An example of their work can be seen in the ''Gift of Life Program.'' This initiative helps children around the world by providing doctor and hospital services to less fortunate kids in need of heart operations.

A major supporter of the Rotary International's PolioPlus program, the Rotary Club of Belleville has also helped to eradicate polio in developing countries worldwide.

Put simply, the Belleville Rotary Club has made its mission the advocacy for those in need. Its members have made a difference in countless lives, with their work serving as a beacon of caring and compassion for eight decades.

On Wednesday, May 22, 2002, the Club celebrated its 80th anniversary with a wonderful concert at the Belleville Public Library and Information Center. Club members, guests, and dignitaries from the Rotary, the Township of Belleville and the State of New Jersey joined in the celebration.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of organizations like the Rotary Club of Belleville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Township of Belleville, the members of the Rotary, and me in recognizing the eighty years of outstanding and invaluable service of the Rotary Club of Belleville, New Jersey.

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF THE QUEST PROGRAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program at the Dr. John Howard, Jr. School in East Orange, New Jersey. The September 11th tragedy has made them aware of the tremendous needs that follow a tragedy as well as the vast patriotic spirit that we possess as a country thus they decided to assist people who have experienced a personal tragedy in their lives so that their situation will be improved for a period of time.

This group of 12 fourth and fifth graders has become increasingly concerned about people who are experiencing difficulties in their own lives due to personal loss or economic strain. Thus they have striven to assist these members of the community through various means including: volunteering in an after school program for homeless children, visiting hospital patients, collecting for a toy drive for needy children, collecting canned goods and nonperishable foods for needy families and a food pantry. In addition, this group has received numerous grants and donations from organizations that have recognized the great potential that this group possesses.

These outstanding students will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in Storrs, Connecticut, June 5–11, 2002, having placed first in the New Jersey junior division of the Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. It is with great pride that I recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program in East Orange, New Jersey. These young people have taken great strides to assist the members of their community and to see that they have a part in securing a healthy future for our country. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me is wishing the Quest Program continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my congratulations and praise for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and its leaders, including Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr. From the time of their first contact with European explorers along the banks of the Mississippi River in the 1500s, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe has played an important role in the larger community—both as a partner and a friend.

Under Chairman Barbry, Sr.'s leadership, the Tribe has continued to be an integral part of the community of Central Louisiana. The Tunica are doing great things with their recent financial success in both the tribal community and the larger community.

The Tribe has come to this great moment in their history because they have worked well together and will continue in that great tradition of cooperation. The Tribe and its leaders should be commended for their vision and spirit of cooperation among tribal members, civic and governmental leaders and the community at large. I applaud their successful efforts at being good neighbors and economic partners and I wish them continued success.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIFORMED DIVISION AND U.S. PARK POLICE EQUITY PAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today Representative TOM DAVIS and I have introduced a bill to provide the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and the United States Park Police with the same locality pay adjustments as other Federal employees.

In the FY 2001 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Congress included a bill called the Law Enforcement Pay Equity Act. The purpose of the Act was to improve officer retention within the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and U.S. Park Police. The Act's aim was to improve officer retention by raising the Uniformed Division and Park Police pay scales so that they were equivalent or similar to other pay scales in the Metropolitan area.

However, Section 903 of the Act froze the rate of locality pay the employees of the Uniformed Division and U.S. Park Police receive at the level in effect in the year 2000. This freeze in locality pay has caused the Uniformed Division and Park Police pay scales to lag behind the compensation scales of other agencies competing for the same workforce.

In the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, Officers of the Uniformed Division and the U.S. Park Police are currently locked into a locality rate of 9.05%, but the standard locality rate for U.S. Government employees in the Washington area is 11.48%, a difference of 2.43%.

By fixing this problem, the median salary of an Officer with thirteen years of service would increase by $1,375 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, in essence, unlocks the freezer door, opens it up, and allows the locality pay to thaw to normal levels. At a time when the Uniformed Division and Park Police are trying to increase morale and maintain top rate officers, this bill is a small but significant signal that Congress cares about their welfare. This bill fixes what I consider an unfair technicality and provides them with equitable locality pay.

HONORING VETERANS PARK CONSERVANCY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of Veterans Park Conservancy, a community group founded in 1986 to help manage Veterans Park, which covers 700 acres of land in West Los Angeles, California. Originally gifted to the Federal Government, Veterans Park is home to a number of historically and culturally significant sites, including the Los Angeles National Cemetery, the Wadsworth Theatre, and several memorials honoring our veterans. It is also one of the last remaining open spaces in West Los Angeles.

The mission of Veterans Park Conservancy is simple: ''Honoring our Veterans, Cherishing the Land.'' The Veterans Park Conservancy was organized to develop and implement a long-term plan to protect the park. Soon after its inception, the group developed a 25-year Master Plan that identifies key restoration projects. In 1998, the Department of Veterans Affairs officially granted Veterans Park Conservancy the authority to carry out these projects. The group's partners include veterans, the Federal Government, local and state agencies, community organizations, and private philanthropists.

Throughout its 16-year history, Veterans Park Conservancy has spearheaded several projects in West Los Angeles and their fine work is a testament to their dedication to America's veterans. Beginning in 1994, the group led the charge to improve a one-mile section of Wilshire Boulevard as ''Veterans Parkway,'' and collaborated with Los Angeles County to improve the parkway with cobblestones, lighting, and 600 new trees. After the September 11th attacks, Veterans Park Conservancy worked with the Federal and local governments to install a permanent memorial of 100 American Flags, which fly proudly on both sides of the boulevard.

In 1998, Veterans Park Conservancy restored the Spanish-American War Memorial, which sits at the entrance of the Los Angeles National Cemetery. In 2000, the group gave the cemetery a stately new entrance, new trees an 7,800 feet of wrought iron perimeter