

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF UNITED WAY AND BRIDGING THE GAP'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORT: 2-1-1/FIRST CALL FOR HELP AND HOUSINGCLEVELAND.ORG

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the united effort of United Way and Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless' (NEOCH) Bridging the Gap as they celebrate the newly available HousingCleveland.Org website. This is a vital source of information for individuals and families on the road to personal restoration as they search for safe, affordable housing in Cuyahoga County.

This comprehensive Web site is free to both prospective tenants and property owners. The site currently lists more than 1,500 housing units in more than 20 local cities and villages. The site, available at no cost to property owners, includes a rental checklist, a rent calculator, information on tenant rights and responsibilities and information that includes details about each unit. Tenants can use the site to search by location, rent, number of bedrooms and special needs requirements.

For individuals who do not have access to the internet, the information can also be obtained by calling 2-1-1/First Call for Help line. All information contained in the site is available in Spanish. First Call for Help maintains the site and daily updates are provided by Socialserve.com, a non-profit agency. SCK, a graphic design firm located in the Tremont neighborhood, donated a portion of their time and talents in creating the HousingCleveland.Org site.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of United Way's 2-1-1 First Call For Help, NEOCH's Bridging the Gap, Cleveland Tenant's Organization, Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services, Cleveland Department of Community Development, Cleveland State University Center for Neighborhood Development, Cuyahoga County Department of Development, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, EDEN, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Maximum Independent Living and the May Dugan Center.

Let us stand in honor and recognition of the courageous spirit and heart of the children and adults in our community who, despite their struggle and hardship, strive to raise their lives into the realm of hope and possibility and ultimately, through the collaborative work and spirit of our entire community, are able to find their way home.

HONORING OPERATION PEDRO PAN

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Operation Pedro Pan for inviting me to share in this dinner commemorating the 45-year anniversary of the Pedro Pan exodus and benefiting two very important causes; the New Children's Village and the Pedro Pan Archives at Barry University. I had the honor of being present 15 years ago when Elly Chovel presented the Pledge of Thanksgiving, which established Operation Pedro Pan. Tonight, I have the pleasure of giving my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Chovel on receiving the Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Award for her years of service and dedication to Operation Pedro Pan.

Operation Pedro Pan is an organization, which has been influential in shaping the Cuban-American community, as we know it today. Many of the Pedro Pan children who made the sacrifice of leaving Cuba for the pursuit of freedom are the leaders of our community today. Among them is my colleague in Washington, DC, Senator MEL MARTINEZ, who is the first Cuban-American elected to the United States Senate—and a Pedro Pan Child.

It makes me proud to see how much Operation Pedro Pan has accomplished in South Florida. Operation Pedro Pan is one of the Cuban-American community's best examples of what can be accomplished through dedication and hard work. Through its advocacy work for children and working to preserve the significance of an important time in Cuban history, Pedro Pan has established itself as a highly respected organization.

I wish the best for Operation Pedro Pan. I hope that in the years to come you continue to reach your goals, so that our children and our children's children realize the sacrifices that our generation made in search of liberty. Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to be here with you tonight. I commend Operation Pedro Pan for the leadership they display in our unity year after year and I look forward to continuing my support for their efforts.

### MARKING EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DAYS

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and pay tribute to all school employees who serve as Education Support Professionals in our Nation's public schools. Custodial Services Education Support Professionals are essential school employees who interact daily with students, staff and parents.

Custodians enhance the school districts they serve in many ways. They provide a unique link between all of the different jobs accomplished in a school environment every day. A student's ability to learn and thrive is often directly influenced by the custodians at his or her school.

A Custodian's daily work load can include managing heating, ventilating and air-conditioning for the entire school building, maintaining responsibility for the safety and sanitation of the school and managing disruptive or violent student behavior until proper authorities arrive on the scene. In addition, many schools consider their custodian to be the "Master at Arms" of their school building. One need only imagine the condition a school would be in without a custodian to understand the enormous importance of custodians to our Nation's schools.

Today as we recognize all education support professionals, I would urge my colleagues to take a moment to express their appreciation for this fine group of Americans who are dedicated, loyal and committed to the educational enhancement of all students.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MONAGAN

### HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Monagan, who represented the fifth district of Connecticut from 1959 to 1973. Mr. Monagan passed away on October 23rd at the age of 93.

John was born and raised in Waterbury, the largest city in the fifth district. He went on to Dartmouth college where he was an honors student in French literature. Upon graduation he attended Harvard Law school and in 1937 he received a law degree.

During his 7 terms in Congress, he chaired the House Government Operations subcommittee that helped uncover irregularities in the Federal Housing Administration's financing of the Housing Renewal program. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee he led mission study trips to Soviet satellite countries and worked to improve trade relations with Latin American countries.

John Monagan had a passion for public service that started before and continued after his years in the House. In Waterbury he immersed himself in public service, as an alderman, a finance commissioner and eventually as Mayor. As president of the U.S. Association of former members of Congress, he was known to give lectures on the importance of public service. His dedication to serving others is inspirational quality that many of us wish to pass onto the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, we thank and pay our respects to John Monagan for his years of service to Connecticut and the Nation.

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