

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FLOOD RELIEF ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE STUDENTS OF KEYSTONE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA TO THE RESIDENTS OF KEYSTONE, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today in praise of the efforts of the students and faculty of Keystone College, LaPlume, Pennsylvania, who recently came to the aid of the residents of Keystone, West Virginia. Due to recent devastating flooding in West Virginia, Keystone College President, Dr. Edward (Ned) G. Boehm, Jr., put out the call and challenge for his students and college to rally to the aid of the flood victims. I am pleased to report that they all met that challenge head on.

On May 14, Keystone College representatives delivered a check for \$ 1,000, food and clothing, which they had collected, to Mayor Larry Martin at the Keystone Town Hall for distribution to the flood victims. It is clear that the communities of Keystone College and Keystone, West Virginia, share more than a common name. They share a bond which was formed out of adversity and need.

Community service is part of the curriculum taught at Keystone College. It is one thing to be taught an idea or concept, such as community service, but it is through its implementation that true learning occurs. The students and faculty are to be commended for their thoughtful and giving deeds. But the story does end with this one finite act. This fall, a group of Keystone students will travel to Keystone, West Virginia, to help with the repair and recovery efforts.

Truly, community service is the "keystone" which brings all our communities closer together. It is through such selfless deeds and acts that we see our true reflection.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNUAL JOSÉ MARTÍ STUDENT AID FUND AWARD DINNER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th annual José Martí Student Aid Fund Award Dinner, which was held on May 18, 2002, at the Radisson Hotel in Secaucus, NJ. Two important individuals were honored at this event, Carmen Pardo and Clara Garcia, for their many years of dedicated service to the José Martí Student Aid Fund.

In 1975, Mrs. Carmen Pardo and Mrs. Clara Garcia began recognizing students who excelled in the study of the Spanish language. In 1978, the resulting scholarship fund was legally registered as a nonprofit organization. Today, it is a scholarship for high school students graduating from Union Hill, Emerson, and Memorial High Schools, which promotes the understanding and appreciation of the Spanish language, heritage, and culture.

Thanks to charitable contributions, and various civic and social activities organized by the institution, the José Martí Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$120,000 in scholarships. Over two hundred outstanding students have been honored.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the José Martí Student Aid Fund Award for its positive influence and the important role it plays in celebrating our Nation's Hispanic heritage.

RECOGNITION OF SBC COMMUNICATIONS FOR RECEIVING THE RON BROWN AWARD FOR CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize SBC Communications for receiving the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership. This award highlights SBC Communications' commitment to South Texas and many other communities it serves. It is a tribute to SBC's desire to expand small business and volunteer opportunities in America.

Few companies have matched SBC's efforts to foster economic development in the communities it serves. By creating and maintaining relationships with diverse companies, the Supplier Diversity Program, an initiative developed to ensure minority-owned companies are an integral part of SBC's supply chain, has been extremely successful in integrating local minority entrepreneurs into its economic development strategy. In 2001, SBC spent \$2.8 billion, or 23.5 percent of all procurement, the companies highest level of diversity spending ever, with companies owned by minorities, women, and disabled veterans. SBC continues to be a model of corporate responsibility.

SBC has not only been recognized by Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans with this Presidential award, but it has also been recognized by the Women's Business Enterprise Council, the National Minority Business Council, Working Woman magazine, Fortune magazine, and the National Minority Supplier Development Council, NMSDC, for its tireless efforts to provide opportunities for minorities. The company has set the standard for minority involvement and has never shied away from its responsibility to facilitate community involvement and service.

As evidence of this commitment, SBC spends more than \$1 billion annually with diverse businesses and was one of 10 companies inducted into the Billion Dollar Roundtable, an initiative of the publishers of Minority Business News U.S.A. and Women's Enterprise Magazine to recognize corporations that make investments in minority owned enterprises a priority. In addition, SBC challenged its fellow telecommunications companies to improve their supplier diversity and, because of that challenge, 70 telecommunications companies have pledged to do so.

We should all commend SBC for its 30 years of dedication to creating opportunities for minority business owners. I am proud that SBC calls San Antonio home. The city is a better place because of SBC's efforts, and our

communities across America are stronger because of its service. I wish SBC Communications the best in its future endeavors and urge it to continue to reach out to minority communities.

THE PROMPT COMPENSATION ACT OF 2002

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention an issue that is extremely important to all of our constituents: private property rights. We have all heard from constituents in our districts who are frustrated with the process by which the federal government provides compensation to landowners for property it obtains through condemnation proceedings. While the federal agencies obtain land for a variety of reasons, the acquisition process often takes years to complete. Though legally the property owner may develop their property during this process, realistically they are discouraged from doing so. In essence, they are being held at the federal government's whim. It is for this reason that I have introduced The Prompt Compensation Act of 2002.

Currently, the federal government has two available procedures for obtaining property. The first is "straight condemnation," wherein a federal agency requests that the Justice Department file a "complaint in compensation" with a district court. It is the court's responsibility to ascertain the value of the land. Once the court has come to a decision, the federal government has the option of compensating the property owner with the adjudicated price or moving for dismissal. However, the landowner is compensated only if the federal government accepts the adjudicated price. While the federal government forfeits its interest in the property if they move for a dismissal, the property owner has been deprived of time, revenue, and in some cases, the overall value of their land.

The second and more expeditious procedure is commonly referred to as "quick take." In this procedure, the United States assumes title of the property immediately by simply filing a "declaration of taking" along with the complaint in condemnation and depositing with the court an amount of money equal to the estimated value of the land. Normal protocol is then followed with the court ascertaining the value of the property and the balance being issued to the landowner.

The Prompt Compensation Act will ensure that private land holders are not held in limbo by the federal government during a land purchase. My bill will require the government to obtain land only through the "quick take" procedure. The Prompt Compensation Act will make a significant impact in curbing the abuses of the federal takings proceedings, while at the same time strengthening the private property rights of America's landowners. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this important legislation and take the power from the federal government and place it back in the hands of the private property owners.