

## TRIBUTE TO HARRY BAKER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Baker on the occasion of his retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Harry attended his last board meeting on December 15, 1998, after 12 years of dedicated service.

Harry Baker was born in Eastern Madera County over 70 years ago. As a veteran of World War II, Harry was a first hand witness to the most turbulent time in the history of the twentieth century. Today Harry is a life member and Past Post Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8753 and a life member of the American Legion. Thanks to the GI Bill, Harry was able to go to college and finish his education, he is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley.

Harry has been successful not only in politics, but also in business. In addition to serving as President and Chairman of the board of Sierra Tel Tronics, he also serves as President and Chairman of the Board of Sierra Telephone, Sierra Cellular, Sierra Tel Logic, Sierra Tel Internet, Sierra Telephone Long Distance, Sierra Tel Tronics Business Center, Sierra Tel Tronics Business Systems, El Dorado Cellular, and ST Air Services. Harry has operated Sierra Telephone, one of the area's largest employers, for over 48 years. Harry has taken the company through remarkable growth, increasing in size from 200 customers and 4 employees, to 20,000 customers and 230 employees. Harry was a founding member of the Western Rural Telephone Association and served as its president in 1967, he's been on the Board of Directors for 14 years.

Despite a busy work schedule, Harry makes time for many worthwhile community activities. He's a Life Member of the Madera County Historical Society and was appointed to the Madera District Fair Board by former Governor George Deukmejian. Harry is a Charter Member of the Gateway Yosemite Elks Lodge, and a member of the Sierra Oakhurst Lions Club. Harry is also an example to youth, he is a Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troop Leader as well as a 4-H Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Baker, on the occasion of his retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Baker has been a devoted public servant during his 12 years of service. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Harry Baker many years of continued success.

## REGARDING THE PASSING OF MS. SONYA BEMPORAD OF DALLAS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said "There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies."

I believe that Ms. Sonya Bemporad of Dallas lived by these words and committed her time, energy and soul to investing in children.

One of the most notable advocates of children and leaders of child care policy, Ms. Bemporad died Saturday, March 20, 1999. She was 64 years old.

She is known throughout Texas, and our Nation as the leading and chief theoretician with the child care group here in Dallas. The child care group is an innovative non-profit organization that operates day-care centers, manages public subsidies for child care in north Texas, conducts training for child-care workers and provides other services. She was the group's senior vice president at the time of her death.

While Congress is still debating on proposals to improve the safety, quality and delivery of child care, Ms. Bemporad worked during her entire life to find new ways to care for children. She was on the cutting-edge with her design of the child-care group's "relationship-centered child care" approach. This approach advocated a small, family-like environment and interaction with one "constant caregiver."

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bemporad's methods are so widely accepted and acknowledged that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited one of the day care centers in Dallas that the group operates.

On February 20, 1998, the First Lady toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center with me, witnessing first hand, Ms. Bemporad's model. Ms. Bemporad's model on child-care is so effective that the First Lady showcased it nationwide as she worked with the President to travel throughout the country and across the world to visit child-care facilities that work for children and their parents.

Mr. Speaker, the year before, Ms. Bemporad's success was featured on ABC's *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings* as a solution to the Nation's child-care crisis. In addition, the child-care group founded the Sonya Bemporad chair for relationship-centered child care. A position she had stewardship over until her passing.

These accolades are testimonials to her commitment to children. She deserves that recognition and more, Mr. Speaker. Many children are better cared for, receive more attention and are surrounded by providers who have an interest in their long-term well-being. Due to her efforts, many children in an "relationship-centered child care environment" usually score higher on reading and language tests in public schools than their peers.

Countless children who will produce and achieve in classrooms throughout the city of Dallas, the State of Texas, and our Nation have Ms. Bemporad to thank. She could not develop such an approach if she did not possess the time and desire to know children and what makes them function. This innate sense of Ms. Bemporad's is what helps make children successful and cared for. She influenced her peers to subscribe to this method, moving away from simply studying and analyzing children. She influenced them to accommodate and fashion learning environments to children and their most pressing needs.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is a part of a long career in attending and addressing to the needs of children. Over the last 25 years, she lent her talents and heart to other child-care organizations. The Dallas county child welfare and the Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Agencies all benefited from her sage advice, unlimited compassion and concern for children. In addition, she was

also a member of the American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children and the city of Dallas Health and Human Services Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I join the parents and children of the 30th Congressional District in paying tribute to Ms. Sonya Bemporad. Like trees, children cannot grow without a seed. Ms. Bemporad was indeed a seed that allowed many children to grow and reach new heights.

