TRIBUTE TO THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF GREATER DETROIT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a community whose outstanding dedication and commitment has led to a great accomplishment. On Saturday, November 10, 2001, the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit will celebrate the completion of its beautiful Mosque expansion, a project that has been the heart and driving force of this entire community.

Located in Rochester Hills, the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit (IAGD) has always been a flourishing center of religious and social activity. Joyfully celebrating Ramadan and the Eid holidays, while lending a helping hand to those suffering and working for charitable causes, the IAGD has been a welcoming home to all who have walked through its doors.

However as the community began to grow and expand, its ideas and vision for the future began to grow with it. Dedicating over fifteen years of their time and talents to expansion efforts, this community envisioned a center that would continue to cultivate its community roots as well as reach out to younger generations. With new constructions including a large banquet and social hall, classrooms, library, gymnasium, and so much more, the completion of this Mosque expansion has truly become an example to all communities. Donating their time, money and efforts to a vision that is shared by Muslim Americans across the nation, this community's hard work and dedication to the completion of this beautiful new Mosque will assuredly become an inspiration for the next generations of Muslims in America.

I applaud the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit for reaching this historic milestone, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF GARDEN VILLAS ELEMENTARY MUSIC MAGNET SCHOOL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 70th Anniversary of Garden Villas Elementary Music Magnet School, a campus of the Houston Independent School District. The anniversary celebration will be held the week of December 3–7, 2001.

Garden Villas Music Academy was established in 1931 to accommodate those students in grade levels 1–10 residing in the Garden Villas region of southwest Houston. This community has a rich history that dates back to World War II. In the early 1950s the neighborhood was annexed into Houston incorporating Garden Villas Elementary into Houston Independent School District. Located on an acre of land, the school provides a comfortable and peaceful atmosphere, an ideal location for the cultivation of music skills. Currently, Garden Villas Elementary serves 920 students ranging from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

The mission of Garden Villas Elementary is to provide a safe environment in which students enhance their academic growth and enrich their education by participating in an exceptional music and fine arts curriculum. Students receive specialized instruction in a variety of areas, including strings, band, piano, art, dance, creative writing, and gymnastics. The faculty encourages young artists to work together to prepare performances and create exhibitions that display their appreciation of the arts, develop creativity and build self-esteem. Excellence in the arts is a natural, integrated extension of the academic program at Garden Villas Elementary Magnet School.

In addition to exemplary curriculum, Garden Villas Elementary, participates in programs designed to develop socially conscious, well-rounded students, such as United Way Kids, Red Ribbon Week, St. Jude's Mathathon and D.A.R.E. I applaud the faculty of Garden Villas Elementary for their creativity and leadership.

Again, I would like to recognize the 70th Anniversary of Garden Villas Elementary Music Magnet School and congratulate the students and faculty on 70 years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 2001 I was unavoidably absent during rollcall votes 433, 434 and 435.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on vote 433, approving the Journal, ''yes'' on vote 434, agreeing to the conference report on the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for FY 2002, and ''yes'' on vote 435, the motion to instruct conferees on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations for FY 2002.

I ask unanimous consent that these remarks be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following these votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

November 29, 2001, rollcall vote 459, on approving the Journal, I would have voted ''yea''.

November 30, 2001, rollcall vote 465, on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 2299, I would have voted ''yea''.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to the success of Hispanic businesses in the United States and Latin America and to offer my strong support of H. Con. Res. 277.

The Hispanic community has become the fastest growing minority group in the United States. The Hispanic community plays an essential role in sustaining the viability of the nation's economy and the number of Hispanic-owned firms is growing rapidly. According to the Census Survey of minority-owned business enterprises, Hispanic-owned business in the United States totaled 1.2 million firms in 1997 and employed over one million people. These businesses generated nearly $200 billion in revenues.

At the center of the growth is the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, the chamber has worked closely with the concerns and issues that affect Hispanic firms, developing business relationships, promoting international trade, and advocating to the Congress and Administration on behalf of these businesses. The Chamber's commitment to the Hispanic business community is a contribution to the economic empowerment of the Latino population as a whole and its impact has been felt throughout the Nation.

Promoting Latino-owned businesses is particularly important in my congressional district of Upper Manhattan. The Hispanic influence in this community is significant and the Chambers' continuing efforts to promote such ownership, particularly in the small business arena is critical to the economic viability of my community and its future. For the Chamber's initiatives, I commend them.

THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT LEE BOLLINGER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lee C. Bollinger, who will be leaving as president of the University of Michigan at the end of this month to become president of Columbia University in July.

For nearly 5 years, Mr. Bollinger has been a transforming leader at the University of Michigan, whose Ann Arbor campus is in my congressional district. During that time he has achieved a number of major accomplishments.

One of those efforts is the Life Sciences Initiative, which was launched in 1999. With a commitment of $100 million in campus funds, a $130 million endowment and additional revenues, the University will become a major source of research on human genomics, chemical and structural biology, and bioinformatics. A new six-story Life Sciences

Institute is now under construction on the Ann Arbor campus. The university will also benefit from the state's Life Science Corridor, a 20-year program to develop new technologies in the life sciences statewide.

Mr. Bollinger has also overseen the most successful fund-raising campaign in history, raising nearly $1 billion since 1997. In three of those four years, Michigan raised more money from alumni than any other public university. Research expenditures also reached record levels under his stewardship to stand among the highest in the nation.

By far, one of his most significant contributions has been his ardent and effective defense of affirmative action in admissions. Mr. Bollinger has been a strong supporter of the need for diversity in higher education, and his willingness to fight several lawsuits on that issue underscore his strong commitment to that principle. I know of no president who has been so closely tied to students and who has related as well to the thousands of young men and women at the university.

