

HONORING KATHY DIFIORE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Kathy DiFiore, of Ramsey, NJ, for the work she is doing on behalf of unwed mothers. Kathy is a dedicated and compassionate community leader who lends support to young women at a trying period in their lives. Her work is well-known across our State and has been supported by figures as prominent as former Gov. Tom Kean and the late Mother Teresa. We need more people like Kathy DiFiore to help with the issue of teen pregnancy.

More than a decade ago, Kathy opened a shelter for unwed mothers in her own, six-bedroom home. Today, she operates Several Sources Shelters, which has five homes for unwed mothers—two in Ramsey plus one each in Mendham, Newark, and Washington Township. Kathy a former Wall Street executive, has given thousands of women the moral and tangible support needed to bring their children into the world.

Even an effort as admirable as a shelter for unwed mothers does not succeed without overcoming obstacles. In 1984, State officials levied a \$10,000 fine against Kathy, claiming that her home—at that point a shelter—was being operated as an illegal boardinghouse. Similarly, Ramsey officials said it was unlikely she could be granted a zoning variance necessary to continue operation. The shelter's future was uncertain. Undaunted, Kathy convinced the State legislature to pass a bill allowing her to remain in operation, then-Governor Kean, however, was hesitant to sign the measure.

It was at that point that Kathy contacted Mother Teresa and asked her help. Mother Teresa responded and, in turn, contacted Governor Kean and urged him to sign the bill. Three days later, the legislation was law.

The Several Sources Foundation provides extensive counseling and information for pregnant women seeking an alternative to abortion and ultimately provides free shelter for expectant mothers and their children. The foundation has found that many young women, particularly teenagers, have no place to stay while pregnant. It is, tragically, not uncommon for angry parents to kick out their daughters upon learning that they are pregnant. The shelters allow mothers to stay during pregnancy and up to 1 year after the birth of a child. Each of the five shelters can house up to six mothers and their infants, supervised by an adult house mother.

Women who stay at the shelters are trained in the practical aspects of motherhood, including prenatal care and homemaking. School-age mothers attend high school and are tutored at the shelter during the last weeks of pregnancy. Women who have dropped out of school are assisted in passing their GED and are given classes in practical, employment-related skills such as typing. Some go on to college.

Several sources is a pro-life organization that offers a national telephone hotline for pregnant women. More than 200 women call the hotline each month and Kathy estimates that 15,000 abortions have been avoided

since she founded the organization. The group also offers information through a World Wide Web site on the Internet.

None of this could be done without help, of course. Kathy is assisted by a number of caring and dedicated volunteers, such as Donna Jacoby of Ridgewood. Others help the non-profit, nonsectarian organization through tax-deductible private donations and offerings at area churches.

Mr. Speaker, Kathy DiFiore is a deeply religious woman who has followed through on her Christian convictions. She communicated frequently with Mother Teresa, who served as her religious role model. She likes to say that it's necessary to pray the work. Her efforts might be described as working the prayer.

We need more people of deep conviction and conscience who do more than preach their morality and practice Christian charity in its truest form. Kathy DiFiore has transformed her convictions into action to help these women and children who are in greatest need, not only in daily care but also in educating and inspiring them to improve their lives and provide a promising, hopeful future for their newborn babies.

We all wish her renewed strength and inspiration so that many more might find life through her dedicated and devoted ministry.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I learned that the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee has scheduled a hearing on campaign finance reform for this Thursday, October 30. This is good news. I applaud Chairman BILL THOMAS for allowing this important issue to be given a proper hearing.

However, this is only the first step. Not only should campaign finance reform legislation be given a hearing, it also must come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for a full debate and vote. The people of my district have told me repeatedly that they will not take no for an answer when it comes to changing the current campaign finance system. A hearing is not enough, the full House must be given a chance to vote on this issue.

Last week I joined 168 of my colleagues in signing a discharge petition on campaign finance legislation. It appears the pressure of that petition has forced the leadership of the House to schedule the hearing. I will urge my colleagues not to abandon the discharge effort until we are sure that a fair vote will be allowed on campaign finance reform.

With 2 weeks left before our expected adjournment for the year there is very little time left to consider this issue. I urge you to move quickly to bring a substantial reform bill before the House. I will not take no for an answer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on the afternoon of October 23 and October 24 to attend the wedding of my oldest daughter.

I request unanimous consent that the record reflect that had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 525, "yes" on rollcall No. 529 and "no" on rollcall No. 531.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 1997 PATHFINDER AWARDS**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate 17 women from my Texas congressional district for being selected as recipients of the 1997 Pathfinder Award. These specially selected women from Waco and McLennan County have distinguished themselves through their unique service and contribution to the community.

Pathfinders is a special recognition program that honors outstanding women in McLennan County who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields. Since 1984, the YMCA of Central Texas has honored 214 women with this distinguished tribute.

The women are selected for the honor based on three factors: First, they have served as an exemplary role model, second, they are a strong mentor for others, and third, have impacted lives for the good.

Receiving the 1997 Pathfinder Award are:

Joyce Briehof will be recognized in the area of science/inventions, having been extensively involved with the Green Classroom Project at Kendrick Elementary School in Waco.

Lynn Bulmahn will be recognized in the area of communications. Her coverage of health-related subjects including teenage pregnancy and Alzheimer's disease have earned her numerous awards.

Margie Cintron is the recipient of the Pathfinder Award for public service. She has helped create 24 neighborhood associations in Waco, and provides technical support in accessing city, county, and other governmental services.

Mary Duty will be recognized in the area of business/finance. She recently lobbied the Texas Legislature for passage of a bill to keep tobacco products away from underage children.

Toni Herbert, a member of the Waco City Council, will be recognized in the area of politics. She began the Neighborhood Training Institute, as well as initiating the Neighborhood Development Program for the city of Waco.

Ella Janes McKinney will be recognized in the area of volunteerism. A lifelong member of the Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, she helped organize the Meals on Wheels Program her church operates.

Eugenie Mygdal will receive the Pathfinder Award for the arts. An active volunteer of the Waco Art Center and the Hillcrest Professional Development School, she is also a sculptress and artist.