

IN HONOR OF ELLI
STASSINOPOULOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Elli Stassinopoulos, mother and grandmother, whose singular, unselfish devotion to her family and friends places her in that pantheon which awaits all those who have made the every need of their loved ones a higher cause than themselves. "Angles fly because they take themselves lightly," she would tell her children. Elli's voyage through life was that of a lighted persona which the darkness of history could not comprehend, nor could personal tragedy embitter.

Elli Stassinopoulos knew peril and hardship early in life. Her family fled Russia during the 1917 Revolution. She was captured by the Germans when she joined the anti-Nazi Greek resistance. She surmounted a disappointing marriage. Despite here early travails, she lived each day in simplicity and humility, triumphant, with a grateful heart and a sense of wonder. She slipped past the would-be conquerors of spirit to establish her domain in the sanctity of the home. In it she created magic with food and philosophy. Her household sustained and uplifted body, mind and spirit for her beloved daughters, Arianna, and Agapi and granddaughters Christina and Isabella.

"From the heirloom carpet spirited out of the Caucasus to her last pair of gold earrings, she sold everything along the way to pay for our schooling, sending me to Cambridge, and my sister Agapi to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. But far beyond an education, she gave us what I know is the greatest gift a mother can give her child: her attention, her energy, her unconditional loving," wrote Arianna in a recent Mother's Day tribute to "Yaya" (Greek for grandmother).

Yaya's knowledge of the Greek classics, her stunning eloquence and her joy of living defined enchantment for all visitors to her home. Her life was an unceasing hymn of praise to her loved ones. And long after her beautiful voice has become a blessed memory, the music of that praise will be felt in the hearts of those who loved her so much, and all echo in the voices of her daughters and granddaughters through the years. Great love reverberates greatly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join with me in recognizing the life of Elli Stassinopoulos, a woman who exemplified the kind of caring and devoted love of a mother and grandmother which is cherished and which makes each home a holy place.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR CLYDE
FOSTER OF TRIANA, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Clyde Foster, a resident of my district and the former Mayor of Triana,

Alabama. The City of Triana has designated today as "Clyde Foster Day" and I want to join the City in recognizing their unsung hero.

Mr. Foster has dedicated many years of outstanding public service to his community and to the entire state of Alabama. He has accumulated over fifty years of community service including the twenty he spent as Mayor of the lovely city of Triana. In the position of Mayor, Mr. Foster held the city together improving the lives of its citizens and making Triana a better place to work and raise a family.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Foster for his exemplary role as a leader in our community. I join the Governor of Alabama and the State Senate in commending Mr. Foster for his selfless lifetime commitment to improving his city. As his friends, neighbors and family join today to honor him, I share their pride in and gratitude for the life and accomplishments of their beloved Mr. Foster. On behalf of the United States Congress, I thank him for a job well done.

A TRUE COLORADO HERO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an extraordinary young man, Travis Stout. Travis, a young Cub Scout, just recently received the Boy Scouts of America Medal of Merit. It was on November 24, 1999 that Travis' quick actions and knowledge of emergency actions allowed him to save his father from danger. This lifesaving award is being presented to a young man that not only saved his father, but also exemplified the characteristics of what it takes to be a true hero.

Travis, his younger brother Allen, and father Wayne were checking oil field generators as they often do on weekends. When methanol was blown back out of the line, Wayne was hit in the eyes and mouth. Travis, realizing the danger of the event, quickly flushed out his father's eyes with water and dialed help. With help unable to reach the area in time, Travis operated his father's truck and drove to the Utah-Colorado border to meet help.

Travis, a ten-year-old, took it upon himself to help his father and in doing so became a hero of a size much greater than his own. I think we all owe this young gentleman our congratulations and commendations on this incredible feat of heroism. Travis is a true hero and an outstanding citizen of our great nation, as well as an example for all to follow.

IN TRIBUTE TO JIM AND MARIE
MCCOY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Jim and Marie McCoy, who recently celebrated 40 years as owners and operators of McCoy's Automotive & Towing in Santa Paula, California, a city in my district known for its world-renowned citrus and hardworking citizens.

