

The recipients this year—a Catholic nun from Belmont, an Episcopal priest from Oxford, and a dynamic young woman from Sunbury—are no less remarkable.

During its history, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has made grants of more than \$240 million to projects in all 100 counties in North Carolina. While the Foundation's geographic boundary of North Carolina is firm, the Foundation's grantsmaking strives to be far-reaching. It often seeks to initiate rather than to react, to question rather than to accept, to challenge rather than to affirm. The Foundation currently gives special attention to certain focus areas—community economic development, the environment, pre-collegiate education, issues affecting minorities, and issues affecting women.

#### LATIN AMERICA: PROGRESS IN DEMOCRACY

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, while members were in their districts for the recent recess, several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean held important political elections. In every instance, these elections were seen as free, fair and transparent as observed by representatives of the international community. These success stories have once again demonstrated the growing acceptance and strength of democracy in the region. This nation has worked very hard to promote regional democracy through our Agency for International Development as well as through our efforts here in the Congress. As Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, I believe we can be very encouraged by the progress that is being made and we should commend those nations, and others, for their commitment to democracy and free and open elections.

I also want to commend the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean for the economic progress they are making as many of them progress to open market economies. According to a recent report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean experienced their best economic performance as a region in almost twenty-five years averaging a rate of growth of close to 5.3 percent while experiencing an average inflation rate of just 11 percent. This is truly good news and serves to reinforce the fact that the region is making steady and impressive progress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate President Janet Jagan of Guyana, President Carlos Flores of Honduras, Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica, President Miguel Rodriguez of Costa Rica, as well as all of the candidates for Congress and municipal seats in both Chile and Colombia who won their respective elections.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a brief description of several of the elections which took place during the recess.

Colombia—On October 26, 1997, Colombia held nationwide municipal elections. These elections portrayed the worst and best aspects of modern Colombian democracy. Unfortunately, leftist rebels (a.k.a. "narco-guerrillas") attempted to disrupt the elections, especially

in the rural areas which they control, by kidnapping and murdering many of the candidates. These efforts were modestly successful in twenty municipalities where elections were not held. Despite this disruption, and more positively, over 10 million Colombians voted, showing their strong support for the electoral process. The right to choose municipal officers is only about ten years old, so this affirmation of that right is encouraging, considering the rebels and drug lords assault on Colombia's democracy.

Guyana—The December 1997 presidential election was won by Janet Jagan's People's Progressive Party (the Chicago-born widow of the former president). However, this election was significant in that the opposition People's National Congress fomented rioting for several weeks after disputing the election results, charging fraud in the victory of the People's Progressive Party. Many experts, including those at International Foundation for Elections Systems, agreed that there were irregularities, but doubted that they had any conclusive impact on the outcome. Recently, the opposition signed an agreement with President Jagan to accept the results of the vote and end the street demonstrations.

Honduras—The November 1997 presidential election was momentous for the fact that it allowed the citizens for the first time to vote in their residential districts using new national identity ID cards. As a result, there was much less confusion for voters and irregularities were held to a minimum as the Liberal Party's Carlos Flores won the presidency. Importantly, the army played a vital role of supporting democracy. Observers noted that if it had not been for the army's help in transporting the ballots and election results, the chances of fraud and diminished public confidence would have been much greater. The Honduran governments is committed to addressing problems for future elections as well: turnout has dropped off somewhat, and the voter list is not as accurate as it should be.

Jamaica—The December 1997 parliamentary elections witnessed the historic second re-election of Prime Minister P.J. Patterson's People's National Party over the Jamaican Labour Party and the National Democratic Movement. While the elections were mostly free and fair across the country and the results are not in dispute, international observers, which included President Carter and Gen. Powell, noted that Jamaican politics still suffers from the problem of the garrison communities in the capital of Kingston. These are parts of the city wherein one of the major parties is dominant by means of patronage or intimidation; therefore, election results continue to return few or no opposition votes in these communities.

Chile—The December 1997 congressional elections resulted in victory for the Concertacion, the center left ruling coalition, and improved showings for both the hard right and the hard left; the more moderate left- and right-wing forces did worse than last time out. Aside from some poll workers showing up late for work, a commonality in Latin America, and a high abstention rate, there were no irregularities, and the vote represents for many observers evidence that Chile's democracy is quite stable.

HONORING WHITE HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the White House High School Blue Devils football team of White House, Tennessee, and that goal was winning the state 3-A championship game. Their hard-fought victory, and the hard-work and dedication they demonstrated throughout the year will not go unnoticed.

