

she, along with the rest of the seniors, started shooting free throws in the mornings before school began. It paid off in Saturday's title game.

Mr. Speaker, I know that everyone in Fulton County, Indiana, from Principal Dennis Eller, Assistant Principal Steven Lyng and Athletic Director Mark Miller, to every one of their parents, is extremely proud of these young women.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Rochester High School girls basketball team on winning their first-ever state basketball championship.

INDIA REPUBLIC DAY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of India on their 55th celebration of Republic Day. It was on this day in 1950 that India adopted its Constitution and became a modern sovereign state. Enshrined in that constitution are the same ideals of equality for all citizens, universal suffrage for those over 18, and the freedoms of speech, association and religion that we hold dear in the United States.

I am pleased to represent central New Jersey's Indian Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives and to be a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. It is with pleasure today that I express my praise for India's commitment to democracy.

India's struggle for independence cost many lives, but also united Indians of many peoples. We honor those, especially Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi, who struggled for India's independence. Gandhi's non-violent form of resistance has set an example to all of us around the world. Freedom can be achieved through peaceful protest. India's leaders are currently working to broker peace with Pakistan and I commend them for their efforts to end this horrible conflict through peaceful negotiations.

India adopted its Constitution and swore in its first president, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, only 894 days after the withdrawal of the British Empire's forces. Today, India can be proud to hold the title of the world's largest democracy as it prepares for upcoming elections in April.

When I made my first trip to India in 1977, it was just after the lifting of the Emergency. At the time, India was facing a challenge to its democratic institutions. As the Indian people proved later that year by voting out Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who had temporarily suspended the Indian Constitution during the Emergency period, they were resilient democrats.

I am always impressed with India for the remarkable dexterity with which its people make democracy work in a country of such incomparable diversity and size. The United States may be the world's oldest democracy, but India is by far the world's largest. I believe that the rest of the world, including the United States, has something to learn from India and its democratic accomplishments.

I am pleased to see India and the U.S. working so closely together. Each year for the past several years, U.S.-India relations have

advanced to higher and higher plateaus. India has been an outspoken supporter of our Nation's war on terror. India and her people have endured terrorist attacks and, like the American people, they are resolute in fighting against future threats.

In New Jersey, I have never felt too far away from India because I have the good fortune to have so many wonderful Indian-American neighbors. I look forward to continuing to represent the Indian American community of central New Jersey and to seeing India's democracy continue to flourish in the years to come.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ALICIA G. JAQUILLARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Alicia G. Jaquillard—devoted wife, mother, grandmother, dedicated human services employee, and friend and mentor to many.

Mrs. Jaquillard was born in Puerto Rico, and eventually emigrated to America with her family. Her family was central to her life. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Marvin J. Jaquillard, and also her four stepsons. She was extremely close to her children and eight grandchildren—and will be deeply missed by her entire family.

Mrs. Jaquillard and her family moved to Toledo in 1972. She worked for the Lucas County Department of Human Service as a Food Stamp Officer. She performed her duties with integrity and compassion, and was held in high esteem by clients and colleagues. Mrs. Jaquillard possessed an incredible sense of humor, and had the rare ability to make others feel instantly comfortable and welcome.

Mrs. Jaquillard retired from public service in 1985, which enabled her to spend more time surrounded by family, and more time to pursue her favorite pastimes—cooking, traveling and music. She was an exceptional cook, and loved to share her culinary talents with family and friends by preparing a variety of traditional and contemporary Spanish dishes. She loved music, especially slow romantic songs and music of her Spanish heritage. Mr. and Mrs. Jaquillard were avid travelers. Together, they journeyed across America, Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Alicia Jaquillard—beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. I offer my deepest condolences to her entire family and to her entire circle of friends. Mrs. Jaquillard lived her life with great joy, love and energy—and her memory and spirit will be remembered forever by all who knew and loved her well.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 339) to prevent frivolous lawsuits against the manufacturers, distributors, or sellers of food or non-alcoholic beverage products that comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements:

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 339, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act. Personal responsibility—not frivolous lawsuits—is the appropriate way to deal with obesity issues.

As reported by the Judiciary Committee, however, H.R. 339 contained very broad language that could be read to include regulatory actions by at least two agencies within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce—the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is my understanding that it was not the intent of the authors to prohibit such lawsuits. Working with Chairman SENSENBRENNER, we then developed language that is included in the manager's amendment today that specifically exempts actions brought under the Federal Trade Commission Act or the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. There can be no question, then, that if this bill were signed into law, it would have no effect on regulatory or legal rights and responsibilities under these statutes.

I look forward to working with the Judiciary Committee as this legislation moves forward.

RECOGNIZING PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Peace Corps Week, which gives us the opportunity to honor and commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Peace Corps. During this week, celebratory and educational events take place across the country to pay tribute to the Peace Corps' influence on communities in the United States and abroad. Thousands of Peace Corps volunteers speak in classrooms, Governors issue proclamations, and former and current Peace Corps staff honor the lasting legacy of the Peace Corps with their service. I would like to join these individuals in their tribute.

Since its inception in 1961, over 170,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 137 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship. Currently, over 7,500 Volunteers are serving in 71 countries around the world—the highest number of volunteers in the field in 28 years. In 2003 alone, the number of individuals applying to serve in the Peace Corps rose by 10 percent. With continued interest from both Americans