

Mr. Chairman, while the issues highlighted above may not seem important at the moment, while we are in the midst of hot debate, let me reassure you, all my colleagues, that they remain very important. The Iraq crises will not be with us always. The issues that seem so distant and unimportant now will be in our face the minute the fighting in Iraq ends. Let us stand firm with our friend and ally Turkey as she has stood with the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 86 (H. Res. 160, Previous Question on the Rule for consideration of H.R. 1104, Child Abduction Prevention Act), I was unavoidably absent due to a request from the President of the United States that I travel with a Congressional Delegation to MacGill Airforce Base in Tampa, Florida. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

GIVING THANKS TO THE "MAKE-A-WISH" FOUNDATION OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, a great member of the community I represent, and an organization I am proud to call "neighbor." Today, April 7, 2003, the foundation marks its 20th anniversary. The foundation is a nonprofit organization that fulfills the wishes of children facing life-threatening illnesses to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

The foundation's mission is pure as it is simple—to give children facing illnesses such as cancer, pediatric AIDS and heart disease something positive to think about instead of doctors visits, hospitals and medicine. The Make-A-Wish Foundation fulfills each of these children's greatest wish. Whether the wish is to visit a theme park, meet a sports hero or movie star, or army soldier, the foundation works to make each child feel special.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic serves children who reside in Maryland, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, and Dela-

ware. The foundation, which is headquartered in Kensington, MD—my hometown—also has offices in Baltimore, LaVale, Maryland, and Wilmington, Delaware.

I'd like to recognize some of my constituents who were there to help start the organization 20 years ago: Barbara Manfuso Appleby, Deborah Camalier Walker, BJ Bralower, Harry Martens III.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to report to you that the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic has fulfilled the wishes of more than 3,800 children who reside in Maryland, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, and Delaware including more than 1,500 from Maryland—that's 75 young Marylanders a year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you an example of the joy Make-A-Wish Foundation brings to young citizens in need. Ryan is a young man from Silver Spring, MD, who wished for a companion—the four-legged kind. The Make-A-Wish Foundation recently fulfilled Ryan's wish for a dog.

Ryan's father reports that the Ryan's new friend, named Chi-Chi, has brought pure joy to the young boy's life. "They play together like they have known each other forever," he said.

It is my pleasure to share with the U.S. House of Representatives the accomplishments of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic.