

TRIBUTE TO BRYANNE SALAZAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize the accomplishments of Bryanne Salazar of Grand Junction, Colorado. Several years ago, Bryanne founded Mothers Inc. to assist other mothers in the difficult and important task of child rearing and to provide a forum in which mothers around the country could share their advice, experiences and support one another financially and socially.

Mothers Inc. provides many forms of assistance to mothers, including financial aid, job training, food, clothing and opportunities to meet and form bonds with other mothers. Mothers Inc. is a non-profit organization that raises money through bake sales, garage sales, and the sale of t-shirts and aprons. Her efforts truly embody the spirit and greatness of this nation. Through Mothers Inc., Bryanne has contributed greatly to the welfare of many women and children and served as an inspiration to those with whom she has come in contact.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a profound pleasure to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Bryanne Salazar, a remarkable woman who has worked to improve the lives of so many families. The children whom Bryanne has helped are the future of this nation and it is comforting to know they are in such good hands. Bryanne, thank you for your many contributions to the mothers and children of Colorado and for your persevering spirit that has inspired so many.

JUNETEENTH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today Texans and people across America celebrate Juneteenth.

On this day in 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended. Two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Texas slaves heard for the first time they were free.

Mr. Speaker, there is no other land on earth like America, but we've had our share of failings. And we've had no greater failing than allowing slavery to exist in the land of the free.

Here we are, 140 years later. And although we have made great progress, we still live in a color conscious society.

We should all remember and aspire to the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King . . . to live in a nation where our children will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Juneteenth reminds us to live our lives toward that dream. To make a more perfect Union by making America more free.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SCHOOL OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the School of Ukrainian Studies in Cleveland, Ohio.

For more than fifty years, the School of Ukrainian Studies has educated thousands of Americans regarding all facets of the Ukraine—its language, culture, history, customs, religion and art. The School fosters a sense of diversity and continuity between the old country and new and reflects a vital cultural component that defines our Cleveland community—a community that is home to countless Americans whose lifelines originate from points around the world—reaching across borders, time and distance.

The School of Ukrainian Studies ensures that the culture of the Ukraine remains a conscious and vibrant aspect of the fabric of our American community, handed down through the children of each new generation. For decades, Ukrainian immigrants have understood the significance of assimilation, yet they also share an equally strong focus on preserving the ideals and tradition of their beloved Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the administrators and students of the School of Ukrainian Studies of Cleveland, as they celebrate fifty years of Ukrainian education. Cultural diversity is the foundation and light of America—adding color, depth and life to our Cleveland community—bridging old world and new, connecting our past to today. As Americans, our shared commitment to celebrate and preserve our many lands of origin unites us.

RECOGNIZING OF MR. YASHVANT
PATEL AND MATRI, INC.**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Yashvant Patel, and the organization he created, Matri, Inc. Mr. Patel and Matri, Inc. have created a unique and important forum where Gujarati youth can uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner using more modern methods. This forum has been the starting ground for many happy couples, and has provided a much-needed service to America's young Gujarati people.

Mr. Patel founded Matri, Inc. in 1995 with a specific vision of a forum where Gujarati youths could uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner. The first Matri was hosted by Anand Pragati Mandal in Kearny, NJ, and it had less than 100 attendees. In the last nine years the event has grown drastically and become a professional non-profit organization, providing annual conventions with over 300 participants.

Matri serves an important role in the unique Gujarati youth culture. Although it is a mat-

rimonial forum, it does not force ideas of marriage but instead encourages networking and meeting with people who share similar ideas and principles, who may become lifelong friends or even marriage partners in the future. It is their belief that similarities in dharma, poshaak and khorak (religion, dress and food) are necessary to create a successful marriage. Matri allows Gujarati parents to fulfill their duty to pave the way for their children and give them a prosperous and happy life by honoring Gujarati traditions.

Matri is actually the Sanskrit term for friendship, which is a key element in any successful marriage. Since the participants are allowed to meet without the pressure of parents, the event gives them the opportunity to meet other people and develop relationships. Matri estimates that approximately 15 percent of all participants with success each year.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Patel and his organization for the fine and important work they have done over the past eight years. His organization is doing an enormously important service to an important group of our nation's citizens, and we thank him for it.

LIBERIA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, after six years in power and over a decade as a regional warlord there are signs that Liberian President Charles Taylor, one of the worst violators of human rights in the world may be leaving power. On June 17, the Associated Press reported that the Liberian Defense Minister Daniel Chea committed Taylor to step down as part of a peace agreement with rebel groups fighting his government. Taylor's rule has been marked by human rights violations on a massive scale.

Currently Liberia is enmeshed in a vicious civil war. According to the Associated Press, "The past three years of rebellion have uprooted more than 1.3 million Liberians, sending hundreds of thousands of them fleeing into neighboring countries." His rule has not only brought death and destruction to Liberia but undermined stability throughout West Africa. He sponsored the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, a rebel group which conducted a gruesome campaign of murders, rapes and kidnappings. The RUF became known for chopping off the arms, lips and hands of their victims. Taylor has supported rebel groups in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Burkina Faso as well.

Last week a U.N.-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone indicted Taylor accusing him of "bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law" during Sierra Leone's civil war. As the brave men and women of our armed forces work to bring peace and stability to the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq it is important to point to other victims of human rights abuses in other parts of the world that do not receive as much media attention. The Bush administration has spoken about the importance of promoting human rights and democracy, but has done little to support the aspirations for