

board of directors comprising of community, civic and corporate leaders. This mission of the Latino Learning Center is to see that all low-income people in Houston, specifically the residents of near East End and near North Side communities, have the opportunity for education and human support services.

Since its inception, the Latino Learning Center has dutifully provided these services and has positively impacted the lives of our citizens. The Latino Learning Center's success is widely known and has resulted in more than 6,000 individuals graduating from its training programs.

The Latino Learning Center has a very interesting history. It was established as a Texas nonprofit organization. It received a donation of land and buildings in 1981–82 from the Magnolia Business Center, Inc. Since the buildings were previously used as warehouses, significant renovation was necessary in order to upgrade the facility. The Latino Learning Center's founders embarked upon an aggressive fundraising campaign to secure the initial \$150,000 necessary for the renovation process.

As the result of the boards diligence, sufficient charitable gifts from the private sector were obtained to structurally transform the building and acquire adjacent parking space. Due to generous philanthropic participation of many Houstonians, private sector support and some public sector funds, the Latino Learning Center became an established reality. In July 1984, an open house ceremony was held and classes and community services began within the year.

Over the past 20 years, the Latino Learning Center has established strong ties with the community by serving as a Multipurpose center. The Latino Learning Center is utilized by many civic organizations including LULAC, the American GI Forum, the Mexican-American Sheriff's Organization, the Union of Hispanic METRO employees, the Hispanic Organization of Postal Employees—HOPE, and many others. It is also used to conduct meetings, plan events of benefit for the community, conduct community/media press conferences, and perform special events such as dispensing food baskets for the poor during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Latino Learning Center on its 20th anniversary, and I hope they remain in our community for many years to come. I also ask that my colleagues in the House join me in expressing our appreciation for the services and the commitment of everyone associated with this wonderful center.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Federation of India Community Associations of N.E. Ohio on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Indian

Republic. On January 26, 1950, India proclaimed itself a sovereign nation governed by its own Constitution. Republic Day is celebrated on the 26th of January each year. It is a major national holiday in India celebrating the culmination of the Indian movement toward self-government that began on August 15, 1947, with India's Declaration of Independence. FICA has celebrated this important event with an annual dinner for over thirty years. Governor Robert Taft of Ohio recognized the significance of this day by proclaiming January 26, 2000 Republic of India day for Ohio.

India is a highly diverse country with more than fourteen major languages and at least as many distinct cultures. The Federation of India Community Associations is an umbrella organization for various Asian Indian groups throughout Northeast Ohio. For the past thirty years it has published *The Lotus*, a monthly community newspaper, and organized celebrations for major Indian holidays and festivals. FICA maintains the India Community Center in Cleveland Heights and supports community service to the more needy in the area. The Asian Indian community in Greater Cleveland contributes extensively to the economic, social and cultural richness of the area. Members' work in government, education, business, medicine, science, law and social service has created strong and lasting relationships with the entire community.

My fellow colleagues, join with me in congratulating this great cultural organization, along with all the people of India and Indian descent, on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of India.

TRIBUTE TO ILSE KAHN AND SUHAILA NASSER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ilse Kahn and Suhaila Nasser, who this year are receiving the Lifetime Commitment to Peace Award from the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam Southern California Chapter. Ilse Kahn and Suhaila Nasser, who live in Southern California, have made their own outstanding contribution to the cause of peace and understanding in the Middle East. They embody the new spirit of reconciliation in the region.

A survivor of the Holocaust, Mrs. Kahn has worked tirelessly to bring together Arab and Jewish children in an environment of peace and friendship. She was one of the founders of the Southern California chapter of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, the joint Palestinian/Jewish community in Israel. Mrs. Kahn has been active in the bilingual and bicultural nursery, kindergarten and primary school located in the community. Her efforts have helped a generation of Palestinian and Jewish children build strong ties and close relationships.

As busy as she is with the Southern California chapter, Mrs. Kahn somehow finds the time to be involved with other special causes, including LA's Best, an enrichment program for school age children in Watts. She is also a member of the League of Women Voters.

