

IN HONOR OF FRANCISCO AND
HORTENSIA CANONICO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Francisco and Hortensia Canonico, who were honored by the North Hudson Board of Realtors Friday, January 18th, for their exceptional contributions to New Jersey's real estate industry.

Mr. Canonico entered the real estate industry in 1967, and became a licensed real estate broker in 1972. That same year, he opened his own business, Canonico Real Estate, on 1010 Summit Avenue in Union City, New Jersey.

As an innovative real estate broker, he became the President of the Hudson County Multiple Listing Service in 1979. He was President of the Hudson County Board of Realtors in 1984, when he was recognized as Realtor of the Year. In 1984, Mr. Canonico also served on the Committee to Make America Better, and was recognized again as Realtor of the Year in 1996.

In 1977, Mrs. Canonico became the first Latina licensed real estate broker in Hudson County. She was recognized in the Million Dollars Sales Club from 1996 through 2000.

Both Francisco and Hortensia Canonico have been avid fund-raisers for the American Cancer Society and Lung Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating husband and wife, Francisco and Hortensia Canonico, for their positive contributions to Hudson County as successful real estate brokers and innovative entrepreneurs.

ON FEDERALIZING SECURITY AT
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that I have requested that the General Accounting Office undertake a study of questions relating to the feasibility of federalizing security at nuclear power plants nationwide.

As Congress examines ways to protect critical infrastructure in the wake of September 11, the vulnerability of commercial nuclear reactors has become increasingly evident. Even before then, the potential hazards associated with nuclear power have long required special vigilance; and the terrorist attack obviously elevates the gravity and urgency of security concerns. All of us who represent areas with commercial nuclear facilities share an urgent concern for safeguarding residents who live in close proximity to the 103 facilities across the country.

Most Americans understand that we can't completely insulate the nation—and every person and property in it—from attack by suicidal terrorists. Nearly everyone appreciates the complexities and expense involved, and grasps the need to balance security precautions with civil liberties and economic impact. But the fact remains that there is no

more fundamental responsibility of government than homeland defense, and that addressing vulnerabilities—including those associated with nuclear plants—are essential.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has acknowledged that the nation's commercial reactors were not designed to withstand the type of attack carried out against the World Trade Towers. In light of this new potential threat and in the context of analogous legislation relating to airport safeguards, it seems to me self-evident that we explore the prospect of a federal security force charged with protecting nuclear plants.

Within hours of the September attacks, security at nuclear plants went on high alert. In my own congressional district, the Pilgrim facility took significant new precautions against potential threats to perimeter security from both the ground and the water. Although the immediate response was sound, I remain concerned about long-term protection of the plant. The NRC is presumably consulting with the new office of Homeland Security and various other federal agencies on coordinated efforts to buttress nuclear safeguards; however, its approach seems focused on existing protocols rather than new methods. Even as legislation to federalize airport screening regimes was signed into law, however, the equivalent discussion of a federal nuclear plant security force has received only scant attention.

Historically, it appears the NRC has not moved aggressively to explore the potential authority for federalization under existing statute, much less for administrative or legislative initiatives to create a federal presence. Correspondence with my office over the last four months suggests the NRC is not inclined to examine section 102 of the Atomic Energy Act, which could offer relevant authority. The agency rationale is that "the Commission is confident that substantial protection is being provided to plants."

Perhaps that reluctance derives from a substantive disagreement about the need even to review a federal approach. In written remarks to a Senate colleague, the NRC Chairman stated last month that "there have been no failures in nuclear plant security of the type that would warrant the creation of a new federal security force" and warned that, by federalizing security, the government would incur an exorbitant cost "all to address a non-existent problem".

I seek neither to raise undue alarm nor to condemn the current security protocol. However, in a series of meetings since September 11 with local, state and federal officials about public health and safety in the dozens of communities near the Pilgrim plant, one of the most recurring and compelling themes has been the need for serious and thorough consideration of a federal force.

The consequences of getting this wrong are unthinkable. It seems to me that an independent examination of a number of technical and financial issues by the GAO would be invaluable. Accordingly, I wrote today to the Comptroller General to ask the GAO to:

1. Review current federal guidelines and protocols for safeguarding nuclear plants from the air (including through the use of no-fly zones); through perimeter ground security measures; and through coastal security measures;

2. Examine the jurisdictional issues and administrative obstacles to transferring responsi-

bility for security from plant owners to the federal government; and

3. Analyze the cost of federalizing security—including initial training, upkeep, and long-term protection.

I have no presuppositions about the outcome of such a study, or about the policy debate it could help inform. However, I remain deeply concerned about the consequences of failing to explore these issues on an expedited basis.

IN HONOR OF JOANNE CARINE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many accomplishments of Joanne Carine, who will be recognized Friday, January 25, at Ireland's 32d annual dinner dance to be held at the Hi-Hat Club in Bayonne, NJ.

A Bayonne native, Joanne Carine has been employed with the Board of Education since 1978, and is currently a secretary for the Superintendent of Schools.

She serves on the Executive Board of the St. Dominic Academy Mother's Club; the Holy Family Academy Mother's Club; and is a Trustee and Secretary for the Simpson Barber Foundation for the Autistic, an organization that educates about autism and provides social and educational opportunities for children with autism. In addition, she is a trustee of the Bayonne Environmental Commission.

Mrs. Carine was a member of the 1998 Bayonne Municipal Inaugural Committee; a member of the Bayonne Youth Soccer Association, Travel Parent's Board; and a Corresponding Secretary for the Friends of Nicholas Capodice Association, serving as Chairperson for the organization's 2000 annual brunch. In 1977, Joanne was selected the first recipient of the Miss Bayonne Columbus Award.

Mrs. Joanne Carine is married to Frank Carine, Jr., and has two daughters, Jenna and Jerilyn.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Joanne Carine for her positive influence and hard work on behalf of New Jersey's education system.

REAFFIRMING THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 273, reaffirming the special relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of the Philippines.

The Philippine government has committed government troops and vast resources towards tracking down and arresting terrorist organizations, most notably the Abu Sayaff, the separatist group that is linked to the al Qaeda network and Osama bin Laden. Abu Sayaff