

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANTONIA
PANTOJA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I rise to congratulate and recognize a fellow Puerto Rican, Dr. Antonia Pantoja, for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award a President can bestow on a citizen.

With this distinction, Dr. Pantoja joins other Americans of exceptional merit such as Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Cardinal of Chicago, David Hamburg, and Rosa Parks. For many years, Dr. Pantoja has been a nationally recognized leader in education, civil rights, and community development. Most importantly she has been a tireless advocate for the right to culturally supportive, and equal educational opportunities for Puerto Rican and Latino children.

Unselfishly, Dr. Pantoja has dedicated her life not only to children but to everyone. She has enriched our neighborhoods. Her achievements include the creation of many institutions that provide valuable services to Boricuas. As the founder of the Puerto Rican Forum, a membership organization dedicated to creating Puerto Rican community service institutions, she has left her mark with us forever. Seeing the need to improve the educational and professional situation of the Latino community, she succeeded in developing such landmark organizations as the ABC Project, a program for Puerto Rican business people, and BOLT, a project to teach basic occupational English to Puerto Rican workers in order to advance in their jobs.

Not stopping there, Dr. Pantoja's crown achievement and greatest contribution to our community was the creation of ASPIRA, an institution based on empowering the Latino community through the educational and leadership development of its youth. During the last 35 years, ASPIRA has become the leading national organization devoted to the education of Latino youth.

In a world in which people mainly care about their own needs, it is refreshing and gives me pure joy to see a person whose entire life has been dedicated to the needs of others.

I want to thank Dr. Antonia Pantoja for her life-long commitment to and hard work for the Puerto Rican community. I strongly believe that without her achievements, many in our community would not have the tools necessary to advance in life. We all owe her a great debt and much thanks.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE H. KOLKMAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of rare vision who has devoted his life to the labor movement and to improving the lives and working conditions of America's working men and women. Eugene H. Kolkman joined the Retail Clerks Inter-

national Union in 1953 in Fort Wayne, IN. This month he retires as secretary-treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 911 after 35 years of outstanding leadership as a union official. His intelligence and persevering spirit carried Gene to higher and higher responsibilities. In fact, Gene Kolkman has done virtually every job a union man can do—from field organizer, business agent, and local union president. In 1970, Gene rose to the position of executive assistant to then-UFCW Vice President Bill Wynn, having responsibility for the union's Central Division covering Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan.

Gene has also served the broader labor movement holding positions as recording secretary of the Toledo area AFL-CIO; executive secretary of the Toledo Port Council; and vice president of the Ohio State AFL-CIO. Gene's career representing his fellow workers is an inspiration to all concerned about the welfare of working families.

In 1956, Gene married Judy Fenstermacher, and they have raised two children, Jennifer and Christopher. On September 1, Judy and Gene will celebrate 39 years together, another source of inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress should celebrate the lives of labor leaders such as Gene Kolkman, who dedicate their careers to helping others help themselves. Let us wish Godspeed to Gene and Judy in their retirement and a resounding thank you from our entire community for a job done with excellence always.

HAZLETON KIWANIS 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kiwanis Club of Hazleton, PA on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. I am pleased that they have asked me to participate in the recognition of this important milestone.

In 1921, a small group of men gathered at the local Hazleton YMCA and voted to donate \$10 to the local Fourth of July observance. The following week the men formed a formal Kiwanis Club and elected their first president, Edward M. Prisk.

As the Nation enjoyed peacetime under President Warren G. Harding, the club began to prosper and grow with the town of Hazleton. Members of the club went on to serve the community and the country. One member, Victor C. Diehm Sr., was elected to the position of Governor of the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis. This is the highest office held by a member of the Hazleton club.

The leadership of the Hazleton Kiwanis includes some of Hazleton's finest business and community leaders. In its long history the club has made an invaluable contribution to the Hazleton community. The club is a substantial supporter of the United Way and also sponsors the annual Hazleton soap box derby.

Kiwanis has worked in conjunction with the Rotary club of Hazleton to develop Camp Rotawanis. The club also supported Can Do of Greater Hazleton by providing seed money for the Hazleton Township Community Park.