Suhaila Nasser, a Palestinian born in Jerusalem, immigrated to the United States in 1961. Despite living far from her native region, she has immersed herself in the task of providing medical assistance to the Palestinian people. In 1988, after undergoing a mastectomy, Mrs. Nasser formed the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to securing medical treatment for suffering children.

Thanks to Mrs. Nasser's efforts, since 1990 more than 100 children have been brought to the United States for reconstructive surgery and specialized medical services. In addition, six teams of doctors from the United States, Italy, England, and Belgium have traveled to Jerusalem and the West Bank to operate on children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ilse Kahn and Suhaila Nasser, whose dedication to the plight of children living in the Middle East inspires us all. I salute them for their courage and commitment to a just cause.

HONORING RAY LITTLEFIELD

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause in remembrance of a man that will be missed by everyone that knew him, Mr. Ray Littlefield.

Raymond Littlefield was born in Houston, Texas on March 8, 1929, and passed away on November 26, 1999, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. Littlefield served as a second lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve, past president of the North Austin Rotary Club, past president of Austin Woods and Water Club, past president of Austin Apartment Association, a member of the Association of General Contractors and a member of the American Institute of Architecture.

Mr. Littlefield moved to Pagosa Springs, Colorado in 1984. He was the founder, architect and developer of the Pine Ridge Extended Care Center. His experience and lifelong love of the Colorado Rockies and the Pagosa Springs area placed him in the unique position to recognize the need for a facility that cares for the elderly. Pine Ridge Extended Care Center became just that.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Littlefield for all that he did in order to make Pagosa Springs a better community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 2 and 3, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both bills.

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article from The Boston Globe on December 23, 1999 for the RECORD. The author of this article, Shri Srithillampalam, is very active in calling for observance of human rights in Sri Lanka and a peaceful settlement to the 17-year conflict. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and negotiate a peaceful end to this war.

[From The Boston Globe, Dec. 23, 1999]  
PROMOTING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

Bosnia, Chechnya, Kosovo, East Timor—these are the civil and intercommunal wars that have aroused horror and sympathy in the past few years. But in Sri Lanka there is another internecine conflict no less tragic, a war that has waxed and waned intermittently since 1983, destroying more than 60,000 lives.

Now, with the results in from Tuesday's presidential election and Chandrika Kumaratunga re-elected with a dramatically reduced majority of only 51 percent, the time is ripe for an international peacemaking initiative. All the humanitarian justifications for saving lives in Kosovo, Bosnia, East Timor, and Chechnya apply in the conflict between the Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka and the Tamil minority. Civilians, conscripts, and victims of terrorist bombings all deserve to be saved from a senseless repetition of murder and mayhem that can be ended only by a negotiated solution. Chandrika, as the president is known to her compatriots, was elected five years ago as the leader who would bring peace to Sri Lanka. But instead of trying to end the killing by granting autonomy to the Tamil areas in the north and east of the country, she yielded to hard-line arguments for a decisive military solution. In turn, the Tamil Tigers have shown no willingness to end their campaign of murder and terror.

In a scorched-earth offensive this year, government troops occupied most of the Tamil homeland. But this fall the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam overran one government outpost after another. It should be clear by now that the government's tactics succeeded only in driving the moderate Tamil population of the north and east into the hands of the Tigers. The war is unwinnable.

The time has come for third-party mediation. Washington is unwilling to play that role, but just as Norway originally midwived the Oslo accords between Israelis and Palestinians, an impartial country could mediate peace talks. Such talks should be preceded by a cease-fire, a withdrawal of government troops, and the provision of food and medical aid to civilians in the north and east. If the principle of an international humanitarian obligation is to have any meaning, it must be applied consistently.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following recorded votes:

On H. Con. Res. 244, authorizing use of the rotunda for a Holocaust memorial introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. THOMAS, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 2130, the Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Act introduced by the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, I would have voted "yea."