McCoy's Automotive offers foreign and domestic car service to its customers. Jim and Marie McCoy offer dedication and devotion to their community.

While building a thriving business, Jim McCoy also found time to be president of the Chamber of Commerce, a City Councilman and Santa Paula's mayor. Marie McCoy has been active with the Brownies, the PTA and several other community organizations. Together, they took on many of the community's fund-raising needs, most recently the Jim Knight Annual Golf Tournament, which benefits Santa Paula Memorial Hospital.

They built a family as they built a family business. The McCoy's started with a two-bay garage in 1960 and expanded to a three-bay garage, with expanded services, three years later. By 1975, the McCoy's had built such a loyal following that they had to move to their present location—an eight-bay garage—where they continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that on the day we return from our districts, having just celebrated Labor Day, that we honor Jim and Marie McCoy. They epitomize the small businessperson—people who strive to build America's economy while raising strong families with strong ideals. They epitomize the entrepreneur, who takes time from his hectic schedule to serve as an elected official and community leader, and who takes time from her hectic schedule to raise funds for nonprofit organizations and serve in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Jim and Marie McCoy for 40 years of successful ownership of McCoy Automotive & Towing, and thank them for a lifetime of devotion to their community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT J. FISHER,
SUPERINTENDENT, CASTRO
VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special leader in my district. Dr. Robert Fisher has been involved in education for 36 years as a teacher and administrator. As Superintendent, Dr. Fisher has successfully worked for the betterment of the entire school community.

Dr. Bob Fisher emphasized increased student achievement marked by 95 percent of all third graders reading at grade level by the end of third grade, distinguished performance by schools on the statewide assessments, and four schools receiving recognition as State Distinguished Schools. Dr. Fisher established a partnership with St. Mary's College, the Annenberg Foundation, and the Hewlett Foundation. These public-private partnerships have helped Dr. Fisher to better serve the school community and increase literacy rates among students.

I take great pride in honoring Dr. Bob Fisher's dedication and leadership. His hard work has created high standards, rigorous curricula and excellent teachers throughout the District. Under his direction, Castro Valley Unified School District has served as a model for schools in Alameda County and throughout

the State of California. I believe that school districts across the country should follow Dr. Fisher's example and take the opportunity to learn from his successful and innovative ways.

PRESIDENT MUST PRESS
VAJPAYEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND SELF-DETERMINATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, next week Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is coming to visit the United States. He will meet with several American leaders, including President Clinton and perhaps both major-party Presidential candidates. When he meets with these leaders, they must bring up the issue of human rights and self-determination.

India claims to be a democracy, but in truth there is no democracy in India. It is a militant Hindu fundamentalist state. Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and other minorities suffer severe oppression and atrocities at the hands of Hindu fundamentalists.

Just last month, a priest in Gujarat was kidnapped, tortured, and paraded through town naked by militant Hindu nationalists. The Indian government has refused to register a complaint against the kidnappers. This is the latest act in a campaign of terror against Christians that has been going on since Christmas 1998. This campaign has seen the murders of priests, rape of nuns, Hindu militants burning a missionary and his two sons to death in their van, the destruction of schools and prayer halls, and other anti-Christian atrocities. Most of these activities have been carried out by allies of the government or people affiliated with organizations under the umbrella of the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, which was founded in support of Fascism.

Recently, Bal Thackeray, the leader of Shiv Sena, a coalition partner of the ruling BJP, threatened to engulf the country in violence if he is held responsible for his part in hundreds of murders in 1992. In India, democracy apparently requires making coalitions with killers.

The Christians are not the only minority that is being oppressed. When President Clinton visited India in March, 35 Sikhs were massacred in the village of Chithi Singhpora in Kashmir. The Indian government killed five Muslims, claiming that they were the individuals responsible for the killings. Later they were forced to admit that these Muslims were innocent. Now the Indian government has arrested two more people on the claim that they are responsible for the massacre. Yet two independent investigations have clearly established that the Indian government itself was responsible for the massacre. How can a democratic nation justify these actions?

The Sikhs have declared their independence from India, forming the new country of Khalistan in 1987. The people of Kashmir were promised a plebiscite on their future in 1948, and India promised the United Nations that this referendum would be held as well. The people of predominantly Christian Nagalim seek their independence. There are several other freedom movements within India's borders. It seems to this Member that the

best, fairest, and most democratic way to settle these issues is to conduct a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence in these minority nations.

