day.

Alison, a student at the Dorris-Eaton School in Walnut Creek, deserves high praise for her diligence, self-discipline, and creativity. My congratulations also go to her parents, George and Elaine Gavrell, and her teacher, Ms. Deeni Schoenfeld for their contributions to Alison's signal achievement. It is a pleasure for me to recognize Alison in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING PHILIP BILGRAY, RAMP SERVICEMAN AT WASHINGTON DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the following story published in Hemispheres about Philip Bilgray, a United Airlines employee. Mr. Bilgray is the first hearing-impaired employee to work on the ramp at Washington Dulles International Airport. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bilgray and can tell you that he is a very special individual. He is proud of the work he does and of the fact that he has helped other employees learn sign language so that they can communicate better in situations where oral communication is impossible. As a frequent traveler, I feel good knowing that Philip Bilgray is working to keep everything running smoothly.

UNITED VOICES

(By Philip Bilgray)

My name is Philip Bilgray, and I am a Ramp Serviceman. You could say that I broke new ground as the first hearing-impaired employee on the ramp at Washington Dulles International Airport, where I've worked since 1986.

Some people may think it's difficult for me to do my job because I interact a lot with other employees and customers. But my disability doesn't get in the way of my work. Much of the time, aircraft noise on the ramp makes it very difficult for anyone to hear, and ramp employees often use hand signals to communicate as they work. In fact, I've

expanded that practice by teaching my co-workers some simple sign language, and now we can communicate even better without speaking.

Also, driving a tug in the ramp area isn't much different for me than driving a car. In both cases, I take special precautions to make sure that I see nearby vehicles because I can't hear them approaching. With aircraft and other vehicles everywhere, making the extra effort to constantly look around ensures that I'm upholding our corporate value: Safety is all times, in all things.

As a United employee, I am proud to take care of your luggage whether you're traveling for business or pleasure. I try to help you if you have luggage problems. When delays occur, each of us knows that being a team is more important than ever, and by working together, we can minimize the impact of a delayed or cancelled flight.

Although I've taken my career at United seriously and I've worked hard, my parents get the credit for my successful entry into the workplace. They encouraged me to speak and sent me to a special private school for the speech impaired to make sure I could communicate with other people, like my co-worker, supervisors, and manager. My parents gave me the confidence to go for what I wanted, and what I've always wanted is to work for the best airline in the world. And the really great thing is, I don't just work at United anymore, I'm one of the owners!

I've found that sometimes the best way to learn about a job you're interested in is to take a straightforward approach. Although I'm very open about my deafness, I know some people don't like the word "handicapped," so I say that people like me who are deaf or hard of hearing are exceptional people, who can do anything if they put their mind to it.

There are many examples of hearing-impaired people achieving a lot of success. Many people saw the Miss America Pageant on TV this past year and witnessed the crowning of the first hearing-impaired winner. Also, millions of people have seen Marleee Matlin, a deaf actress, in Children of a Lesser God and on television.

Those are only two examples. I truly believe that it makes no difference whether a person is deaf or hard of hearing. There are many fine people who work for airlines or as lawyers, doctors, dentists, etc. And, happily, there also are many hearing people throughout the world who either know sign language or would like to learn it. If you are one of them, I would encourage you to learn sign language—it can open up a whole new world for you!

NOTE: Philip Bilgray has received commendations for administering first aid to a passenger on a United flight and for participating in Dulles' annual Christmas Fantasy Flight for critically ill children.

LEAH McCANDLESS TRIBUTE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, one of our Nation's unsung heroes is celebrating yet another milestone. Mrs. Leah McCandless is turning 95 years old this week.

While many of my colleagues may not know Mrs. McCandless, House and Senate members who have had to run for office representing Hobart, OK know Mrs. McCandless very well. It has become a sort of ritual for candidates to stop by her home for some pie and