

## HONORING COMMUNITY PROTESTANT CHURCH OF CO-OP CITY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a church can be the mainstay of a community, the bond which holds its people together in common purpose. In the Bronx, the Co-op City community is fortunate to have such a church, the Community Protestant Church of Co-op City.

And today I rise to congratulate that wonderful institution and its worshippers who are celebrating the church's 30th anniversary.

The Community Protestant Church started humbly enough with the organizational meeting of co-operators, as residents of Co-op City are called, in the spring of 1969. Initially services were held in the homes on a rotating basis before moving to a community room. Visiting ministers were provided by the Council of Churches on a weekly basis. The following year Temple Beth-El shared its space with the Church and the Rev. Julius Sasportas volunteered to serve as pastor.

It was on March 21, 1971, that the church was officially incorporated. That same year the church acquired and renovated space at 2053 Asch Loop North and in May of the following year moved into its new quarters. In December, 1972, the Rev. Daniel Ward was sent by the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as Pastor.

In the following years more space was acquired and in 1976 the Rev. Dr. Calvin E. Owens became the spiritual leader of the church. New land was acquired for a permanent home and in November 3, 1994, groundbreaking ceremonies were held.

I congratulate the Community Protestant Church on its 30th anniversary and wish the church many more years in the community.

## IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH WORSHIP SPACE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of the St. Joseph Worship Space.

The Worship Space is an environment where, through private devotion and liturgical celebration, the sisters of St. Joseph may be united with God and with one another. The Worship Space provides the congregation with a much-needed facility where the sisters of St. Joseph and the community can gather to worship.

A Reservation Chapel has been set up for the use of private devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. The Reconciliation Chapel has been built and is dedicated for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Also, seating for 250 people is available for liturgy, meetings, jubilees, Chapter assemblies, and, a gathering room has been established where the sisters can meet as well as extend their hospitality to the congregation.

My fellow colleagues, please join me honoring the dedication of the Sisters of St. Joseph Worship Space.

## TRIBUTE TO REV. RICHARD ANDRUS

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate, Rev. Richard Andrus upon his retirement from the ministry. His parishioners, colleagues, family and friends will honor him with a retirement dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens, MI.

Born in Reese, MI, in 1937, Reverend Andrus has dedicated much of his life to serving others. He entered the ministry in 1967, and has been a leader in nine different churches throughout his exemplary career. Currently, Reverend Andrus serves at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens. He has been with the church for 7 years.

Prior to his arrival at First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens, Reverend Andrus served in several area churches, including the Warren First United Methodist Church and the Warren Wesley Church. Prior to that, he was assigned to the New Baltimore Congregation and built the Grace United Methodist Church.

Reverend Andrus is a tireless advocate for the people of Macomb County. He formed the Macomb County Ministerium and has been a member of the Macomb Emergency Shelter Coalition for the last 10 years. Reverend Andrus is also a member of the Jail Ministry, the Healthier Macomb Organization and the Rotary Club. While serving in New Baltimore, he was also the Chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol at Selfridge Air Force Base.

For more than 32 years, Rev. Richard Andrus has given his time, love and patience to the people he has served. Now, it is my honor to give Reverend Andrus my heartfelt congratulations as he celebrates his retirement.

## A TRIBUTE TO GLEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Glen Oaks Elementary School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Glen Oaks Elementary joins three other schools in San Antonio and forty other Texas schools, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Glen Oaks Elementary School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

## EDUCATION REFORM, A RURAL PERSPECTIVE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gerald Keefe, Superintendent of Kit Carson School District R-1 and a member of my Fourth Congressional District Education Advisory Board. I would like to enter into the RECORD a recent letter from him on education reform.

Superintendent Keefe's common sense ideas emphasize the importance of basic values, including respect for elders, peers, teachers and community. Creating a school culture which affirms values is central not only to the success of the school but to the stability of society. To generate an environment of respect, schools should adopt high standards and good discipline measures.

Secondly, Superintendent Keefe stresses the need for local control. He believes cutting federal red tape to ensure money gets to the classroom is essential. Streamlining regulations, especially those revolving around the Individuals with Disabilities Act is also necessary to ensure each child gets the attention he or she needs to achieve.

I look forward to working with Superintendent Keefe as the Committee on Education and Workforce, of which I am a member, undertakes the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the primary source of education funding.

I would like to finish with a quote from author Robert Greenleaf: "Great ideas, it has been said, come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear, amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings, the gentle stirring of life and hope."

In rural Colorado, far from Denver, far from the noisy rancor of Washington, far from the proposals and speeches, there are people who are making a difference with quiet confidence.

KIT CARSON SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1,

*Kit Carson, CO.*

Congressman BOB SCHAFFER,  
Cannon House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCHAFFER, First let me commend you on the outstanding job you are

doing in reforming public education. It's a tough task as you know and I admire your efforts.

I was intrigued by the findings of the Education at a Crossroads report that highlighted characteristics of successful schools. I wholeheartedly agreed with that report and I would like to briefly touch on those findings and offer a few other comments as well.

Please understand that I offer a rural perspective on education and as such my background and feelings may differ from those of my urban colleagues. Rural Coloradans crave technology and would welcome any legislation that increases opportunities in that area for small districts. Technology of course comes with a price tag, but the return on the investment in this area makes it an acceptable cost. The SLC Universal Service Discount has been helpful but other funding opportunities would be welcomed as well.

