

House Concurrent Resolution 173 reaffirms that human rights norms defined in international conventions include protection from violence and abuse on the basis of sexual identity, but it does not seek to establish a special category of human rights related to sexual orientation or gender identity. Furthermore, it commends relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations (such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission) for documenting the ongoing abuse of human rights on the basis of sexual orientation. Our Resolution condemns all human rights violations based on sexual orientation and recognizes that such violations should be equally punished, without discrimination.

This legislation is endorsed by a broad coalition of international human rights groups, gay rights groups, and faith-based organizations, among others. They include: Amnesty International, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch, National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, Human Rights Campaign, Log-Cabin Republicans, Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, and the National Organization of Women.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the United States Department of State and the United Nations for documenting the ongoing abuse of human rights on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Mr. Speaker, the protection of gender identity is not a special right or privilege, but it should be fully acknowledged in international human rights norms. I ask that my colleagues join with me in wholeheartedly embracing and supporting human rights for all people, no matter what their sexual orientation might be. It is the only decent thing to do.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAURA INGALLS WILDER LIBRARY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I stand before the House today in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Library. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Library is located in Mansfield, Missouri, a small town in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District.

Many will remember with great fondness the Laura Ingalls Wilder books. In fact many of us or our children grew up reading her accounts of life in the great outdoors. She wrote simply and vividly—with such detail that her accounts of pioneer life have become the way that many of us view life on the Midwestern frontier. Through her writing, Laura Ingalls Wilder provided us with a chronology of life during the Pioneer days that has allowed us to preserve a lost era in American history.

But Laura Ingalls Wilder did more than just evoke a love for the rural way of life in her writing. Through her writing, she instilled a love of reading and over time that love of reading was translated into action as she became a tireless advocate for our public libraries.

In rural America, public libraries are not just a luxury or a convenience, they are a way of life. Most small towns don't have a Barnes and Noble and many folks don't have access to Amazon.com.

As a result, the tireless endeavors of the Laura Ingalls Wilder's of today are keeping Ms. Wilder's efforts alive. In Wright County, the community is working in a cooperative and most inspiring manner to create the Laura Ingalls Wilder Library and Community Center, an expanded library that will provide a technology and community center. The center will give folks the opportunity to embark on a journey of learning and to inspire adults and children with a love for reading.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special occasion, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Library. May the blessings of the last 50 years serve as a vision for the next 50 years.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM E. MARTIN,
PRESIDENT OF UNITED WAY OF
HUDSON COUNTY, UPON HIS
RETIREMENT AFTER 45 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William E. Martin, who will be recognized by the United Way of Hudson County, New Jersey. On Wednesday, June 27, 2001, the City of Jersey City will honor Mr. Martin during a dedication ceremony to rename Vroom Court the William E. Martin Way. A luncheon in honor of Mr. Martin will follow the ceremony.

William Martin began his distinguished career with the United Way Foundation in 1956, serving as President of the United Way in Hudson County, New Jersey. During his tenure, Mr. Martin was instrumental in establishing over 30 Tri-State United Way agencies. As a result of his hard work and dedication, United Way now provides social services in over 700 communities throughout the Tri-State area, lending assistance to over 8 million people a year.

Beyond his administrative duties, William Martin has also served as an ambassador for the United Way Foundation. In 1988, he was chosen by his peers to set up United Way services in Beijing, China and Hong Kong. In addition, he has assisted in the implementation of United Way services in Vietnam, Pakistan, Egypt, and the Philippines.

Youth outreach and community service initiatives have also been top priorities in William Martin's life. Prior to his tenure with United Way, he was Director of Human Services at Camp Crowder in Missouri and served as Athletic Director at the CYO Center in Jersey City, New Jersey for nine years.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring William Martin for his distinguished service on behalf of the United Way of America and the residents of New Jersey.

MARVIN OLINSKY: VISIONARY,
PUBLIC SERVANT, AND HUMANITARIAN

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marvin Olinsky, who is retiring after serving 14 years as chief executive of the Five Rivers MetroParks, a regional park system in Dayton and the Miami Valley, Ohio. Marvin has been an extraordinary steward of the park system and a tireless advocate for clean, safe parks for us and future generations.

Ten years ago, the park district managed 6,900 acres. Under Marvin's leadership, MetroParks has grown to an 11,000 acre system with an annual attendance of 5.6 million visitors. He increased law enforcement within the parks, expanded educational programs and recreational facilities, and made the parks cleaner. These improvements have made the park system enormously popular among residents of the Miami Valley.

Marvin has been more than a park system director to the community. He has been a true visionary, helping to make the physical surroundings in the Dayton area more attractive and friendly. He was a moving force behind the current downtown Dayton renaissance and he has actively participated formally and informally in a broad range of civic activities.

Beyond Dayton and this country, Marvin's spirit of helping stretches to the war-torn West African nation of Sierra Leone. As a private citizen, he has visited the country on a regular basis to bring much-needed books, medicine, clothing, and food. I have traveled with him to Sierra Leone on a humanitarian mission. It has been an honor to work with him in the struggle for justice in that country.

I have had the privilege of working with Marvin on other projects, including the Hope Foundation, which he chairs. This group supports needy citizens in Africa and around the world.

For me, Marvin is more than just a partner in public service. I am proud that he is my friend.

Dayton is fortunate that Marvin plans to stay in the area and continue his civic involvement. His creativity, vision, and energy can always be used here.

TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DAVID
KALKE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a constituent of mine, the Reverend David Kalke, recipient of a 2001 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award, for his work in creating a "safe zone" for our youth. The award is the nation's highest honor for community health leadership and includes a \$100,000 program grant.

The Reverend Kalke has done remarkable work with teen health and education programs in an area of San Bernardino, CA, known to have the state's highest teen pregnancy and