## IN HONOR OF MONTACHUSETT GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of thirteen outstanding young women of my District who have been selected as recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award. These thirteen recipients from the Montachusett Girl Scout Council in Worcester, Massachusetts are: Kendra Beauvais, Diana Brink, Sarah Broders, Donnielle Crossman, Michelle Curtis, Bridget Donahue, Laura Gallant, Asavari Kamekar, Mary-Elizabeth Morgan, Jennifer Mummhenty, Sarah Potty, and Bridget Strom.

I am pleased to be able to acknowledge their accomplishments in service to their community.

## IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND SLOVAK DRAMATIC CLUB

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club. The Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club is a vital part of the Cleveland area as it encourages Slovak youth to be loyal Americans and to be active and proud of their Slovak heritage.

Throughout its 50 years of existence, The Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club (C.S.D.C.) has been involved in many activities to help the Slovak community in the Cleveland area. During the first 10 years of the C.S.D.C., it actively sponsored various Slovak cultural activities such as live stage plays which were performed throughout the Cleveland area. Profits from these cultural events went to aid Slovak refugees who had escaped persecution in Slovakia and were dispersed throughout Europe. The events raised over \$20,000 which was donated from the club to aid refugees.

In addition to C.S.D.C.'s cultural plays, the club also provided live cultural programs on Christmas and Easter holidays on Cleveland's Slovak radio.

C.S.D.C. members have become very active in all Slovak movements and activities in various Slovak Clubs, fraternal and social organizations such as, Slovak League of America, Slovak World Congress, First Slovak Catholic Union, and many others. It is through their help and activity in these organizations, that Slovak heritage, culture and Slovak fraternalism have prospered and grown for many years.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club for their years of service to the Slovak community of the Cleveland area.

HONORS LISETTE BERNIER-McGOWAN FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor the fine work and outstanding public service of Lisette Bernier-McGowan. Lisette is well deserving of our commendation after thirty years of service to the New Haven public school system and community.

Lisette was raised and educated in Puerto Rico, and upon her arrival in Connecticut recognized the need for greater bilingual education in our schools. She earned two Masters Degrees at Southern Connecticut State University, in Modern Foreign Languages and Elementary Bilingual Education, and set out to build a system of increased diversity within the public school curriculum and community. For more than two decades she has given her time and expertise for the good of New Haven young people.

Her knowledge in bilingual and english as a second language programs is highly regarded by other leaders in this field. She has served on the Commissioner's Task Force on Bilingual Education, the Superintendent's Task Force for Excellence in Education, the Yale Study Groups on Bilingual Education and Cultural Bias.

Most recently she has served as Director of two innovative education programs. The Bilingual Science Project is a comprehensive three-year teacher training program on effective strategies for the integration of science and language acquisition. The BRIDGE Project is a reform effort in three New Haven elementary schools in New Haven designed to provide rigorous literacy development. While leading these efforts, she concurrently served as Chair of the New Haven Public Schools Task Force on Bilingual Education. Her commitment to this issue has lead to real progress in developing and implementing sound bilingual education policy and curriculum.

Several local organizations have honored her consistent leadership in the community. Among her achievements, Lisette has been awarded the Bilingual Director of the Year, the Connecticut Latinas in Leadership Award, LULAC Award for Leadership in Education, and the YMCA Women in Leadership award. We are not the first to recognize Lisette's contribution, but I am proud to take this opportunity to join others in our community to honor this talented woman.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today and join with family, friends, and the City of New Haven to pay tribute to Lisette Bernier-McGowan for outstanding service to our community. She has truly left a positive mark on New Haven that will benefit our schools and our young people for years to come. Educator, leader, and friend, Lisette's exceptional commitment and dedication have made her a model to which we can all aspire.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSEPH CUNDARI FOR HIS DEDICATION TO HARRISON AND TO HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of Mr. Joseph Cundari for his contributions to Harrison and Hudson County Community College.

