A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S SOCIAL WORKERS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's social workers. March is National Social Work Month and I think it is fitting that we take time to thank these outstanding citizens for their honorable work.

Since I was first elected to the House over four years ago, I have employed at least one social worker as a member of my district staff. I had worked with social workers before during my tenure as North Carolina's Superintendent of public schools, and I was impressed with their versatility and the positive impact of their work on people's lives. Together the social workers on my staff and I have assisted veterans and seniors, and helped new immigrants pursue the American Dream in our great country.

About a month ago, I held a meeting with my youth advisory committee to talk about youth and school violence. We had a great meeting and we talked candidly about the issues that the young people of my district face on a daily basis. At one point during the meeting, we broke into small groups, which were led by faculty, administrators, and school social workers. I was particularly drawn to one of the small groups led by Kelly Lister, a school social worker from Zebulon. She did a marvelous job of interacting with the students and offered some practical and poignant thoughts for her group to consider.

Unfortunately, there are not enough school social workers in our schools. For example, in Johnston County, North Carolina, there is only one school social worker for all 29 schools in the system. We need more school social workers, like Kelly to work with our students, to help them grow and mature. In many instances they are a link between home, school, and community. They help students increase academic performance, deal with crisis situations, learn how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence, practice important problem-solving and decision-making skills, and most importantly remain in school and graduate. School social workers are a critical component in a child's education and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their hard work and service.

Social workers effect our lives in so many ways. Their work touches all of us as individuals and as whole communities. They are educated, highly trained, and committed professionals. They work in family service and community mental health agencies, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and many other private and public agencies. They listen. They care. And most importantly, they help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, social workers are an integral, irreplaceable part of our society. I urge all of my colleagues to take the time to honor all the social workers in their districts for all of their contributions and accomplishments during the remainder of National Social Work Month.

CELEBRATING THE WILLOWRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to the achievements of the Willowridge High School Boys Basketball team of Sugar Land, Texas. This year, the Willowridge Eagles won their second consecutive 5A State championship on March 9th, 2001.

Undefeated in 39 games last season, the Willowridge Eagles extended their winning streak to 62 games over two years. Led by a veteran group of seniors, the Eagles also defeated three nationally ranked schools when they traveled north to win the ''Slam Dunk to the Beach'' Tournament in Lewes, Delaware. Willowridge was recognized as the Number Two team in the country in USA Today's Super 25 boys basketball rankings.

On their journey to the championship, Coach Ronnie Courtney and the Eagles have proven that they are one of the best high school basketball teams in the country. Their commitment to teamwork on-and-off the court has brought them both the state championship and national accolade. I congratulate the Willowridge Eagles. They have not only won the championship, but also the appreciation of their fans in Sugar Land, Texas, and across America.

APRIL CITIZEN OF THE MONTH—KARAN ''BOBBY'' KUMAR

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Karan ''Bobby'' Kumar, Chairman of the Board at Nassau Health Care Corporation, as Citizen of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2001.

Bobby is a prominent leader in both the Indian Community on Long Island and in his health care profession. As a nurse, I know how important the Nassau Health Care Corporation is to our district

Kumar is a charismatic and hard working individual who has grown from a simple beginning into a respected individual in the society. The Nassau Health Care Corporation employs over 4,200 employees and is comprised of a 631-bed medical center, five health centers and is one of the largest nursing homes in the country with 889 beds.

An entrepreneur who has worked his way up from a bus boy to a successful businessman, Kumar now owns many successful businesses including a publishing company, and a construction and environmental company. Kumar Enterprises, a manufacturing company specializing in paint, is his most recent startup.

His leadership role in the Indian community is extensive. In the past, he has published the Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and American Yellow Pages. He is the chairman of the International Punjabi Welfare Council, and has received awards from the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin, the Indian Association of Long Island, the Indian Professional Engineers Association of USA, and the News India Times.

Yet his community involvement reaches outside the Indian community. He has been honored by various organizations including the Battered Women's Association, Nassau Association for the Help of Retarded Children, and the Convenience Stores Association. He was recognized by Newsday as the January 2000 Long Island Man of the Century.

Kumar and his wife, Roisin Meegan, have five children. I congratulate Bobby and his family on this achievement.

PRAISING THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AT TRINITY COLLEGE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of the human rights program at Trinity College in Hatford, Connecticut for its dedication to increasing awareness of human rights injustices around the world and the active role it has taken in the campaign against such abuses. Because of the tireless efforts of Maryam Elahi, the Director of the program, Trinity College boasts a human rights program that is believed to be the only undergraduate interdisciplinary human rights program in the United States, challenging its students to become active participants in the fight against human rights violations around the world. This Friday will mark yet another instance of Trinity's dedication.

On March 30, 2001, the Human Rights Program will be hosting a ceremony calling attention to the plight of three teachers being held as political prisoners in Myanmar, the country formerly known as Burma, Ms. Ma Thida Htway, Mr. U Ye Tint, and Ms. Ma Khin Khin Leh. Their story has caught the attention of many world leaders including Her Majesty, Queen Rania al-Abdulla of Jordan. I am honored to have Queen Rania as a guest of the First Congressional District and as the keynote speaker of Friday's ceremony.

The three teachers were arrested in July 1999 with a dozen other activists in connection to a march that had been planned commemorating the assassination of independence hero General Aung Sand and supporting the National League for Democracy (NLD). Ms. Ma Thida Htway, an elementary school teacher, was arrested for attempting to organize the 1999 uprising and creating a human rights movement. Mr. U Ye Tint, a private tutor, was helping students of the uprising produce pamphlets. Ms. Ma Khin Khin Leh, a nonpolitical, was arrested together with her three-year-old daughter, after the Military Intelligence was unable to locate her political activist husband. After five days her daughter was released; however, Ma Khin Khin Leh sits in an unspecified prison for a life sentence. The two others were also sentenced to lengthy prison terms in a trial that fell short of the international standards for fair trials. All have been brutalized and tortured because of their political beliefs. This cannot continue.

The plight of these three teachers is just one of many human rights abuses which occur