

IN HONOR OF DIANE JOHNSON FOR
HER PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR
HER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Diane Johnson, who has been a dedicated public servant, working tirelessly to implement housing programs and promote community development across the State of New Jersey.

As the housing director of Mt. Carmel Guild, Newark, Diane Johnson was responsible for publicly funded housing programs for low- and middle-income families, which placed over 150 families in jobs or training programs, enabling many families to purchase their first homes.

Mrs. Johnson has worked for the New Jersey Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since 1972, during which time she has held a variety of leadership positions, such as director of the Housing Management Division, deputy office manager, and acting office manager.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Mrs. Johnson as a HUD State Coordinator. Her duties included overseeing a staff of 126 employees, and administering HUD funds and \$300 million of HOPE VI grants. Mrs. Johnson also manages one of our Nation's largest housing and community development portfolios, and she is HUD's representative to New Jersey's congressional delegation, Governor, and State legislature.

Mrs. Johnson is the chairperson of the Federal Executive Board of Northern New Jersey; vice chair of St. James Prep School; vice chair of Newark Federal Kids-Care, Inc.; member of the board of trustees of the United Way of Essex & West Hudson; and member of the board of trustees for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication at HUD and her community service, Diane Johnson has received many distinguished service award certificates, proclamations, and commendations from the New Jersey congressional delegation and a variety of State agencies, community groups, and professional associations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Diane Johnson for her hard work at HUD, and for her years of service to the State of New Jersey, where she has helped build houses, develop and revitalize communities, and change lives for the better.

TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE DIPLOMAT
CHIUNE SUGIHARA, HONORED AT
LAST IN JAPAN FOR SAVING
LIVES OF JEWS DURING THE
HOLOCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on September 1, 1939—the day the Second World War began with the Nazi invasion of Poland—the government of Japan named Chiune Sugihara its consul in Lithuania. As the war progressed in

its destruction and as the Nazi anti-Semites began their systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi-conquered territory, Sugihara was besieged by Jews seeking visas to flee the Nazi Holocaust.

After requesting authorization three times to issue Japanese visas to these victims of Nazi persecution and being rejected twice and ignored once, he disregarded his government's instructions and issued thousands of visas to Polish Jews. Mr. Sugihara signed visas day and night for thirty days. Thanks to these documents, many of the refugees were able to escape to Kobe, Japan, and from there were able to find refuge in other countries.

Not long after issuing these visas in Lithuania, Mr. Sugihara was assigned to serve in Germany. When he returned to Japan at the end of World War II, the Japanese government forced him to resign from the diplomatic service. He was told that this was because of "that incident in Lithuania." Mr. Sugihara died in 1986 at the age of 86 without ever being officially recognized for his outstanding humanitarian service by the government of Japan.

Outside Japan Chiune Sugihara has long been recognized as a hero. The government of Lithuania named a street in his honor. Israel has designated him a "Righteous Gentile." The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington has presented a special exhibit paying tribute to his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month—at long last—the government of Japan acknowledged the true heroism of its own citizens. On the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chiune Sugihara and 14 years after his death. In a modest ceremony at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono apologized to Yukiko Sugihara, the widow of Chiune Sugihara: "Here we praise Chiune Sugihara's courageous and humanitarian act conducted in an extreme situation amid the Nazi persecution of Jews." He apologized to Mrs. Sugihara "for the long neglect" and promised that he would "see that his achievements are known to future generations."

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister unveiled a plaque honoring Mr. Sugihara. The copper plaque was placed on the wall of the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Record Office in Tokyo, and it reads, in part: "A courageous diplomat of humanity. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth."

Also this month in Los Angeles a documentary film, "Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness" which chronicles the heroism of Chiune Sugihara, was awarded the Pare Lorentz prize of the International Documentary Association. The IDA prize has been called "the Oscar of the documentary world." The film also received the Best Documentary award at the Hollywood Film Festival this past August.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in honoring Chiune Sugihara on the 100th anniversary of his birth. I welcome the action of the government of Japan in belatedly recognizing the courage and humanity of this outstanding diplomat. Long after the faceless nameless bureaucrats who blindly and timidly followed instructions are forgotten by history, the determination and compassion of Chiune Sugihara will continue to serve as an example of the finest of human action and bring honor to his memory.

FEDERAL PHYSICIANS COM-
PARABILITY ALLOWANCE
AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 207, to amend title 5, of the United States Code, which provides that federal physicians comparability allowances be treated as part of basic pay for retirement purposes.

Across our country, hundreds of federal physicians are working on cures for AIDS, epilepsy, cancer, and heart disease, protecting the safety of food and drugs, and providing medical care to such segments of our population including Native Americans, Defense personnel and their dependents. In the district that I represent, more than 200 of these federal physician's are employed either by the Indian Health Service or the Veterans Administration.

Today, the government does not pay physicians on the same scale as physicians employed in hospitals, HMOs, and universities. Therefore, one of the most important points of this legislation is that the inclusion of this special pay in retirement calculations will further help the recruitment efforts by federal agencies such as the Indian Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration. This legislation will strengthen the quality of our federal clinical and medical research programs and have a beneficial effect on health care both on the national and local levels.

I am pleased with the bi-partisan support for H.R. 207, co-sponsored by myself, and CONNIE MORELLA. This legislation would ensure that all federally employed physicians are treated equally in terms of retirement pay calculations.

This is a good bill because it is the fair, equitable, and a just course of action that we should take.

HONORING LIEUTENANT PETER C.
HASSON

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Lieutenant Peter C. Hasson upon his retirement from the Abington Township Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It is an honor to recognize Lt. Hasson and his outstanding service to the entire Abington community.

Lt. Hasson served the Abington Township Police Department for 28 years and is currently Chief of Police of Lower Moreland Township. He began his career as a Patrol Officer and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and then Patrol Lieutenant.

For 12 years, Lt. Hasson served as Patrol Commander, which oversees the single largest division of the police department. He served as Commander of the Abington Police