

county-commissioned study set a goal of developing 5,000 affordable housing units. A recent update of the affordable-housing study showed how far Westchester still has to go.

We could use a little federal help here. As director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, which coordinates 20 federal agencies, Mangano could provide it.

How about increasing, not decreasing, federal aid to the self-help groups and others around the county that buy and renovate abandoned apartment houses? And organizations that help people fallen on hard times to pay their rent and avoid eviction? How about restoring funds for the HOPE VI program that Yonkers and New Rochelle had hoped would assist in renovating older public-housing complexes? And how about reversing the latest federal cutback to the Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8.

Spano's chief adviser, Susan Tolchin, rightly called Mangano on the Section 8 reductions. "That has stopped our progress and our continued progress in helping fund permanent housing for homeless families," she said.

Indeed, cutting the Section 8 program by \$1 billion nationally, which has frozen vouchers, is expected to cost the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority \$2.24 million; New Rochelle and its housing authority, \$1.46 million; and Mount Vernon, \$914,000. That's money that low- and moderate-income people could use to make up the rest of the rent after they paid 30 percent of their income in this high-rent county. Peter Smith, executive director of the YMHA, which administers about 1,750 vouchers and has a waiting list of 1,200, called the impact on Yonkers "devastating."

It isn't just homeless or low- and moderate-income people who have difficulty finding housing in a county where the median price of a single-family home was \$545,900 at the end of 2003. Some police, fire, emergency medical and Civil Service personnel—all vital to municipal operations—are among those commuting longer because they can't afford to live in the communities in which they work.

The affordable-housing update issued in April called for providing more than 10,000 units of affordable housing by 2015. The county's Housing Opportunities Commission is charged with trying to make that possible.

Call it an 11-year plan. Call it an opportunity for Washington to help it succeed.

AMBASSADOR C.J. CHEN'S RETURN TO TAIWAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ambassador C.J. Chen of the Republic of China. He is returning to Taiwan after serving as his country's chief representative in the United States for the last 4 years.

Ambassador Chen's record of distinguished public service to his nation spans more than 30 years.

The Republic of China has been one of our most important and loyal allies in the world.

Ambassador Chen has worked hard during the last 30 years to strengthen the political, economic and cultural ties that bind our two nations despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between us and Taiwan.

Today Taiwan and the United States are friends, partners and allies.

Ambassador Chen began his first tour of duty in Washington, DC as a third secretary in the ROC Embassy in 1971. From 1980 to 1982, he was the director-general of the Department of North American Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taipei. In 1983, he began a 7-year stint as deputy representative at the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, Taiwan's "diplomatic" mission in Washington. In the 1990's he was deputy foreign minister and later foreign minister of the Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that Ambassador Chen and his beautiful wife, Yolanda Ho, are leaving Washington to return to Taiwan.

During the last 4 years, Ambassador Chen and Yolanda have brought Taiwan closer to Washington, being gracious hosts at countless social events at Twin Oaks, a historic landmark which has made a lasting contribution to the maintenance of the traditional friendship between Taiwan and the United States and to the promotion of cultural ties between Taiwan and the U.S.

We are grateful for the time Ambassador Chen and Yolanda could spend here, but we look forward to seeing them again.

And we know both the Ambassador and Yolanda will continue to make contributions to the betterment of relations between Taiwan and the U.S.

They will be in the forefront of the continuing political and economic development of Taiwan, just as they have been here for the last 30 years.

ART THERAPY FOR OLDER ADULTS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of art therapy, especially in treating older adults. In my work as co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I have long emphasized the therapeutic benefits of the arts. Art therapy is a profession that serves people of all ages with a means of expressing emotion and coping with life issues. Emotions are often difficult to convey in words and an artistic avenue can serve as an effective way to communicate inner thoughts and feelings.

The elderly in particular face many emotional difficulties including loss, isolation, disability, dependency, and concerns about healthcare and treatment. Gerontology studies have shown that engaging the elderly in artistic activity may improve health and quality of life by decreasing the incidence of depression, anxiety, medical visits and related medications.

In addition to the emotional gain and sense of dignity and self-esteem achieved, the elderly can benefit from art therapy in clinical ways. In seniors who suffer from memory loss or cognitive impairments caused by Alzheimer's disease and stroke, levels of function can be maintained and improved. One woman who worked with an art therapist was able to remember and depict aspects of her life that she could not communicate verbally. Others who

have difficulty concentrating due to dementia and disorientation show improved attention through the creative process. Cognitive stimulation and social interaction contributes to alertness and orientation. Art therapy therefore has many implications for health maintenance and cost-containment for the elderly.