In addition to our legitimate nuclear-proliferation concerns, it is important that as the world's only superpower, our leaders press the government of India to live up to the democratic standards they proclaim by allowing all people within their borders to enjoy basic human rights and self-determination. If they do not do so, we should cut off U.S. aid to India and put this Congress on record with a resolution in support of human rights, self-determination, and nuclear nonproliferation for all the people of South Asia.

HONORING CINDY K. BOWEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the service of the Honorable Cindy K. Bowen, of Montrose County, Colorado. Ms. Bowen is retiring after over a decade of service as County Commissioner. Before serving as Commissioner, Ms. Bowen was a Senior Auditor for Dalby, Wendland and Company, CPA's, where she served as Montrose County's Auditor from 1978-1987.

For years, Cindy has done great service to western Colorado as a Commissioner and, because of her distinguished tenure, has received a number of awards. Among them are CCI Outstanding Freshman Commissioner of the year in 1989, and CCI Outstanding Commissioner of the year in 1994. Ms. Bowen's service to Montrose County has helped to make it a better place for all its citizens. Her outstanding commitment to public service is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate Cindy on her upstanding service as a County Commissioner and wish her all the best in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN ELLIS
JOHNSTON OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a resident of my district and a dear friend, Mrs. Helen Ellis Johnston. Mrs. Johnston's accomplishments and service to her community would fill many a page. She is greatly loved and respected throughout the community and will be honored by the local chapter of the Arthritis Foundation with their annual Humanitarian award.

A native Kentuckian, Mrs. Johnston is married to Mr. William Hooper Johnston. She has three daughters: Mrs. Patricia Vidler, Ms. Christy Catts, and Mrs. Cathy Nickelson. Mrs. Johnston moved to Alabama in 1952. Shortly thereafter she began the years of nonprofit and volunteer service that have been the lifeblood of so many organizations.

After arriving in Huntsville, Mrs. Johnston soon found her niche in working to improve this community's public health safety. She served for 12 years as Executive Director for the North District of the Alabama Lung Association of Alabama. In this position, she took a proactive approach to public health awareness helping to write and implement the first Alabama Health Curriculum Guide for schools across the State. Receiving a grant from the EPA, she conducted the first workshop in North Alabama to create citizen awareness on the need for adoption of the Clean Air Amendment and later served on Alabama's Environmental Quality Control Board.

Among her numerous community service ventures, she shared her talents and gifts with the Symphony Guild originating and chairing both the first Symphony Ball in 1964 and the first Silver Tea in 1967 for the Youth Symphony. Mrs. Johnston inaugurated several of our community's premier charity social functions including the Von Braun Center's Beaux Arts Ball, the Library's "Vive Le Livre" and Huntsville Hospital Foundation's Celebrity Golf Classic.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has dedicated many years to serving the nation and the citizens of North Alabama. I send my congratulations to Mrs. Johnston and her family as she accepts the well-deserved Humanitarian Award from the Arthritis Foundation of North Alabama. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Helen Ellis Johnston.

IN HONOR OF ST. AUGUSTINE
ACADEMY'S SEVENTY-FIFTH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Augustine Academy, an institute devoted to excellence in education. The Academy is a private, non-profit all-girls high school that presents its students with a challenging array of options. The students of St. Augustine are on a business, college preparatory or general academic track. Throughout the past seventy-five years, this curriculum, by educating thousands of young women, has provided an educational program that is personal, academically stimulating and responsible to society's needs.

The school was founded in 1925 by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine. While the Academy is a Christ-centered and family oriented community that reflects a Catholic tradition, students of all races and creeds are accepted and welcomed by the Academy. In this atmosphere, a strong emphasis is placed on responsibility, expectations, and initiative. St. Augustine has stressed the importance of individual attention in education, for the personal concern shown these young ladies is exceptional. The advanced faculty fosters graduating classes of "lifelong learners" who will be fully prepared for their next path in life.

In addition to St. Augustine's reputation for academics, the institution is also known for its