2000 COLORADO BUSINESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE, KATHRYN "KITTY" HACH-DARROW

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an inductee for the 2000 Colorado Business Hall of Fame, Ms. "Kitty" Hach-Darrow.

Jointly produced by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement, the Colorado Business Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding Colorado businesses and civic leaders from the past and present, publicizes the contributions of business leaders to our community and promotes the importance and value of the private enterprise system.

One of the leading producers of laboratory and water monitoring equipment in the country, the Hach Chemical Co., as it was known originally, was started in 1948 by Kathryn and Clifford Hach. Kathryn was the first woman director of the American Water Works Association and has served on numerous committees. She was the first woman to serve as director of the First National Bank of Loveland and currently serves on the executive committee of Northwood University. She was named the 1993 Woman of the Year by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and is a founding member of the Committee of 200 Executive Women.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Kitty received her pilot's license in 1954 and has been flying ever since. She is a member of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women pilots.

Kathryn's legacy will continue to live on in the company she built as well as her unfailing commitment to excellence in her personal and professional lives.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to congratulate "Kitty" on being a 2000 Colorado Business Hall of Fame Inductee. She is an inspiration to many and a great American.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I greatly admire President Lyndon B. Johnson. Beginning last year, I have submitted, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, several well written articles regarding the accomplishments of this historic Texan. Even today, his domestic agenda still influences our lives.

On December 31, 1999, the Houston Chronicle published an article written by Stuart Lutz in which he makes the case that President Johnson should be considered the most influential American of the past 50 years. In his article, Mr. Lutz writes that "the 36th president, in his 62-month term, radically advanced civil rights, initiated dozens of progressive federal programs to eradicate poverty and train new workers, expanded a small war in Southeast Asia and caused Americans to question the integrity of the presidency." He concludes by stating that "it is hard, however, to see that anyone has had a greater influence on Americans' everyday lives over the past 50 years than the Texas giant, Lyndon Johnson."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks by including, in its entirety, this very important article

THE CASE FOR A TEXAS GIANT AS MAN OF THE HALF CENTURY

(By Stuart Lutz)

The Great Society, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin, Medicaid, the credibility gap, Vietnam and the War on Poverty. These actions and events are among the most powerful of the second half of the 20th century. They also all have the indelible stamp of Lyndon Baines Johnson, the most influential American of the past 50 years.

The 36th president, in his 62-month term, radically advanced civil rights, initiated dozens of progressive federal programs to eradicate poverty and train new worker, expanded a small war in Southeast Asia and caused Americans to question the integrity of the presidency. His forceful actions that greatly changed America for the better and worse came in four distinct areas: civil rights; Vietnam; governmental lying; and progressive domestic legislation. Let's examine them one by one:

Civil rights. Johnson desperately wanted to be remembered as the president who did more for African-Americans than anyone since Abraham Lincoln. Using his trademark legislative maneuvering in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, he secured passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In a few pen strokes, he outlawed segregation in employment and public accommodations, thus giving Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's goal of racial equality a legislative framework.

To further his commitment to civil rights, LBJ signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act that banned literacy tests, encouraged minority voter registration and empowered the federal government to enforce its provisions. He also appointed Thurgood Marshall as the first African-American Supreme Court justice. Johnson's actions changed voting blocs and paved the way for minority Cabinet members, mayors and governors. Most importantly, to America's youth today, "Colored" signs and segregated accommodations are antiques of the foggy past.

Vietnam. This was the most important and influential American event in the second half of the 20th century. Johnson turned a small conflict into a war involving over 500,000 American troops. After the manufactured Gulf of Tonkin "incident" in August 1964, Johnson secured the right to wage virtually unlimited war on North Vietnam and knowingly lied about the war's failing results. Vietnam assumes such overriding importance in the second half of the century because it is the defining and dividing event for the baby boom generation, since virtually all males needed to decide whether to be drafted, evade the military either legally or illegally, or flee to Canada.

Since Lyndon Johnson's war, the American public has been reluctant to allow presidents