Art therapists are master's level mental health practitioners, specially trained to combine psychology and psychotherapy with the visual arts. They work with older adults in hospitals, psychiatric, rehabilitation, community and wellness facilities, nursing homes, residential living communities, as well as in private practices and environments for younger clients. The American Art Therapy Association, founded in 1969, establishes national standards for education and clinical practice.

This week, the American Art Therapy Association is hosting an exhibit here on Capitol Hill called, Creative Aging: Beyond Words. This event will display artwork by older adults in art therapy programs from across the United States. The exhibit highlights the ways art therapy contributes to meeting and managing the challenges of later life, and cultivating the strengths of elders. Paintings, drawings and sculptures eloquently convey the multitude of problems confronting elders, and the wisdom of those who have lived full lives. The artists were guided by trained clinicians in the exploration of themes and content for enhanced understanding of personal issues, improved outlook and quality of life.

Art-therapy remains under-recognized as a viable treatment. Many older Americans are unable to access such services due to lack of awareness, insurance coverage and insufficient employment of art therapists. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to recognize and support the profession of art therapy and to broaden conventional thinking about services to elders.

HONORING FATHER ENRIQUE MENDEZ NORMA ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great man of our community, Father Enrique Mendez Norma who will be turning 80 this Friday.

Father Mendez was born in Santiago de Cuba on June 18, 1924, and spent the early part of his educational life at "Hermanos de La Salle." He received his secondary education at "El Colegio Dolores," a Jesuit institution in his hometown, and graduated with a degree in Arts and Sciences. On July 3, 1940, just after his 16th birthday, he enrolled in the Salesian seminary at Guanabacoa. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to Central America to complete his novitiate, marking the beginning of a brilliant career as an educator. Four years later he was transferred to the San Julian School in Güines, where he taught as a cleric from 1945 to 1947. Following yet another move to Aptos, California, where Father Mendez initiated his theological studies, he then relocated to Turin, Italy in 1951 and was ordained a priest on July 1, 1952. Later that year, he returned to Cuba and received a doctorate in Pedagogical Studies from the University of Havana.

After a short stay at the San Juan Bosco School in La Vibora, he returned to Güines in 1955 to take the reigns as director of the Salesian San Julian School, where he had previously spent time as a seminarian. In 1959, he was officially named "Adopted Son" of his resident town and continued his impressive educational career in 1960 by receiving a doctorate degree in Arts and Philosophy from the University of Santo Tomás de Villanueva. He remained in Güines until May 1961, when Cuba's private educational institutions fell under the dictatorship's control and he was forced into exile.

From there, Father Mendez moved to Puerto Rico, becoming director of the San Juan Bosco School from 1963 to 1969. Later in 1969, he received a Master's in Education from the University of Puerto Rico, where he was subsequently hired as faculty in the university's Humanities Department. In 1970, Father Mendez held a similar position as professor of humanities at the University of the Sacred Heart in Santurce, and in 1972 he received another Master's Degree in Hispanic Studies from the University of Puerto Rico. In June of 2000, he was recognized by the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico for having been designated by the University of the Sacred Heart as Professor Emeritus of that institution.

Since 1963, Father Mendez has served as Spiritual Director and Chaplain of the American Military Academy and has held the same title for the Circulo Cubano de Puerto Rico since 1970. Over the course of his long and decorated professional and clerical career, Father Mendez has impacted the lives of countless young men and women who have attempted to live by the principles and values he has always preached. As a result, Father Mendez has gained the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all those who have had the good fortune of learning from him.

From all the people you have touched by your kindness and example, Father Mendez, happy 80th birthday.

HONORING SISTER PATRICIA
FISCHER, O.P.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a woman of God, Sister Patricia Fischer, O.P. for her outstanding contributions in the field of education and religion.

Sister Patricia was born in Adrian, Michigan. She attended St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, and graduated from Adrian Catholic Central High School. She received her Bachelor of Administration degree from Sienna Heights University in Adrian, and her Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University, Detroit. Sister Patricia also holds several certificates of completion for courses in Theology, Scripture, and Spirituality.

