

8487; Ellis Mishulovich at the Yale Center for East European Studies, (203) 432-3423, or the Children of Chernobyl Foundation, (201) 376-5140.

IN HONOR OF THE CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION COUNCIL OF  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 1996, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County, Inc. [CAPC] will be celebrating its 20th year of providing critical services to children and families in my congressional district. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate CAPC and its staff and volunteers for their dedication, perseverance and significant contribution to the community. They truly have helped to make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Founded in 1976 as part of an umbrella organization and incorporated in 1984 as an independent nonprofit corporation, the council serves as the county's clearinghouse for child abuse prevention information and referral, public education, and advocacy services.

The Council's message to "Stop Child Abuse" reaches over 70,000 county residents each year. As the only agency in Contra Costa County solely dedicated to child abuse prevention, the council provides a number of programs and services designed to educate, inform, and involve the general public in preventing child abuse. Also, by connecting victims, abusers and those at-risk for abuse with much-needed services, the council serves a critical function in stopping the vicious cycle of child abuse in our society at large.

The council recruits, trains and maintains an active roster of over 30 volunteers who participate in our Partnership for Prevention Program. This program is designed to provide educational presentations to colleges, schools, daycare and Headstart centers, shelters, community groups, professionals serving children, service clubs, churches, community service agencies, firefighters, and corporate employees. Its trained volunteers provide over 100 presentations throughout the county to over 5,000 people annually.

The council coordinates public and private agencies involved in the prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse in Contra Costa County. In 1982, by order of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, CAPC was designated as the coordinating agency of the Interagency Child Abuse Systems Review Committee, an ongoing committee which identifies problems in the county's service delivery system and makes recommendations to the board of supervisors. In 1988, the council was also named as the coordinating agency for the Contra Costa County Child Death Review Multidisciplinary Team, which reviews deaths of children under the age of 18 years.

In 1992, the Council established the county-wide Multidisciplinary Interview Advisory Committee for the purpose of providing planning for a future Multidisciplinary Interview Center in Contra Costa County. This center would provide a one-stop interviewing for child sex-

ual abuse victims, and streamline investigation, and prosecution processes for child sexual abuse cases.

In 1982, the CAPC special needs fund was established—with assistance from the Oakland Tribune—to provide small cash grants to help meet the special needs of families in which children may be in jeopardy and/or need. Each year the council disburses approximately 15 grants to families in Contra Costa County.

In 1985, an interagency task force was convened by the council to develop a comprehensive resources directory of primary prevention and support services available to residents of Contra Costa County. The directory, "Surviving Parenthood," is now in its 5th edition and has been established as the leading resource for families in crisis.

More recently, CAPC developed a "Kids: Instruction for Care" campaign which includes the distribution of T-shirts and bookmarks designed to highlight basic parenting skills. The bookmarks are distributed in daycare facilities, schools, and libraries throughout the county, and the T-shirts and now in more than 25 States and 11 countries.

Next month, the council will celebrate its 20th anniversary, and I am pleased to see that the council has as much energy today as when it first began. The council is expanding its programs to meet the growing needs of the county. This year the child abuse prevention council will be opening a second office in Richmond, CA, to provide more accessible services to families and children in west Contra Costa County.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I salute CAPC on its 20th anniversary and hope that they not only continue their important efforts but can serve as a model for other communities in their efforts to combat the scourge of child abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 28, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 106. I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 106, final passage of H.R. 3103, the Health Coverage Availability Act.

CITIZENSHIP USA

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 18, 1996, the INS announced the Chicago kickoff of Citizenship USA, a major nationwide initiative designed to help eligible immigrants become U.S. citizens. The goal of this worthwhile initiative is to ensure that by September 30, 1996, eligible persons who apply for citizenship will become citizens within 6 months. In Chicago alone the INS is expected to conduct more than 850 interviews each day, 4 days a week. This historic announcement was made before a crowd of 1,100 new citizens, representing 71 nations,

who took the citizenship oath at the Navy pier ceremony.

As a proud participant of the development of this very important initiative in Chicago I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my remarks during the Chicago Citizenship USA kickoff.

CITIZENSHIP USA

(By Luis Gutierrez)

I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this day possible and make it such a success, and for giving me the opportunity to be with all of you today. I want to say a particular word of thanks to Mayor Richard Daley. In a time when far too many elected officials across our nation have found that exploiting people's fears and ignorance about the immigrant community can be the road to a few extra votes, our Mayor has demonstrated a consistent commitment to immigrants to our great city.

