

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased that Joseph, Carolyn, the Belknap County Economic Development Council, Eileen, and Secure Care Products have been recognized for their contributions to small business in New Hampshire. As a small business owner myself, I clearly understand how necessary small business is to our economy, our community, and, most important, to our way of life. New Hampshire is indeed fortunate to have individuals and businesses of this exceptional caliber as members of the small business community. I hope that the House will join me in extending our congratulations to this year's small business award recipients.

NATIONAL TASTE OF PIZZA
MONTH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to salute the contributions of the Tony Modica Pizza Dance Foundation and One World-One Heart, Inc., organizations which exemplify our nation's direction of unity and cultural exchange through inter-generational activities and programs.

One World-One Heart, Inc., a non-profit organization, serves to provide access to educational, recreational, cultural and intergenerational programs for participants from all ethnic, religious, economic and cultural backgrounds. The founders, Catherine Laport and Steven Kaplansky have over 30 years of experience of providing non-profit, social and recreational services to communities at large.

Tony Modica came to this country as an immigrant and became successful in the pizza industry. This foundation is a means for him to give back to the community through a program that benefits the elderly and the youth. Modica uses pizza as an international symbol of unity. Pizza is a favorite food of both young and old and its incorporation into a program which features song and dance makes for an enjoyable experience for all involved. The foundation has created programs that promote unity; and encourage children to stay in school and improve their grades. After his lectures, the students and seniors socialize and are treated to pizza. The Tony Modica Pizza Dance Foundation and One World-One Heart join together every year in June and sponsor a month-long celebration of unity and to raise awareness of the joys of life through free public activities for all ages which include lectures, song, dance and pizza.

The concept behind the pizza campaign is a simple but powerful one. They are not merely celebrating the worldwide love of the delicacy, but also the theory that the pizza with its varied toppings on a round of bread is symbolic of the many cultures in our society. Our culture, like the toppings on the pizza is very different, yet the toppings taste great on one foundation of bread. We as a global society have more in common than we sometimes can imagine, and our differences can be greatly appreciated. It is this commonality which is embedded in the joy of life, and respect for one another that is celebrated in the

month long pizza campaign in June. The events celebrate unity and cultural diversity in a fun, spirited way. The campaign brings together corporate, non-profit, religious and elected officials who come together to support a month of unity; understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. The Tony Modica Foundation and One World-One Heart, Inc. are positive examples of how private citizens and non-profit organizations can make a difference in the community with the support of business and government.

It is for these reasons that I implore my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing The Tony Modica Pizza Foundation, One World-One Heart and "the Pizza" in proclaiming June, "The National Taste of Pizza Month."

HONORING THE WESTCHESTER
LARIATS

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Westchester Lariats, a non-profit educational folk dance troupe for young boys and girls in grades 5 through 12. The organization will soon celebrate 50 years of community involvement.

The Westchester Lariats was founded in 1950 by Dr. J. Tillman Hall as an after school dance club for local youth. The club has evolved over the years into an important community program for young adults.

It is also a valuable cultural experience for the members of the dance troupe. They have traveled extensively throughout the country performing at various venues. The Lariats have also performed in Mexico, Canada, Europe and Australia.

Performing American swing and square dances, in addition to Hawaiian, European, and Middle Eastern dances, the dance troupe has entertained the local community for the last fifty years.

I congratulate the Westchester Lariats on achieving this milestone. You have provided joy and entertainment to many throughout the Westchester community. I wish you continued success.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CARL AND
MARTHA CLOSE ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THEIR 40TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding couple from Virginia's Eleventh Congressional District, Carl and Martha Close. I extend my best wishes to Carl and Martha, who marked their 40th wedding anniversary on Thursday, May 18. The wedding anniversary was celebrated by the congregation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I join together today with the extended family of St. Paul's Episcopal

Church to commend Carl and Martha on this joyous occasion and to share the warm wishes of the citizens of Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Carl was born in Oregon and grew up in Colorado, while Martha is a native of Alabama. He is a Harvard graduate and was the Assistant Director of Eastern Field Operations for the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining. Martha attended Radcliff and is a graduate of American University. She completed her Masters of Science Degree at Catholic University in Library and Information Science. Together, they have lived in the Washington Metropolitan area for more than thirty years. The Closes are the proud parents of two children, Carol and Stewart.

True to their marriage vows, they have dedicated their lives to each other and shared in the joys and challenges of marriage. As we honor their fortieth anniversary, let us reflect on their lives, their love for one another, and wish them a happy and healthy marriage in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Carl and Martha Close celebrate this very special occasion, I wish them, their children, and all of their family many years of love and happiness. I am grateful to be reminded of such a couple and to have the opportunity to recognize such a momentous day in their lives. I hope that their anniversary was spent celebrating the memories of their most cherished memories together. Carl and Martha are to be commended for their commitment to one another, and for the wonderful example they set for their many friends and family. I wish them many more happy and healthy days together.

TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as one of two Members of Congress to oppose H.R. 3916, the telephone excise tax bill, I believe there is a need to explain the reasons for my vote. I opposed H.R. 3916 because this is just another fiscally irresponsible way for the Republicans to reduce federal revenues for the vital programs that the working families of this country rely on. The leadership of the 106th Congress doesn't care if it squanders \$20 billion in tax revenues by repealing the telephone excise tax because it doesn't care if we have enough money to save Social Security and Medicare for future generations. But I do care and did not vote to repeal the excise tax.

I never heard from one constituent asking me to repeal the federal excise tax on their phone service because it was a hardship. I did, however, hear from Bell Atlantic who will soon raise its phone rates and from big companies asking me to lower their phone bill. This bill will save the average family \$34 per year—no wonder there wasn't a clamor from constituents demanding the repeal. I do hear from working families who want a better education for their children, and from seniors who want a Medicare prescription drug benefit. I also hear from families who don't have any health insurance for their children or who want a cleaner environment.