

IN HONOR OF DOROTHY EPSTEIN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Epstein, a dedicated community activist. We here in Congress have spent a lot of time talking about Social Security and ensuring that our seniors have the ability to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Mrs. Epstein has gone beyond the rhetoric by spending her time relentlessly promoting activism and leadership among older adults so that they, through their own efforts, can secure and protect their future. She played an essential role in creating the Institute for Senior Action, a leadership training program for seniors at the Join Public Affairs Committee (JPAC) for Older Adults in New York. She has served on the JPAC Advisory Committee since 1993 and has used her wisdom to guide that body. These efforts demonstrate Mrs. Epstein's tireless commitment to the cause of senior advocacy: after all, she accomplished all this after retiring at the age of 76.

But this is just another in the long list of Mrs. Epstein's accomplishments, a list which begins at her very first job: organizing unions with the New York City relief bureau. She also served as a chapter president at the Association of Workers in Public Relief Agencies, where she continued to work to prevent discrimination in the workplace and layoffs for civil service workers. Her efforts with these organizations laid the groundwork for what would become the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. After her great achievements in the public sector, Mrs. Epstein decided to try her hand in the private sector by founding Synergy, a vitamin company. Like all of her efforts, it was a great success.

It was after her retirement from Synergy that she began her extraordinary association with JPAC. Mrs. Epstein was eager to use her experience and vision to confront the issues facing older adults. It did not take long for her to make a big impact, and only a little more than a year after she joined the Advisory Committee, the Institute for Senior Action was born. Under her guidance, the Institute, which graduated its 10th class this year, has pursued vital issues such as the protection of health care, income maintenance, and other social services. The intense, all-day classes stress confidence, cooperation, and help everyone from recent retirees to older seniors get involved in social action. Through the Institute, Mrs. Epstein has been able to spread her energy and dedication to seniors of all backgrounds, who have then been able to make a difference in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, whether she was organizing unions, fighting discrimination, or educating seniors, Mrs. Dorothy Epstein has dedicated her life to empowering people. So, even though she is pulling back from the day-to-day work at the Institute, the ripple of hope that she created with her life's work will continue to grow and expand, changing more and more lives along the way. It is for this ongoing contribution that I honor her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical evaluation on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, I was absent for rollcall votes 311–315. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 311—"Yes";
Rollcall No. 312—"No";
Rollcall No. 313—"No";
Rollcall No. 314—"No";
Rollcall No. 315—"No".

THOMAS MAKAR OF CLEVELAND,
OHIO ATTAINS EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Makar of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored August 21, 1999 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor in which a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. Additionally, each Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project that benefits the community in which he must plan, finance, and execute. Furthermore, an Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he learns important life skills. Thomas has accomplished this and more.

Thomas has proved himself as an exceptional young man who lives by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Promise; and Scout Motto. Thomas is also the first second-generation Eagle Scout in his troop history, and this is a tribute to the entire Makar family.

I ask you to please join me in recognizing and congratulating Thomas for his achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. RODOLFO
DIAZ-PONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Rodolfo Diaz-Pons, who is retiring after 22 years of military service and 4 years at Central Michigan University as a professor and chair of the military science department.

I would like to commend Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons for his service to his country and congratulate him on his retirement on August 31. Since beginning his career in 1977 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, he has served several leadership positions in the United States and in Germany.

While at Fort Carson, CO, Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons held positions as commander of an "A

Team" and served as group plans officer in the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne. Following his completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, he served as rifle and headquarters company commander in the 4th Battalion 8th Infantry. During his time in Germany, he served as the battalion operations officer to the 1st Battalion 39th Infantry.

Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons entered into service because he wanted to develop his leadership abilities. He has achieved this goal. As he begins his retirement, he continues to advance his leadership skills and volunteer in his community. He will serve as full-time pastor of Riverbend Baptist Church in St. Louis, MI, where he was previously serving as volunteer pastor.

On behalf of the residents of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons today and wish him the best as he begins his new journey. His school, community and nation are grateful to him.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Goodling amendment.

India is one of our most valuable allies. The oldest democracy and the largest democracy share many things in common. India is moving forward with free-market reforms that offer tremendous opportunities for American trade and investment.

U.S. assistance to India, and elsewhere, serves our national interests and is provided because it promotes our policy priorities, not as a reward for voting with us.

We should not cut assistance to countries based solely on their voting practices in the United Nations General Assembly. We should consider more than just a voting record. For example, we agree on a host of other UN activities. India has sent significant troop contingents to various peace-keeping missions around the world, serving as a partner to further our mutual interests.

But even if you consider their voting record, in votes identified by the State Department as "important," India voted with the U.S. 75% of the time. This amendment will do nothing but damage our relations with a valuable ally by identifying India as an opponent of U.S. policies, when, in fact, we have a great deal in common.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this amendment.