Mayor Daley, I thank you for that commitment. And most importantly, I thank all of you who are here before us today, allowing us to share in this very special day of accomplishment for all of you. The elected and appointed officials who are on this podium today have the easy part of the program. We are fortunate enough to be able to congratulate you and share in your success.

All of you have done the hard part. You have left family and friends in your native country. Overcome barriers of language and culture and custom. Endured the frustrations of government bureaucracy and paperwork and frequent indifference. And weathered the words and policies and efforts of some of us here in America who still, after 220 years of our nation growing and thriving because of the contributions of immigrants, who still don't want you in our land.

And yet, here you are, about to make our country stronger and greater and better by becoming citizens of the United States of America. For your effort, and dedication, and commitment to reaching your dream, I thank you. And today, as you make your dream come true, you are doing more than just taking a big step forward for you and your family. You are sending a message to the people of Chicago, the people of Illinois, the people of America.

Two days from now, I will go to Washington. And in Washington this week, we are debating H.R. 2202. It's a bill about immigration and naturalization. And the people who wrote that bill are blind to all of you who are here today. They are blind to your hopes and dreams and contributions and efforts to build a better America. And that blindness is reflected in one of the most horribly anti-immigrant bills to be introduced into Congress in our lifetime.

So we will debate in Washington this week just how many of these types of ceremonies we should really have in our country. The people who wrote that bill say a lot less. I say we should have a lot more. Because when we debate the question, "what should our immigration policy be," we are really asking ourselves something much more important.

We are asking, "what kind of nation should we be?" "What kind of America should we be?" Should we be the proud, and confident, and vibrant America that has welcomed immigrants from across our globe, and grown better and stronger because of their contributions? Or should we be a small, and fearful, and declining America that shuts our borders and closes our minds and turns our back on people who want nothing more than to help make America great?

That is the real choice of our immigration debate this week. To listen to the red-hot rhetoric about the dangers of immigration, and about immigrants who are making our

streets dangerous and taking away jobs and looking for a free ride, you might think that immigrant-bashing is a new invention. But the mindless immigrant-bashing we hear today from the Pete Wilsons and Pat Buchanans of America is as old as the Mayflower.

Politicians have always been ready to turn real fears and legitimate concerns about crime and health care and jobs into the imaginary belief that it is all the fault of those people—those immigrants, those suspect people who are somehow different from the rest of us.

Let me read you a quote. You guess who it's about. "It is hopeless to think of civilizing these new immigrants, or keeping them in order, except by the arm of the law." Sounds a lot like the speeches I hear on the floor of the House of Representatives. Or the rhetoric any where Pat Buchanan happens to be campaigning. But the quote is a little less recent. It's from the New York Times. In 1875. And they were writing about Italians.

Well, the immigrant bashers were wrong about Italians in 1875. And they are wrong about the immigrants to America today. Unfortunately, today's immigrant bashers are so busy closing their minds that they close their eyes to the reality of immigration and the contributions of immigrants. They don't see you. They don't see this swearing in. They don't see 1,000 people ready to work and sweat and toil to make their lives better and their families lives better. You are the reality of immigration today.

I wish the bashers and politicians and fear-mongers would come to our city, and look at the reality of your faces. Maybe then, instead of closing their minds, they could open their hearts. When friends of mine who don't know Chicago come to town, like to take them to one of the most vibrant, thriving, successful commercial strips in our city. Do I take them to State Street or Michigan Avenue? No, I take them to 26th Street, one of the most successful urban commercial strips in America.

An area rebuilt almost exclusively by immigrants from Mexico. Because of immigration, 26th Street is not another declining, nearly abandoned urban wasteland. It is an example of our city at its best. And look where we are today.

At Navy Pier, a historic reminder of a Chicago that has opened its streets and ports and neighborhoods to Swedes and Poles and Irish and Lithuanians and Italians and Germans and every person from every corner of the globe and because we opened our doors instead of closing our minds we live in the greatest city in the world. And now that great city has 1,000 more recruits who will open businesses and create jobs and build housing and work and sweat and contribute and stand on the shoulders of our immigrant brothers and sisters and lead Chicago into a new century.

I ask Mr. Buchanan and every person who wants to build a wall around our nation: Have you looked at the inner-cities being rebuilt by immigrants from Mexico? Have you visited the hospitals where doctors from Asia are healing our sick? Do you care about the new businesses and new jobs and new opportunities that are being created by newcomers to America from across the world?

In the past, America's answer has been: Yes we see, yes we care, yes we understand. And that must be our answer today. A recent study estimated that immigrants to our country are earning more than \$240 billion per year. They are paying more than \$90 billion in taxes. And they are collecting only five billion dollars in welfare benefits.

