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Mr. Speaker, I would like the text of my legislation reprinted in the RECORD.

IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, as an avid believer in the Constitution of the United States of America, I take particular pride in the diversity of our people and those who make use of the powers vested in our Constitution to make this country great.

There are several people in my district who share in my desire to keep the minority community informed about issues at home and abroad. People such as Bee Vang, who interned in my office last summer, is now the anchor of Hmong TV USA and Uniting Hmong Radio. Rafael Hernandez, El Grafico newspaper director, keeps the Hispanic community abreast of issues with his weekly newspaper. Harout Sassounian, who has many ties with the large Armenian-American population in the district, is the publisher of the California Courier in Glendale, CA. Finally, there is Mark Kimber, who has made the California Advocate a reputable publication in Fresno for nearly three decades.

Recently there was an article in The Fresno Bee, the leading newspaper in my congressional district, in which the writer, Karla Bruner, wrote about the minority media, and its impact on the 19th Congressional District. Her Journalistic talents and keen awareness of minority communities in the district make her account all the more informative.

The press has played an important part in shaping our history and our great Nation. I salute the above mentioned people for their valuable contributions to the 19th District. I take pleasure in sharing the following article by Karla Bruner for the Fresno Bee:

MINORITY MEDIA OUTLETS STRIVE TO TELL THEIR SIDE OF THE STORY

A handful of racial and ethnic groups in Fresno are practicing freedom of the press their way.

Frustrated with mainstream media that they believe do not represent their ethnic community well or just do not speak the language, they have set up their own media groups.

Joining this tradition will be The Hmong American Times, which will begin publishing Feb. 1. It will replace The Hmong Times, which began under another name in 1990.

Locha Thao, the newspaper's new publisher, said he entered the business to help his community, not to make money.

"We need voices. We need a newspaper in our own language for the elders to understand," he said. Several thousand subscribers are expected to continue paying for the newspaper. Other copies are distributed free at Hmong stores and businesses.

Thao echoes one of the main reasons why Hmong, Armenians, Hispanics and African-

Americans run their own newspapers, television and radio programs. They do not want to be stereotyped. They want to maintain their identity.

"The black press has been an institution in our community for hundreds of years. We support our own media, tell our own story. It's a historical fact that the general media doesn't represent us," said Mark Kimber, publisher of the California Advocate newspaper in Fresno, a weekly publication that has served the African-American community for almost 29 years. It has 22,000 paid subscribers.

Kimber said that many times when the mainstream media show African-Americans, they are being arrested. He said his newspaper tries to highlight the accomplishments of African-American lawyers and doctors.

Bee Vang, an anchor for Asian Broadcasting, which airs Hmong-language programs on local television stations, knows Kimber's frustration.

"[The mainstream media] usually represent the worst side of the Hmong," he said.

That does not mean journalists in the minority media represent their communities in a positive light only, he and others said. Vang said the Hmong program last year aired the story regarding the rape of a girl by Hmong youths, for example.

"The thing is, we talk to the leadership of the community," he said. "Say we do a story and we talk to leaders to ask them how the [Hmong] culture is affected—then there's less of a negative response [to the story]."

Rafael Hernandez, director of El Grafico, a Spanish-language weekly in Fresno, said his newspaper is not afraid to go after anyone—even if they are Hispanic. About 20,000 copies of the newspaper are distributed at no charge in Fresno.

"We're not like big newspapers who are afraid of lawsuits. * * * We write what the people want," he said.

Harut Sassounian, publisher of the California Courier, a 38-year-old English-language Armenian newspaper, said minority-run newspapers serve a special role.

The California Courier was published in Fresno until 1988 and is now in Glendale. It has 3,000 paid subscribers.

He said minority-run newspapers are like the "village newspaper that is read by everybody."

"The Fresno Bee and New York Times aren't going to take a political position on every Armenian issue and people want direction," he said.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY—NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay special tribute today to an important series of events that will take place on International Women's Day. International Women's Day will be celebrated with great enthusiasm and energy throughout New Jersey on March 8, 1996, and I am delighted to be able to help organizers in their goal of recognizing the achievements and contributions of working women.

International Women's Day is one of New Jersey's most exciting community initiatives. Its New Jersey inception dates back to 1909 in Metuchen which is in my Sixth Congressional District.

Created as an opportunity to facilitate discussions on women and work, International

Women's Day has over the past 85 years inspired many young women to better understand their working futures in a global context.

On Thursday evening, Mr. Speaker, a public event will be held at Rutgers Cook Campus Center to offer awards to those selected from over 400 student essays collected from throughout New Jersey. This is a special evening and will help start International Women's Day—New Jersey, as each awardee and presenter will help to inspire the goals of International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a special congratulations to International Women's Day—New Jersey on their achievement of becoming the first State to plan a statewide celebration in schools and universities this Friday, March 8, 1996.

It is truly commendable that New Jersey has so many leaders committed to making an important event, such as International Women's Day—New Jersey, a vivid reality. To know that this event will be celebrated in every school district in each of New Jersey's 21 counties is remarkable and I hope each individual can take the important lessons from these events.

Mr. Speaker, we do not always have the opportunity to honor an organization with such a rich history of progressive thought and I am so proud to be able to recognize their achievements today.

International Women's Day will be an unqualified success and I am proud to have had the distinct pleasure of supporting this initiative throughout our State and nationally.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HIALEAH-MIAMI LAKES ADULT EDUCATION CENTER VOLUNTEERS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to staff and volunteers at the Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Center and to recognize their considerable accomplishments.

The Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Center is guided by the leadership of Principal Robert P. Villano and Assistant Principal Martin D. Simonoff. The backbone of the adult education center, however, is composed by the numerous volunteers who work so diligently with the adult students.

I would like to mention one of these volunteers in particular. His name is Otto Esteire. Otto has distinguished himself by his extraordinary dedication and assistance and is scheduled to receive an award from the Office of Applied Technology, Adult, Career, and Community Education.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the hard work of Otto, the other volunteers and staff, that the Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Center is able to assist students of all ages to prepare for the G.E.D. exam, to sharpen their skills in preparation for entering the work force, and to encourage them in their efforts to succeed in their goals. The entire south Florida community is grateful for their contributions.