literature, and education and culture are prominent across the nation. They work in our hospitals as doctors, they start local businesses as entrepreneurs, and they serve in our government as public servants. They fill our temples, teach our children and participate in our civic processes, and so embody and exemplify the ideals of the American Dream.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I recognize that it is time for the United States to further its relationship with India. Our economic and political relationships with India and Prime Minister Vajpayee have accelerated greatly in recent years. President Clinton urged us further along this path with his visit this past March to India. The President met with government officials, traveled in India with Indian-Americans as his foot soldiers, addressed their parliament, and met with India's citizens. Through these exchanges, the United States strengthens and prioritizes its relationship with India. I am especially proud of the fact that in my district, some of the finest citizens of Indian heritage have been contributors to our economic and social fabric. We complement our relationship with India by recognizing the importance of our Indian-American community. We validate it through continued dialogue and discourse.

## INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

### HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce a resolution which honors and recognizes the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its contributions on behalf of the world's refugees. On December 14, 2000, UNHCR will mark a half-century of helping millions of the world's most vulnerable people. I am pleased that Representatives BENJAMIN GILMAN, SAM GEJDENSON, CHRISTOPHER SMITH, and TOM LANTOS have joined me as original cosponsors on this legislation.

UNHCR has been mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the world-wide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. It is one of the world's principal humanitarian organizations helping 23 million people in more than 140 countries.

Mrs. Sadako Ogata has served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees now for nearly 10 years. It is one of the toughest jobs and Mrs. Ogata has done a superb job of bringing both professionalism and compassion to the organization over her decade of service.

This resolution also calls on the international community to work together with UNHCR in efforts to ensure that host countries uphold humanitarian and human rights principles for refugees, to lessen the impact of refugees on host countries, and to promote the safe voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement of refugees.

I would urge my colleagues to adopt this legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO NORM SILLS

### HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Norm Sills of Salisbury, Connecticut, for being named to the Appalachian Trail Conference's (ATC) Honor Roll of Volunteers. In this 75th anniversary year of the Appalachian Trail, the ATC is recognizing 75 individuals for their commitment to the trail. The honor roll seeks to recognize people for their dedication to the trail based upon the number of hours each has worked, their willingness to mentor new volunteers and their overall leadership skills.

Over the last 34 years, Mr. Sills, has clearly exhibited all of these qualities. A retired farmer, Mr. Sills has contributed over 2,500 hours of his time to help maintain the Appalachian Trail. In addition to his work on the trail itself, Mr. Sills is co-editor of the Massachusetts-Connecticut Appalachian Trail Guide and a 34-year member of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is one of many organizations that helps to coordinate maintenance of the trail, largely by volunteers. Founded in 1876 as a hiking and climbing club, the AMC is now responsible for maintaining 122 miles of the Trail in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. AMC has created a 4,200 person nationwide volunteer network that spent 181,500 hours in 1999 alone managing this national treasure.

First established in 1925, the Appalachian Trail Conference linked several northern hiking groups, such as the AMC, regional planning groups and the then young national forest system to coordinate creation, and later maintenance, of the trail. In 1984, the National Park Service delegated day to day upkeep of the trail and the accompanying Forest Service lands to the ATC. The trail now runs 2,167 miles from Maine to Georgia, through 14 states, and through my district, the northwest corner of Connecticut. The 14 states have collectively contributed over 180,000 acres through which the trail passes to the ATC.

No other nonprofit organization is responsible for the daily oversight of such a large tract of land or one with such a rich history. Volunteers, such as Mr. Sills, are crucial in ensuring the continuing use of the trail. Given Mr. Sills' longstanding dedication, there can be no doubt that Mr. Sills has been instrumental in maintaining the trail and he is truly deserving of this award. I congratulate Mr. Sills on this honor.