After all, they were honored as Region 4 Champions, 3-A State Champions and had a perfect 15-0 record. The team also had 5 Associated Press All State players, 2 Tennessee Sportswriters All-State players and 8 All Region 1st team members.

These men of White House High School trained vigorously, played tirelessly, and deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each member of the team, their Head Coach, Jeff Porter, and all the assistant coaches, managers, school administrators and all other support staff. I know they won't soon forget this milestone, and those that are still to come.

The players are true champions: Jarod Jullierat, Corey Coker, Joey Rodgers, Jim Smith, J.R. Carroll, Andy Tucker, Ryan Sherrill, James Harper, Chris Barnes, Rudy Farmer, Brock Waggoner, Brian Whittaker, Josh Lanus, Jonathan Finch., Josh Barton, Chuckie Jarrett, Clint Ruth, Brent Bunn, Josh Harrison, Eddie Carrigan, Jeremy Perry, Alan Hargrove, Jon Shelton, Adam Smith, Jim Stacey, Brian Jones, Jon Simpson, Jason Faulk, Chad Rogers, Josh Ahmic, Roger Smith, Chris Gaddis, Chris Laroy, Tyler Judge, Scott Hawkins, Will Bush, Aaron Holmes, Jeremy Adcock, Ryan Cole, Jesse Sharp, Kevin Harris, Dustin King, Joseph Dillehay, Justin O'Guin, Josh Widener, Nathan Jarrett, Joe Bledsoe, Daniel Gray, David Mapes, Andrew McGreggor, Jessie Wagner, Michael Day, Matt Armistead, Josh McEarl, Adam Hanes, Jason Buckner, Ryan Holmes, Jonathan Miller, Mychael Smith, Ricky Ellis, Eric Carpenter, Clinton Van Der Westhuizen, Gary Adcock, Darrell McDaniel, Robert Keene, Brandon Barker, Joe Armistead, Casey Nash, Brandon Scott, Todd Stephens, and Pete Bloodworth.

#### HONORING RENEÉ NOLAN AND FRIENDS

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of remarkable young women in the 11th District of New Jersey and to share with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives a story of selflessness and friendship.

In September 1996, Renee Nolan, a college sophomore at Seton Hall University, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Radiation and chemotherapy treatments forced her to leave college and an experimental treatment left her paralyzed on her right side.

Despite her illness and many setbacks, this courageous woman has continued her valiant fight, regaining some movement in her right hand and learning to walk again. Renee received tremendous support from friends that deserve recognition.

Daniela Matria, Beth Reynolds, Jennifer Franke, Jennifer Kelleher, and Alexis Smith of Boonton, New Jersey, and Donna Polizzi and Domenica "Mimma" Avena of Lincoln Park, New Jersey, have all been friends with Renee since their grade and high school days. When Renee's friends learned of her devastating illness, they began one of the most touching and determined crusades that I have ever known.

Immediately, Renee's friends made and randomly passed out fliers, set up a bank account, and rented a post office box to receive donations. Then, they sponsored a dinner dance to honor Renee and to raise additional money to help defray Renee's growing medical expenses.

Since June of 1997, this amazing group has raised approximately \$32,000 for their friend and her family. Of even greater importance to Renee, these devoted friends have provided continual and invaluable moral and emotional support. When Renee is well enough, they plan outings. When she is not, they are with her at home with ice cream, games and smiles to help her and her family keep their spirits up. When Renee is most ill, they help nurse her.

This group of friends, all college students, have visited Renee daily at home or in the hospital, cooked for her family, and taken Renee back to Boonton High School, where she was once co-captain of the cheerleading squad. They have given selflessly of themselves, by any standard, often giving up their college and social activities to be available for Renee and her family.

It is heartwarming to see the selfless dedication with which these women have acted for their friend. In fact, as a result of her experience with Renee, one of the young women has changed her college major to nursing, so that she can better continue her legacy of caring.

These young women were recently honored by the New Jersey State Assembly and by Governor Christine Todd Whitman. This proved to be an especially moving and encouraging experience for Renee and her family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating and thanking these exceptional women and friends, and that you will also join me in wishing them, Renee and her family well.

#### TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO PALACIOS

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend Eduardo

Palacios, who for 27 years has been a bonafide hero to hundreds if not thousands of immigrants in the San Fernando Valley. In 1971, Eduardo started an immigrant rights and resource clinic in a tiny one-room office in the City of San Fernando. Today these kinds of centers are common, but that wasn't the case in the early 1970s.