From bringing the Royal Shakespeare Company to Ann Arbor to dedicating the new Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Lee Bollinger has been a man of vision—a leader of compassion—and a strong advocate for the principles that he and the University embody.

I know he has mixed feelings about leaving behind the Michigan family as he moves on to Columbia next year. But those of us who have seen the progress and growth of the university under his tutelage can only say ''thank you'' to Lee for his outstanding service to the University, to the people of Michigan and to the nation.

I call upon all my colleagues to thank him for his legacy of service, and to join me in wishing him and his wife Jean well in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHAN WICHAR, SR.

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Stephan Wichar, whose achievements span the decades and have touched the lives of so many in the city of Warren and beyond. As family, friends, and community members gathered together on Sunday, November 18, 2001, they honored Steve Wichar for his years of service, as a distinguished Ukrainian-American who has shown outstanding leadership and support in his community and beyond.

President of the Ukrainian Village Board of Directors and distinguished community activist, Steve Wichar has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to both the Ukrainian and American communities. President of the Board of Directors at Wingate Management, Steve has been providing leadership and expertise for over 14 years. He has worked hard to improve safety in Detroit Public Schools and lent countless hours to the Boy's Club of America. His efforts to help prenaturalized students overcome the challenges they face in public schools has been remarkable, and he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Children of Chernobyl Fund.

Faithfully committed to his Ukrainian heritage as well, his unparalleled devotion to Ukrainian senior citizens is reflected in his 13-year tenure as president of the Ukrainian Village Corporation. Steve served in World War II, and his leadership on behalf of Ukrainian American Veterans has been extraordinary. But Steve's efforts and achievements do not stop at veterans' affairs. Steve is the longest serving president of the Ukrainian American Center. He has successfully lobbied for continued aid to Ukraine, has kept an unwavering focus on human rights, and continues to work hard to bring Ukraine into the international community.

Steve has devoted his life to his community, and his efforts have brought great accomplishments for schools, seniors, veterans, and foreign policy. He is a respected scholar, teacher, and friend. It gives me great pleasure to honor Steve, for his leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of dedication and service.

PROMOTING TOLERANCE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise again to urge this chamber to bring the Hate Crime Legislation H.R. 1342 to the floor for a vote.

This Nation has seen a sharp rise in hate crimes against individuals perceived to be of Middle Eastern decent or Muslim.

I stood right here 3 weeks ago and said there had been over 1,100 reported complaints since September 11th. That number has now jumped to almost 1,500.

What is it going to take to get people to realize that hate crimes aren't like other crimes?

People are attacked and intimidated because of how they look or where they pray.

Assault, harassment, discrimination, death threats, hate mail, and even death are occurring in schools, workplaces, airports, and homes.

My own family received a threat. My sister received a call about an anthrax letter being sent to her.

Hate crimes terrorize their victims. When a group is targeted no member of the group can feel completely safe.

There have been stories of Muslim men shaving their beards and removing their turbans just to feel safe.

Our Nation has the will to fight for the freedom of others in Afghanistan. We should make sure we have the will to fight for the freedom from hate crimes in our own country.

California has seen one of the largest increases in hate crimes of all the states.

Since September 11th in Los Angeles county alone, there have been 156 reported incidents against those perceived to be Arabs or Muslim. This includes 2 homicides.

This is a huge increase over last year, when there were just 12 reported incidents in Los Angeles County.

I am alarmed at these shameless acts.

Our diversity is our strength and we must remain united.

Our children learn prejudice and intolerance from us.

If we ignore acts of discrimination or make derogatory comments about other cultures, religions or ethnic groups what are we teaching our children?

Haven't we had enough? The violence, discrimination and intimidation against our Arab and Muslim neighbors must stop now.

Our children must be taught that it's not okay to use derogatory words against people of another race, religion or ethnic group.

A hate crime does not have to involve an actual act of violence to start the cycle of tension and deterioration of civil society that leads to violence.

Juveniles represent about half of hate crime offenders.

Our children need our help to understand hate crimes and to stop the cycle of senseless acts of hate.

It's time for Congress to take action against hate and intolerance and bring H.R. 1343, the Hate Crimes bill, to the floor for a vote.

HONORING CHARLES WHITE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles White a longtime United Automobile Workers activist. Charles will be honored by the UAW Region 1C Retirees Legislative Committee on December 7, 2001 in my hometown of Flint.

Born in 1916, Charlie grew up in Missouri. During the 1920s he lived with an uncle who worked at Fisher Body in St. Louis. He moved to Flint and was hired in 1935 by General Motors to work at the Fisher Body 1 Plant. When General Motors attempted to remove the dies from the plant on December 30, 1936 the workers at Fisher Body Plant 1 joined the workers at Fisher Body Plant 2 to begin the historic sit-down strike. Charlie became a Flint Sit-Down Striker at that time.

Over the next weeks, Charlie worked tirelessly at the strike headquarters. He made banners, signs and drew editorial cartoons. When John L. Lewis came to Flint to work with the fledgling United Automobile Workers and help negotiate the settlement with General Motors, Charlie served as his bodyguard.

Continuing a tradition that had started during the strike, Charlie drew editorial cartoons for the union papers during the next forty years. Joining with his fellow UAW members, Charlie has fought for safety laws and improved conditions in the factories. He served as a union president and eventually retired in 1966 from UAW Local 581. In 1971 he became the Chairperson of the Local 581 Retiree Chapter and has continued in that capacity until the present time. He has been supported in his work by his wife, Barbara, and his three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Charles White as he is honored by the retiree chapters in UAW Region 1C. His contributions have brought more humane working conditions in the our factories and a better life to workers everywhere.