

the Hispanic American Association for Political Awareness, for his personal achievements and for his outstanding contributions to his community. Mr. Castro will receive the Hispanic American Recognition Award from Mayor Jim McGreevey on February 25, 2001.

George A. Castro, II emigrated to the United States from Colombia in 1985 with only his lucky quarter and a strong desire for success. A short time later, he started his first business, a cleaning company, which grew to 60 employees in just a few years. The rapid growth of the company allowed it to bid on the state's largest jobs.

In 1989, Mr. Castro received his real estate license and gained employment at an ERA office in Union County, where he became the top-producing seller with more than \$10 million in sales after his first year and \$27 million the following year. In 1991, Mr. Castro opened his own office, Countywide-Realty, as an independent broker. Within a year and a half, Countywide was one of the most successful real estate offices in New Jersey. The office joined the Century 21 franchise in 1995, eventually changing its name to Century 21 Atlantic.

Recently, Century 21 Atlantic received Century 21's prestigious Double Centurion Office award for achieving more than \$90 million in sales in 1999, a 300% increase over the previous year.

Mr. Castro is an accomplished businessman and community activist. The success of Century 21 Atlantic and the Ritz Theatre and Performing Arts Center, which he purchased in 1994, has made him a role model for the Hispanic community. Mr. Castro serves as the Chairman of the Hispanic Political Action Committee and is a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Elizabeth. He also participates in the Boy Scouts of America, Eastern Union County.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George A. Castro, II for all he has accomplished and for all he has contributed to his community.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY 28 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express concern over the second section of H. Con. Res. 39, honoring the sacrifices of the heroic U.S. soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack ten years ago.

Mr. Speaker, in this section, Congress "resolves to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs to help prevent attacks on forward deployed United States forces from occurring again." Undoubtedly, we must work to ensure that American service men and women are never again victim to such a tragedy. But would the most futuristic theater missile defense system the Pentagon is currently working on the Theater High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, have helped our soldiers ten years ago? Probably not: the system failed six con-

secutive tests before finally intercepting a target missile for the first time in June 1999. Many experts believe this system will be no more effective than our patriot missiles at defending an attack like the one on American troops in Saudi Arabia ten years ago. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, projected costs for construction of THAAD are now estimated at \$9.5 billion.

Mr. Speaker, for those who believe in the necessity of missile defense, there are other less expensive and more effective theater missile defense programs in development that might represent an improvement on the system that failed the twenty-eight soldiers we honor today. To the extent we promote such cost-effective weaponry through this resolution, we duly recognize the valor of these men and women. To the extent, however, this resolution supplies blanket endorsement of any theater missile defense system, we do not accomplish a lofty purpose.

HONORING DR. MARGARET DRICKAMER FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure, though a sad heart, that I pay tribute to an outstanding leader in geriatric medicine and a tremendous asset to the VA Connecticut Health System, Dr. Margaret Drickamer, as she retires from her service to the United States Veterans Administration.

It has been nearly fifteen years since Dr. Drickamer first came to the VA Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut as the Medical Director of the then Nursing Home Care Unit. In that time, Dr. Drickamer has been responsible for the complete reorganization of the department as well as the expansion of services available to Connecticut veterans—making a real difference in lives of many. Today, the section of Geriatrics and Extended Care is a multi-faceted program which provides a continuum of inpatient, outpatient and consultative services.

When Dr. Drickamer first came to the VA, she was charged with the oversight of the Nursing Home Care Unit, an inpatient unit which provided long-term, residential nursing care for several dozen veterans. Under her leadership, this small unit has been transformed into a successful continuum of care, including an extended inpatient care unit, a geriatric day hospital program, an expanded geriatrics clinic, a homebased primary care program and a palliative care program. The multitude of services now offered by the Geriatrics and Extended Care section have had an extraordinary impact on thousands of Connecticut veterans.

Dr. Drickamer's success can be attributed to her endless commitment to the patients of the Medical Center and the outstanding compassion she demonstrates each day. Each time I visit the Medical Center, I am told by patients how much they depend on Dr. Drickamer, both as their doctor and, more importantly, their friend. Equally important is her dedication to her staff. Their enthusiasm and generosity a reflection of the example she has set for

over a decade. Led by her innovative vision, Dr. Drickamer has ensured that Connecticut's veterans are receiving quality care.

In addition to her work at the VA Medical Center, Dr. Drickamer is widely recognized for her work as an educator in her field. Articles and abstracts published in the American Journal of Medicine, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Annals of Internal Medicine are only a few of her many professional accomplishments. She has been honored with a myriad of awards and honors—a true testament to her unparalleled dedication.

It is my great honor to join friends and colleagues in thanking Dr. Margaret Drickamer for her many years of service to the West Haven VA Medical Center and our community. Her innumerable efforts on behalf of our country's veterans have left an indelible mark on our nation. My best wishes to you on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY 28 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

It's been ten years since the Persian Gulf War and the allied victory in Operation Desert Storm. We learned a great deal during the war, perhaps most importantly that strong relationships with our allies and others were critical to building the kind of support necessary to see the war through. Those relationships have also been critical in maintaining pressure on Saddam Hussein in the years following the allied victory. The war also taught us that we can achieve our objectives—with minimal loss of life—thanks to our professionally trained troops and technologically advanced weapons systems.

While we know that war inevitably entails loss of life, and that soldiers assume the risks of war, this realization doesn't make it easier to bear the news when a loved one is killed in service to our country. Today we honor the sacrifices of the 28 servicemen killed in February 1991 when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. Army barracks in Saudi Arabia. We extend our sympathy and thanks to their families, and we honor their memories. In the same spirit, we honor the contributions of those serving today in our armed forces. Every day they brave hardships in the name of defending our country and our freedom. We can never be grateful enough for what they do.

This resolution also asks us to resolve to support "appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs to help prevent attacks on forward deployed United States forces from occurring again." I am supporting this resolution for what it says and not for what some may believe it says.

Just to be clear: Theater missile defense systems are different from the proposed national missile defense system, which continues to raise many questions and concerns that I believe must be addressed before deployment can be considered.