I applaud your efforts to directly deliver dollars to the classroom instead of seeing a large portion of those funds siphoned off by the bureaucracy. You are most certainly on the right track in this area.

Schools also desperately need the ability to instill basic values in their populace. Respect for ones' elders, country, teachers, fellow students and school community are in my mind essential not only for successful schools but for a stable society as well. Court rulings and legislation restricting the rights of schools to discipline and set standards for their students have improved somewhat over the years, but more progress is still needed in this area.

Schools must be administered at the local level and even though I welcome federal funding from the budget side of the equation, that enthusiasm is tempered by the knowledge that increased federal control may also result from this arrangement.

Special Education is another topic of great concern. I feel that it has become a trap that students often do not return from. It needs to be streamlined so that the classification of students with disabilities is a true and accurate one and not just a convenient label to explain away juvenile behavior.

My Catholic school background tells me that some of these students need a paddle against their backside and not a protective label that provides a ready made excuse to justify anti-social behavior. IDEA legislation should be written to ensure that only those who have a significant need for special education services actually qualify. We are pleased, however, with the Title One program and how it operates in our district.

Vocational Education has the potential to offer a wide variety of opportunities for rural America and as such I ask that continued funding of those programs remain a priority.

After I familiarize myself with specific topics facing Congress through your Ed-Link publication I would be willing to comment on those issues in greater detail. I feel I have spoken today in a very broad sense but I hope my comments are still of some value to you as you tackle the challenges facing America's schools.

Thanks for your time and effort on behalf of the citizens of House District 4 and thanks again for the opportunity to serve on your education advisory committee.

Sincerely,

GERALD KEEFE,  
*Superintendent.*

HONORING JUDGE ASCHER KATZ

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in praise of a man who has devoted himself to his community. Judge Ascher Katz is not only Administrative Town Judge of Greenburgh, serving on the bench for 23 years, but a man who has immersed himself in the judicial profession as a Director of the County Magistrates Association and as a Chairman of the state Bar Association Committee on District, City, Village and Town Courts.

Judge Katz is also in Who's Who in American Law and a senior partner in his law firm. But he also serves the community as a whole; as a Charter Member of the U.S. Holocaust Commission, in the Jewish War Veterans, as a board member of the American Cancer Society, and in the Rotary and B'nai B'rith. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and he and his wife have three daughters. On his retirement I want to thank him for all he has done for his community and to wish him the very best.

IN HONOR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65th Anniversary of Chapter No. 30, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Organized on May 23, 1934, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans was formed to work with the Post, visit the hospitalized veterans and to participate in all patriotic, civil and religious functions.

Throughout the past 65 years, the Ladies Auxiliary has worked hard for the veterans of Chapter 30 of the Polish Legion by participating in many activities, such as, parades, Memorial Masses, Civil functions, and ward treats at Wade Park and Brecksville V.A. Hospitals. This Chapter has also been involved with State and National Conversions, Veterans and Women of the Year, Evening in Warsaw, State Picnic, Night at the Races and Bowling Tournaments.

The Ladies Auxiliary is dedicated to raising money to support veterans by holding fund raisers such as, Card Parties, Bingo's, Dinners, Picnics, Bake Sales, and Poppy sales. Throughout their years of service of helping veterans, Chapter No. 30 has accumulated over 35,000 registered volunteer hours.

The members of the Chapter are proud of their Polish Heritage and culture and proud to have accomplished so much in the past 65 years. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans well in to the next millennium.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the work and dedication of The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

IN CELEBRATION OF REV. MSGR. GERARD LA CERRA

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has devoted his life to God and who has served faithfully as a priest for 30 years. Reverend Monsignor was born on March 12, 1943, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1969, after completing his seminary studies at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Sacred Theology.

His many ecclesiastical achievements began in 1969 when he was Regional Coordinator for Religious Education in Broward County. From 1970 to 1977 he was Director of the MA Program in Religious Studies. A member of the Faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary from 1972 to 1974, he was also Secretary of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education from 1974 to 1978.

In 1978 he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Miami and served in that capacity until 1993. In addition, he was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in 1984, a position in which he served until March 1995. In this capacity he served as Executive Director of the Ministry of General Services. Besides membership on various Archdiocesan boards and commissions, he is also Chaplain to the Daughters of Isabella.

At a Pastoral level, Msgr. La Cerra was Associate Pastor at Annunciation, Little Flower (Coral Gables) and St. James Parishes. From 1978 until May 15, 1991 he was named Pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral.

In December of 1992 he was appointed administrator of St. Timothy Parish in Miami and currently he holds the Pastoral position. He was given the title of Reverend Monsignor by the highest authority of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, in September of 1995. We are fortunate to have this admirable Monsignor in South Florida and I commend Reverend La Cerra for his many accomplishments.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL ANTI-VIOLENCE EMPOWERMENT ACT

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, juvenile crime today tends to be more violent and involves younger children than in the past. The recent tragedies involving school violence has prompted parents, teachers, administrators, and elected officials to work together and set the safety of our children as a national priority. Congress needs to get its priorities in line as well and act on legislation that would stop youth violence and make our schools safe.

According to a 1995 GAO report on school-based violence prevention programs, successful programs have the following characteristics: a comprehensive approach; an early start