RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2008

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague Congressman BUD CRAMER, who is retiring from Congress after spending the past 18 years representing the Fifth District of Alabama.

I have had the immense privilege of serving with BUD on the Appropriations Select Intelligence Oversight Panel and on the Intelligence Committee, where he acts as the Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. BUD has demonstrated true leadership in his role as Chairman and has created a legacy that will outlast us all. He has pursued all oversight matters vigorously, always in a bipartisan fashion and always in the interest of national security. His input has been thoughtful, even-handed, and precise. And I can say that I have always appreciated his well-timed sense of humor, which often lightens the load when we all start to take ourselves too seriously. In short, BUD has set an amazingly high standard on the Committee, and I will miss him greatly.

BUD never does anything half-heartedly, and I would like to tell the people in North Alabama that it's going to be difficult to replace him. A true son of Alabama, BUD has been a relentless champion of the Marshall Space Flight Center and Redstone Arsenal. He guided a community through the base realignment and closure process twice and has been a vocal advocate for North Alabama's growing defense and aerospace industries. In fact, BUD's leadership and efforts are responsible for bringing jobs and further economic development to his district.

Finally, I would do BUD a great disservice if I failed to mention his big heart and his work on behalf of abused and neglected children. During his tenure as the Madison County District Attorney, he endeavored to create a cooperative relationship between the social service and criminal justice systems and an effective, secure environment for children who were suffering. BUD's initiative has developed into Huntsville's National Children's Advocacy Center, a nationally-renowned child advocacy group that trains communities to successfully and compassionately integrate the services essential to child abuse victims.

I wish BUD all the best as he moves from one remarkable phase of his life to another. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with such a committed, passionate, and just man. His presence and leadership will be greatly missed by the House and on the Committee.

Thank you for your service, BUD.

HONORING SHERRY FRIEDLANDER OLSEN

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend my constituent, Sherry Friedlander Olsen, on being named Florida's Outstanding Older Worker for 2008. This year marks the eleventh year Experience Works has recognized remarkable individuals, 65 and older, who continue to make valuable contributions in the workplace through the Prime Time Awards.

Experience Works is a national organization that seeks to improve the lives of every day Americans through community service, training and empowering seniors through the dignity of work. Sherry Friedlander was given this honor on account of her revolutionary program that helps find missing children, elderly people and disabled individuals by enabling law enforcement agencies to get the word out quickly.

Sherry is the founder of A Child Is Missing and currently serves as the program's Executive Director. Since its inception, her program has assisted in the safe recovery of over 380 missing people.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Sherry came to Fort Lauderdale in 1964 to marry her husband, George. Since then, Sherry has remained committed to helping those in need. Her tireless work has been recognized in Congress with the passing of H.R. 5464, A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act. This bill expands the widely-praised South Florida nonprofit organization into a national program with regional centers under the Department of Justice. The bill passed with the support of more than two thirds of this distinguished chamber.

For her achievements, Mrs. Friedlander Olsen has received the prestigious J. Edgar Hoover award for Distinguished Public Service and was named the Kiwanian of the Year. It is now my distinct pleasure to congratulate Sherry Friedlander Olsen as Florida's Outstanding Older Worker of 2008.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Maine organization that provides vital services to our State.

In 1883 a group of church women organized the Associated Charities, a coalition of church and voluntary charitable organizations located in and around Bangor, Maine. The organization has gone through many name changes, but its mission and dedication have remained the same: to improve the lives of vulnerable children and adults in Maine.

Now known as the Community Health and Counseling Services, the program has continually modernized its services to meet the changing needs of the community. Today, it brings many services directly to clients in the comfort of their home. The agency is a significant employer of home health and mental health professionals throughout the State. The program excels at helping children and families meet the challenges of modem life by providing services they need and value. Community Health and Counseling Services has continued to expand their service area by opening additional offices throughout Maine.

On October 15, 2008, the Community Health and Counseling Services will celebrate its 125th anniversary. I congratulate this organization and the many people who, over the course of many years, have contributed their time and resources to help thousands of Mainers in need.

SUPPORT FOR REAL SEX EDUCATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for real sexual education. In my home state of California, sexual health education taught in public schools must be medically accurate, bias-free, and age appropriate. Comprehensive sex education is needed to truly address the rise in sexually transmitted infections and the rise in teenage pregnancies among communities of color.

I am working to reduce teen pregnancy in the Latino community, Despite the arguments of the current administration, abstinence-only education has not proven to be effective. For the first time in 15 years, teen birth rates are increasing in the United States. Fifty-three percent of Latina teens become pregnant at least once before age 20. These appalling statistics are why I introduced H.R. 468, the Communities of Color Teen Pregnancy Prevention Act. This legislation would provide additional funding to support teen pregnancy prevention efforts in our communities and schools and for research about teen pregnancy in at-risk communities.

We need to protect the future of our children by committing to providing comprehensive, medically accurate sex education. I am proud that several Planned Parenthood centers are located in my district in the San Gabriel Valley. I know that many of my constituents rely on health information from Planned Parenthood clinics such as the El Monte Medical Center and East Los Angeles Medical Center.

Recently, I invited Andreina Cordova, a teenage Planned Parenthood peer advocate in Los Angeles, to discuss her work with the Ujima program at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Public Policy Conference. I was impressed by her commitment to provide sexual health information and promote responsible behavior among teens.

I also strongly support the efforts of Planned Parenthood's successful promotoras program. Promotoras visit schools, homes and community centers to educate families about reproductive health and teen pregnancy prevention. We need to provide comprehensive sex education in schools instead of wasting valuable dollars on ineffective abstinence-only programs. Some states agree. In fact, California is one of few states in our country that rejects federal abstinence-only sex education funding