The Hazleton Kiwanis is a major supporter of Penn State University, Hazleton Public Library, Hazleton YMCA-YWCA, the Greater Hazleton Philharmonic, Catholic Social Service and the Salvation Army. As an extension of its philanthropic support, the club also sponsors health screening programs, educational and entertainment activities for its members. The Kiwanis also run local Circle K clubs for student mergers.

Mr. Speaker, the list of the Hazleton Kiwanis's interests and achievements are a testament to its dedication and service to the community. I am extremely proud to bring the achievements of this group to the attention of my colleagues. I join with the people of Hazleton in thanking President Victor Baran, First Vice President Dr. Geraldine Shepperson, Second Vice President Catherine Seamon, Immediate Past President Vincent Bartkus, Treasurer Joseph Weber and Secretary Ray Saul for their leadership of this vital organization.

H.R. 3871 PROTECTS BROOKLYN
AND QUEENS RESIDENTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3871, which the House passed by voice vote last week, waives the 75-25 Medicaid requirements for two New York City plans. Together, these plans currently serve approximately 60,000 members. Without the waiver authority in this bill, these members would be endangered of losing their access to quality primary care services before the end of the year.

I want to thank the Commerce Committee chairman, the Health and Environment Subcommittee chairman and the ranking minority member and our subcommittee's ranking member for their cooperation in expeditiously moving this bill forward. I want to also thank the gentlemen from the other side of the aisle, Mr. GREENWOOD and Mr. FRANKS, for joining me as cosponsors of this legislation. Let us hope that our colleagues in the Senate will move quickly to approve this legislation before adjournment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FELICIA
BELL: ANSWERING AMERICA'S
CALL

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its ladies auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This past year more than 116,000 secondary school students participated in the contest, competing for the 54 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "Answering America's Call." I am extremely proud to announce that Felicia Bell, this year's winner from the State of Illinois, is from my own Seventh Congressional District.

Ms. Felicia Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bell, is a senior at St. Ignatius College

Prep of Chicago, IL. She was sponsored in the contest by Chicago VFW Post 1612. She aspires to pursue a career in the Foreign Service. Her hobbies include tennis, bowling, reading, baking, dancing, roller skating, and enjoying music. She has been the vice president of her sophomore class and an executive board member of the Black Organization of Students and a student council representative.

It is with deep pride that I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the winning essay written by Ms. Felicia Bell of Chicago, IL.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

Answering America's call. That's an interesting challenge. Very thought-provoking, very metaphorical, very complicated. What is America's call? Is it a call to exercise our civil obligations or a call to improve our educational system? Is it a call to volunteer our time for worthy causes or is it a call to go out and have fun?

After much thought (and a lot of snack and cartoon breaks), I have come to the conclusion that it is a mixture of all four. America is calling us to participate in the political arena, the academic world, the recreational field and the social service sector of society. America calls us to share the wealth of skills and talents we have as proud young Americans in order to perpetuate our strong points while improving upon our weaknesses. The most effective way to advance as a nation is by answering America's call.

America is a country built on the inalienable rights of man. We have the constitutional rights to vote, to free speech, to peacefully assemble, to petition our grievances. Not only are we encouraged to exercise these rights, as American citizens, we are expected to. We fulfill America's expectation by vociferously making known our opinions through letters and petitions written to officials, by boycotting and protesting against actions that run counter to our beliefs, by running for office (instead of passively complaining about the incompetent incumbents). Most importantly, America calls us to vote for the people who will best serve the nation. Citizens will play an integral part in the political process next November at the ballot box because voting is the loudest way we as citizens have to answer America's call.

Only with a sound education can people make the most informed choices. Education is the backbone of all societies. Right now America is experiencing a grave educational crisis in need of immediate repair. America is calling us to improve Head Start programs so that the young will be instilled with a love of learning early in life. America is calling us to pursue technical and vocational training so that we will have the skills necessary to excel in this increasingly technological world.

America is calling us to reform our lagging school system so that all children will have the opportunity to learn the two most fundamental lessons in life: how to think and how to recognize their fullest potential. We must all continue to educate ourselves because an educated citizenry is the mark of a truly great civilization. America is calling us to help attain that goal.