Through his vast knowledge of engineering and his devotion to the community in which he was raised, Mr. Cundari has dedicated his life to the betterment of Harrison, NJ. From serving as Vice President of the West Hudson Hospital Association, 1958–1962, to serving as Vice President of the Harrison Board of Education, 1991–1996, Mr. Cundari consistently gave his time, energy, and resources in order to improve his surroundings.

Using his degree in civil engineering from Manhattan College, Mr. Cundari began his long career of serving his country and his community by enlisting in the United States Army. As Master Sergeant and Chief of Engineer Operations Section of the 341st Engineer Regiment, Mr. Cundari was instrumental in the construction of the Alaska Military Highway and in the reconstruction of railroad bridges devastated by WWII in France, Belgium, and Germany.

After leaving the military, Mr. Cundari returned to Harrison and was named Town Engineer by the New Jersey Engineering Department and Department of Construction Inspection. From March 1946 through the present, Mr. Cundari prepared plans and specifications for all public works projects involving the construction of new water mains, sanitary and storm sewers, and street improvements.

In addition to his work to improve the infrastructure of Harrison, Mr. Cundari was a leader on the issue of safety. He was proactive in formulating the police, fire alarm, and traffic signals for the town of Harrison.

Since 1990, Mr. Cundari has served on the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees. Under his leadership as Chair of the Facilities Committee, the college initiated plans for campus development in Journal Square—an integral area in my district. His expertise and work for the college have been so essential to the growth of the college that he was named the HCCC's first trustee emeritus by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Cundari's efforts exemplify leadership and dedication to both the town of Harrison and Hudson County Community College. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and his example as a public servant, I am very happy to honor Mr. Cundari for his achievements. I salute and congratulate him on his extraordinary accomplishments.

HOMEOWNERSHIP—LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today in support of homeownership and

the mortgage interest tax deduction that makes it possible for millions of American families participate in the American Dream.

Today, when Americans are paying taxes and we debate changing the tax code, we need to be vigilant to protect the part of the code that helps millions to improve their lives and secure their future.

Two-thirds of all American families own their own homes—a rate that would be impossible without the mortgage interest deduction.

Homeownership is essential to the strength and vitality of America, providing a foundation of family security, stability and prosperity. Our communities are strengthened because of the pride of ownership and the vested interest homeowners have in their neighborhoods.

So today, let us vow to protect the mortgage interest tax deduction, and help to guarantee a strong future for American families and communities.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING AMERICANS WAGE RESTORATION ACT

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 1999*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, this week, most Americans will pay their federal income tax. In total, individuals will spend about 1.7 billion hours to try to comply with the tax code. Businesses will spend 3.4 billion hours. That is equivalent to a "staff" of 3 million people working full-time, year-round, just on taxes. For Washington State residents, the average total tax burden will rise from \$10,307 in 1997 to \$10,634, making Washington the state with the tenth highest per capita tax burden.

Our colleague in the Senate, Senator JOHN ASHCROFT, and I believe this is too much, that working Americans know better how to spend their money than the Government does. So I am pleased today, with Senator ASHCROFT to introduce the Working Americans Wage Restoration Act.

The bill will eliminate the double taxation on the employee's share of the Social Security payroll tax. It would not affect the Social Security Trust Fund in any way.

Over the last 50 years, the Social Security employer-employee payroll tax has grown from 2% to 15%. As a result, almost three-quarters of all families now pay more in total Social Security payroll taxes than they pay in income taxes. These payroll taxes are inherently unfair because workers are taxed twice on the same income. Americans are taxed first as a portion of their gross income for federal income tax purposes and a second time for their contribution to the Social Security Trust Fund.

By allowing workers to deduct their share of Social Security contributions from their federal taxes, the Working Americans Wage Restoration Act will eliminate this double taxation and allow the workers who generated the economic growth to keep more of the money they earn.

Currently, businesses and employers are permitted to deduct their share of the payroll tax as a business expense, but workers are not. Individuals should have this same opportunity. My legislation would provide the same