Eduardo was motivated by humanitarian concerns and a strong sense of Chicano pride. He witnessed Mexican immigrants who were being exploited by unscrupulous businesses. Language and culture prevented many from seeking or receiving help. By offering his services, Eduardo filled a huge need.

Soon after opening, the clinic moved into a room with a couple of desks and file cabinets in Santa Rosa Church. The clinic adopted the name Immigration Services of Santa Rosa. Using a corps of dedicated volunteers, Eduardo expanded the clinic to include job referrals, medical assistance, food and shelter. He was doing everything possible to provide his clients with the tools to make a good living in this country.

It's hard to believe that Eduardo was doing this work while employed full-time at Harshaw Chemicals. In 1983, he left his job with Harshaw to devote himself to assisting immigrants. Two years later Immigration Services of Santa Rosa was accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which led to more clients. The timing could not have been better; new arrivals were now coming to Southern California from Central America as well as Mexico.

Immigration Services of Santa Rosa is a family affair. In 1988, Eduardo hired his daughter, Victoria Aldina, as Assistant Executive Director; three years later his son, Carl Alan, joined the organization as Administrative Director. Together the Palacios have been a godsend for Spanish-speaking immigrants.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Eduardo Palacios, a leader in the effort to improve the lives of immigrants. His compassion, sensitivity and extraordinary energy inspire us all. I am proud to be his friend.

#### SOLVE OUR NATION'S NUCLEAR WASTE PROBLEM

### HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, before the larger issues of election year politics and balancing the federal budget eclipse this short legislative cycle, there is an urgent need for Congress to solve the nation's nuclear waste problem.

For 16 years, we have witnessed the Department of Energy's (DOE) hesitation to move this project forward, despite a clear statutory obligation established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. As we are aware, January 31 marked the deadline for DOE to begin accepting used nuclear fuel from nuclear power plants and defense facilities in 41 states and storing it in a single, federally monitored location.

This failure by DOE to act is simply irresponsible. I can find no reason that the department has disregarded the deadline other than a slate of serious consequences or the

miscarriage of its fiscal duty and unconscionable behavior.

For one, DOE had a clear obligation to accept used nuclear fuel, not only according to a federal statute, but also according to federal court. In two rulings since 1996, a federal appellate court reaffirmed DOE's legal obligation to take nuclear fuel under a contract with electric utilities.

As if those rulings were not enough, DOE's offense could land it in court again—this time to defend challenges that utilities and electricity consumers are entitled to a full refund, plus damages for financing a disposal program that never materialized. Those damages could amount to \$56 million by some estimates. Where will that money come from? Taxpayers, no doubt. Whatever the source, one thing's for certain—any refund or damages owed to utility customers undermine this Congress's efforts to balance the federal budget. It also puts all taxpayers at risk of paying a hefty lawsuit for capricious delays.

For these reasons, it is essential that the House and the Senate leaders appoint conferees to negotiate minor differences in the nuclear waste reform bills passed overwhelmingly by both chambers last year.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as early as possible, so that it is not obscured by other weighty matters that await us this session. Let us solve the nuclear waste problem swiftly, for the sake of taxpayers—our constituents—who have already sent \$14 billion to the Nuclear Waste fund without getting anything in return.

#### A GIFT

### HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 1998*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, as a proud co-sponsor to H.R. 1500, America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 1997, I would like to insert the following poem, written by Ms. Anna Taft on October 27, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The desert gave me a package: a pile of sand wrapped in a bundle of cottonwood leaves. This gift contains a mixture of all the medicine of this land. It has red and white powders from slickrock sculptures, crushed juniper berries and pinon nuts, tiny bits of cryptogamic castles, damp sand from deep canyon streams, desert varnish from narrow blackened slots, and minuscule shards of Anasazi cookware. All blended together, its contents are no longer discernible, but it smells distinctly of triumph over adversity, of trees sprouting up far from water, of pot-hole creatures emerging from dormancy as raindrops rehydrate their world, of topographic contour lines at last clicking into place to match landforms, of hikers passing packs past the last ledge to reach a canyon rim, of warm sleeping bags inside a megamid covered with snow, of evaporation off of hot bodies as they emerge from a sweat lodge into cold night air, of a group of people learning to live together in harmony in the desert, of balance, neither superabundance nor emptiness. This bundle is wrapped tightly, but as I travel its leaves will start to come apart. The sand inside will spill out, spreading its magic through all the places I go. Everyone I meet will smell the job of accomplishment, the peace of harmony. One or