We must go out into the communities, tutor school children, become mentors, work in soup kitchens, help renovate abandoned buildings for the homeless, donate blood, plant trees, clean parks, and contribute to active charities. Social service should be a part of every person's daily routine. Not only does community service help restore our deteriorating society, it helps us as individuals improve our own lives. America implores us to help each other as we help ourselves.

Now anyone can spend their entire life writing letters to Congresspeople, doing homework and volunteering their time for a worthy cause, but that can get quite grim. If there is no fun in life, we will all go crazy. Hobbies and recreation sharpen our minds while sports and dance keep us physically fit, preventing us from cracking under the strain of answering America's other calls. America urges us to bake some chocolate chip cookies or read a novel, go fly a kite on a windy day or jump in puddles when it is raining. America encourages us to rest, relax and just "kick it".

Throughout history, America has had many calls. We have been called to bear arms during times of war, called to protest grave injustices, called to mourn during times of tragedy and sorrow. We have even been called to switch long distance phone companies. We are bombarded with calls. I believe that answering America's call enables us to live life to the fullest, to become the most fully engaged citizens possible. America challenges us to become involved politically, to improve our educational system, to volunteer our talents to worthy causes and to enjoy living the good American life. We must answer America's call so that we can lead our country into its glory and grandeur in the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the Summit Park District on the 50 successful years of its providing recreation to the people of its community.

Like so many other organizations that are celebrating their golden anniversaries this year, the Summit Park District was born when a dedicated group of local residents came together to plan and provide services for veterans returning from World War II ready to start new families.

In the case of the park district, a local physician, Dr. Paul Rush, and 12 residents came together to provide open space and recreational activities for their fellow residents. After selecting four sites in the village for playgrounds, Dr. Rush and his associates turned to the Des Plaines Valley News newspaper for assistance. The paper printed ballots asking the children of Summit what they wanted in their new parks, and, five decades later, the park district is still listening to the residents in developing new facilities and programs.

In fact, the park district recently added hiking and biking trails, a jogging track, fitness stations, a mini golf course, and batting cages in response to the recreational needs of Summit residents.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Summit Park District on its 50th anniversary and wish the district many more years of success.

ANGELO BROTHERS CO. 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Angelo Brothers Co. as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in Philadelphia this month and to commend the creation of Stan and Tim Angelo for its 50 years of distinguished service to the community.

The company began in 1946 as a small paint and lamp store in south Philadelphia. Stan and Romolo "Tim" Angelo soon realized that there was a better market for lamp parts than for portable lamps. In response, the brothers created a wholesale mail order business that catered to the lamp industry. They also expanded their company to include the sale of lamp parts as well as light bulbs and hardware. The family business was passed on through generations of Angelos, with Stan's son, Stanley, Jr., John, and Tim's son, Raymond, taking over as leaders of the company. As the company continued to thrive, other locations were opened in Santa Fe Springs, CA, Chicago, IL, and Jacksonville, FL.

In the past 50 years, the Angelo Brothers Co. has grown to become the largest privately owned seller of light bulbs in the country. The company has kept abreast of new technological developments by designing the Smart Bulb™ and Spectralite™ lamps to meet new energy standards. It has won awards for its advances in incandescent lighting technologies. Today the company has 600 employees and is one of the most recognized names in light bulbs.

Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the leading role that the Angelo Brothers Co. has taken in the "Do-It-Yourself" market. In 1970, it entered the home center marketplace. Soon, the company began to sell lighting fixtures as well as electrical hardware and door chimes. The company has also expanded into the sale of decorative light bulbs.

The company has come a long way since its origins as a small, family owned business. It has become one of the leaders in the field of light bulb and fixture manufacturing, and it continues to grow today. Now, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Angelo Brothers Co., a scholarship foundation for the children of employees has been created in the name of Stan and Tim Angelo, the brothers who opened the small store in Philadelphia 50 years ago.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Angelo Brothers Co., and its second generation of leaders, including John, Tim, Ray, and Stanley Angelo, Jr., for its successes and contributions to the community and wish it continued prosperity in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Resource Conservation and