

and medical technology for its patients. Under Mike Azzara's guidance as Chairman of Valley Health Systems, and Audrey Meyer's leadership as President and CEO of the Valley Hospital, the hospital has entered the 21st century as a premier provider of health care in not only New Jersey but the entire Northeast United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the Valley Hospital for its service to the community in the past fifty years, and recognizing those committed to continuing its tradition of excellence in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED CENTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY, INC.

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2001*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, whose thirtieth anniversary was celebrated on August 12, 2001. The center has been assisting visually impaired individuals to transcend the loss of sight as independent, contributing community members of Monterey County, in my district. I am pleased to be able to honor their work here in the U.S. Congress.

The Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County offers a wide variety of services to its clients, and works to cater these services to each individual's needs. With such programs as Daily Living Skills and Braille Instruction, information and referral services, accessible technology, support groups, and an Orientation and Mobility Instruction course, this center offers much to the communities of Monterey County. Last year, the Blind, and Visually Impaired Center provided direct services to three hundred forty-eight clients from twenty-two towns, cities, and villages. The clients live throughout Monterey County, from the coastline at Pebble Beach to the farm communities of Greenfield and King City.

I am proud to honor the work of the dedicated staff and volunteers at the Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County.

The thirtieth anniversary of the center offers an opportunity to pay tribute to the hope of its founders and the diligence of those who work there. I look forward to their continued success.

NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2001*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tireless efforts of payroll employees of this nation. September 3–7 is National Payroll Week. In honor of this week, we should all thank the more than 130 million payroll professionals who work tirelessly to ensure that workers receive their wages and federal employment taxes and worker earnings are reported.

Company payroll departments prepare over 4 billion paychecks each year. In addition to paying workers accurately and on time, payroll professionals play a key role in crucial government programs including the enforcement of fair labor standards, child support deductions and payments, unemployment insurance, Social Security taxes and benefits, and Medicare.

Payroll professionals deserve our thanks for helping maintain this nation's system of preserving funds for the American community. Regular efforts are made to educate ordinary workers about the payroll tax withholding system. Nationwide, 20,000 members of the American Payroll Association organize outreach programs for their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby ask you and our colleagues to join with me in thanking the payroll employees who are indeed, "Working for America" and proclaim September 3–7, 2001, National Payroll Week.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2001*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the community of Brownsville,

Texas, for reminding our children about the values we cherish by commencing "Violence Prevention Week" as the new school year begins.

Each year, parents, students and educational professionals begin the school with more trepidation than we ever did, for today the worst-case scenario is not that our children will get in a fight, but that they will be a victim of gun violence.

Here in Texas, we know that if the central component of these tragedies were merely the existence of guns, the level of school violence we see today would have always been so. It is much more: the responsibility that family teaches (including gun safety and proper storage); the faith and tolerance taught by family, churches, synagogues and mosques; the entertainment our children see; and the everyday examples of behavior to which young people are exposed.

In short, it is many things. Our society at large is far less to blame for the incidents of violence we have seen in communities across the country than are the individual families and communities whose job it is to be a good example every day. We should teach responsibility, emphasize faith, and offer age-appropriate entertainment and examples of behavior to children.

Brownsville is taking an important step in speaking to the issue of school violence by planning Violence Prevention Week, sponsored by the Brownsville Independent School District, the local law enforcement agencies, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce and the local church community.

Events throughout the week include: a formal proclamation and efforts to bring up the subject around the dinner table, essay contests to make the subject pertinent to students, a "Violence Prevention Fair" at a local mall, school addresses by Dana Scott, sister of Rachel Scott, was killed at Columbine, and the incorporation of topics relating to violence prevention into the school curriculum.

Events will culminate in a LIFE (Laborers in Fields of Education) breakfast for educators and community leaders on Saturday, Sept. 8. The guest speaker will be Darrell Scott, father of Rachel Scott, whose story of refusing to deny her faith at her killer's request inspired millions around the world.