Sister Patricia, as a member of the Adrian Dominican Sisters took her first profession of vows on December 29, 1961 under the religious name of Sister Janice Ann. Her final profession was made on December 29, 1966. In 1969 she resumed her baptismal name of

Patricia Ann Fischer. Sister Patricia's educational ministry began in Illinois. She held the position of teacher at St. Joseph School, Homewood, St. Lawrence School, and St. Carthage School of Chicago, and the Infant Jesus of Prague School, Flossmoor. Upon her reassignment to Michigan she accepted a position teaching at St. Leo School in Detroit. In 1975, she began a 29-year tenure as principal of St. John the Evangelist School in Fenton. Upon stepping down from her position as principal, Sister Patricia will return to the Motherhouse as an administrator. Sister Patricia has received numerous awards for her invaluable service and dedication to the community. She was honored by the Knights of Columbus, St. John the Evangelist Parish, St. John the Evangelist School, and the Principals Academy of Washington, DC. In addition to her position as principal of St. John Evangelist School, she sits on the Board of Admissions for the Adrian Dominican Sisters, on the board of St. Joseph Academy in Adrian, and serves as Co-Chair for the Diocese of Lansing Diocesan Services Appeal. Sister Patricia is also a St. John Evangelist RENEW Leader (Faith Formation), as well as a member of several St. John the Evangelist Parish committees, and she is a member of the Diocese of Lansing School Accreditation Teams. Sister Patricia is without a doubt a counselor, spiritual advisor and a friend to many. Our community is certainly a better place because of her presence.

I know Sister Pat would want me to point out that the love, prayers and support of her family has greatly contributed to her overall success. She has three sisters, Nancy Cochran, Janice Mann, and Martha Sue Marquis. She has several aunts including her mother's sister, Sister Clarine, S.S.N.D. and eight nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute and congratulating Sister Patricia Fischer upon her retirement from the Catholic School System. Sister Pat has inspired many in the field of education. She has and continues to serve the Lord with the greatest devotion. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless Sister Patricia as she carries on her quest to spread the word of God to all.

COMMENDING MS. HAUWA
IBRAHIM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a brave human rights leader on the world stage, Ms. Hauwa Ibrahim. On June 17, Ms. Ibrahim will be honored by the Tahirih Justice Center during its Seventh Annual Banquet. Ms. Ibrahim, who has exerted extraordinary efforts to protect and promote the rights of women under Sharia law, is an inspiration and it is my pleasure to pay special tribute to this extraordinary woman.

Ms. Ibrahim resides in Nigeria and is a senior partner in the general law practice of the ARIES law firm and is also the legal aid counsel. She has been a defense counsel to over 40 Sharia-related cases that she has under-

taken on a pro bono basis. Ms. Ibrahim serves as a consultant relating to the application of Sharia law to many international and non-governmental organizations including the United Nations Development Program, Lawyers Without Borders, and the European Union Commission on Nigeria.

In addition, since 1999, Ms. Ibrahim has led a team of defense lawyers in addressing issues corresponding to the implementation of Sharia law. She is best known in this country for being the lead counsel for Amina Lawal, the Nigerian woman who was spared death by stoning for having a child out of wedlock.

At the Tahirih Justice Center Banquet, "A Woman's Life, A Child's Future: A World of Possibilities," Ms. Ibrahim will be honored with the Pushing the Envelope award. The Tahirih Justice Center, a Virginia-based organization, is one of the nation's foremost pro bono legal advocacy organizations for women and girls fleeing human rights abuses. Since opening its doors in 1997, Tahirih has assisted over 4,000 women and girls fleeing horrific abuse throughout the world. Tahirih works to transform policies, develop regulations, and establish precedent so that systemic change will ensure the long-term protection of women and girls from violence. I commend their work to protect and promote justice for women and girls worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Ibrahim is a leader in women's rights and I ask my colleagues to join in praise of Ms. Ibrahim's commitment and hard work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELEVENTH
ANNUAL KEYSTONE CENTER
AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is my extreme pleasure and privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ralph R. Peterson, for being awarded the Leadership in Industry Award, and Daniel L. Ritchie, who received the Leadership in Education Award, at this year's Eleventh Annual Keystone Center Awards Dinner.

Honorees are individuals selected for their leadership, commendable problem solving skills, and their efforts to seek consensus-based solutions to some of the most difficult challenges facing society. The honorees have also been recognized by their peers for outstanding achievement in their respective fields and have contributed to society in ways that demonstrate the Keystone Center philosophy.

Ralph R. Peterson is currently the Chairman and CEO of CH2M Hill, a global engineering and consulting firm. Mr. Peterson oversees over 160 offices in six countries worldwide. CH2M Hill has consistently topped "Best Places to Work" articles from various media outlets and is constantly being praised for the contributions made to the surrounding communities.

Daniel L. Ritchie contributions to the University of Denver have been both in the form of monetary donations, his knowledge and his time. Mr. Ritchie serves as the Chancellor, without pay, for the University of Denver. During his tenure with the University, Chancellor