Almost 20 times more taxes paid than government benefits collected. Those are the facts of our immigrant community. I am

honored and proud to serve a Congressional District that is filled with a diverse community of immigrants from throughout the world.

When I walk down Milwaukee Avenue, I still hear the languages of my neighbors from Mexico to Poland to Ukraine to Korea. Yet, no community is more American. More proud of our nation. This is the true story of the immigrant community.

I think the immigrant-bashing sweeping across our nation like a plague is a real threat to our future. Our country should remain strong and vibrant and confident. But we cannot do it if we turn our back on people who want to contribute.

What would Chicago look like today if we had closed our doors before the Irish arrived, or before the Germans arrived, before the Poles arrived? If we were to close our doors today, we will gain nothing, and lose something vital. We would become a broken city of missed opportunities. Of missed economic opportunities, the missed cultural opportunities, of missed opportunities to keep our city growing and thriving changing.

I see many faces here today that I have seen before. Your came to the workshops sponsored by the 4th Congressional District Citizenship Project. I'm very proud we were able to help you, yet I know that it was you who did the real work. You endured long lines and waits. You endured a backlog at the INS to have your application approved. Many of you studied hard for your test and worked to improve your English. I know it wasn't easy.

But the work of months will pay off today by beginning a lifetime of opportunity. Immigration is opportunity. All of you now have a greater opportunity for you to benefit from our nation. But America gets an even better deal. Our nation receives the opportunity to benefit from you.

As I speak on the floor of the House of Representatives this week, as people attack immigration and say we need fewer new American citizens, I will think of all of you today. And I will do my best to spread the word. The word of your dedication and commitment and what it means to our country. The word of how much our nation would lose if we stop having days just like today.

You've kept your end of the bargain by overcoming the obstacles and becoming citizens. I promise you, I'll do everything I can to make sure our government keeps their end of the deal.

Thank you again and congratulations to every one of you on your outstanding accomplishment.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO LAWRENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group of student-athletes from the 19th District of Illinois. The Lawrenceville High School basketball team recently completed their 1995-96 campaign by qualifying for the State tournament in Peoria. The Indians were knocked out in the elite eight, but even this loss could not tarnish such a stellar season. Highlighting their accomplishments is the fact that the team carries a 3.0-grade point average. I commend them on not only their title run, but their commitment to their studies and the excitement they brought to the community.

Lawrenceville is a senior dominated squad that has been together since middle school. As eight graders, this group won the Southern Illinois Class L State Tournament Championship with an undefeated mark of 24-0. Combined with an experienced crop of juniors and two underclassmen, it is easy to understand how the Indians competed with the best talent in the State. On the way to a 22-7 record, Lawrenceville won the Capital Classic and the North Egyptian Conference as well as regional, sectional, and super-sectional titles. Head coach Brian Stillwell and his assistants Lynn Gray, Jerry Scott, and David Heshner deserve praise for guiding this hard-working group through a long season. Significantly, Lawrenceville was the only high school in Illinois to have two sport teams qualify for their respective State tournaments, the wrestling team joining the cagers in this honor.

Mr. Speaker, high school sports teach our students many important lessons and are an excellent preparation for their future careers. In return, these fine players give back to their school and town with their uncompromising pursuit of success, both on the hardwood and in the classroom. They have done themselves proud, and I salute them. It is an honor to represent Lawrenceville in the U.S. Congress. The following are the team members: Curt Benson, Kevin Cochran, Mark Denison, Nate Ernst, Jason Goff, Ryan Gray, Stephen Muller, Matt Moorehead, Dusty Tredway, Gage Caudell, Matt Gardner, Jason Green, Josh Weger, Andy Denison, and Justin Wolfe. The managers are Josh Brown and Jared Smith.

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#### HONORING THE LOWER MERION HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of student athletes who scaled the mountain of athletic success while keeping their feet firmly planted in the soil of educational excellence.

Recently, the boys basketball team from Lower Merion High School captured the class AAAA championship by beating a fine team from Erie Cathedral Prep 48 to 43. After streaking through a phenomenal season with a 31-3 record, the Aces captured their first State title since 1943.

This athletic achievement is a testament to their exceptional teamwork, commitment to excellence and their remarkable drive to achieve the finest in athletics. The hard work and dedication of Coach Gregg Downer, his staff and the fine young men paid off as they achieved the ultimate success for a high school basketball team in Pennsylvania.

These young men are shining examples of the best and brightest in America. Among the team members is Kobe Bryant whose 33 point average per game and stellar abilities have made him the No. 1 high school basketball player in the Nation.

But this high school and the outstanding Lower Merion School District of which it is a part represent more than excellence in athletics. Six of the district's nine schools have received the national Blue Ribbon designation