

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO VOLUNTEERS OF LAKE COUNTY PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm and respect that I wish to congratulate the multitude of volunteers who donate their time and effort to the Lake County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office located in Crown Point, Indiana. The devoted assistance of these selfless individuals has brought a spirit of volunteerism to the Northwest Indiana community that embodies the culture of its people. The citizens of Northwest Indiana owe them a debt of gratitude, and they will be honored for their commitment, at a dinner reception celebrating National Volunteer Week on April 23, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, National Volunteer Week has been celebrated since 1974, when President Nixon issued an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration to honor those who volunteer at the local, state, and national levels, and also as an opportunity to impress upon others the benefits and sense of satisfaction that volunteerism provides. This year's theme, "Celebrate the American Spirit—Volunteer!", carries added significance after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The outpouring of generosity was evident in the days and weeks following the attacks, as volunteers around the country helped initiate the healing process. Through the efforts to these courageous individuals, the Northwest Indiana community continues to unite.

Through a variety of programs, the Lake County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office assistance to those throughout Lake County. The local 4-H Club is committed to positive youth development by planning camps, workshops, and other activities in which the young citizens of Lake County can participate. Master Gardeners is a program that provides volunteers an opportunity to revitalize their communities through activities related to gardening. Members of this group answer questions related to gardening, conduct gardening schools, and work diligently on community beautification projects. The Extension Homemakers Association works to strengthen Lake County families and help them to develop their homes and communities. Volunteers in this group assist families to maintain physical and mental health and to use their human and economic resources in the most efficient manner. These programs, along with the many others that the Lake County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office provide, serve as vital resources to the citizens of Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Lake County Pur-

due University Cooperative Extension Office for their loyalty and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. The contributions these individuals make to their fellow citizens and the improvements they provide to their communities cannot be measured with numbers. They create a feeling of camaraderie that expands throughout their neighborhoods and helps to bring a sense of belonging to each of their fellow citizens. Volunteers are a vital part of our community, and I am proud to represent these dedicated individuals in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE PUERTO RICAN ACTION BOARD

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Puerto Rican Action Board on its 30th Anniversary, which was celebrated on Saturday, April 20, 2002, at Pines Manor in New Jersey.

For three decades, the Puerto Rican Action Board (PRAB) has been developing proactive programs to address the needs of the community and improve the quality of life of our families. A private, nonprofit corporation, they have improved local neighborhoods by caring for our children, educating our youth, maintaining and improving our homes, ensuring job placement opportunities, and fighting for justice in our communities.

Serving all people regardless of age, race, creed, color, or national origin, the PRAB is the only social services agency in central New Jersey that offers comprehensive home improvement, preschool, and social services through a bilingual/culturally sensitive approach.

The present programs and services of PRAB include: Greater New Brunswick and Ocean County Multi-Service Program; Pilot Project for Better Housing; "Our Children" Project; Youth Development Program; Latino Scholars Program; Student Re-Engagement Program; Healing Through the Arts; Artists Mentoring Against Racism Summer Program; Bilingual/Multi-cultural Daycare and Preschool Program; Middlesex County Weatherization Assistance Program; Home Energy Assistance Program; New Jersey Statewide Heating Assistance and Referral for Energy Services; English Classes; and numerous other community-oriented programs.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Puerto Rican Action Board for its efforts to improve the quality of community life for all people. Their presence in our community does not go unnoticed and we give our heartfelt thanks for all that they do.

HONORING THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSUMER ART SHOW SPONSORED BY THE MORNING-SIDE-WESTSIDE COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation as they prepare to host the Seventh Annual Consumer Art Show in New York city.

Working outside the conventional restraints, art participants are mental health consumers from the five boroughs who employ art to communicate their singular expressions, idioms, and viewpoints. The artists represented in this show have one thing in common, and that is a history of serious and persistent mental illness. The beautiful and inspirational art in this show celebrates the artist's individual vision, humanity, and insight.

I applaud the good people at the Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation for spearheading such a superb gathering of artistic genius.

Founded in 1994, Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation is an organization that has been actively involved in issues of the mentally ill. Comprised of a group of mental health consumers, family members, providers, and friends—they work as a team to serve not only the mental health community, but the community at large. Through day-to-day activities, employment, and special events, the Morningside-Westside Community Action Corporation not only promotes the rights of those suffering from mental illness, but helps increase the understanding of these rights as well.

These dedicated individuals work hard in order to build a better future for those with mental illness. Their commitment to educate, empower, and enrich the mental health consumer should be an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF CLARENCE "PETE" PHILLIPS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a good friend of mine, Clarence "Pete" Phillips. Pete is retiring at the end of his current term as a representative of the 62nd Legislative District of Tennessee, a seat he has held since 1973.

During his nearly 30 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives, Pete served his constituents faithfully and honorably. He has

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