

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 God-speed 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