

Abbey Meyers and the other courageous individuals who advocated for the passage of the Orphan Drug Act and have given a brighter future to millions of American families over the last 20 years. For these reasons, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 147.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN MIKE
GIN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Mike Gin, who retires this week from the Redondo Beach City Council after 8 years of distinguished service.

In addition to his work on the council, Mike's service to his community covers a wide range of community groups including the Redondo Beach Historical Society, the Chinese Americans United for Self-Empowerment, and the Beach Cities Branch of the American Heart Association. He is also a member of the Redondo Beach Sister Cities Association, the Redondo Beach Jaycees, the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Redondo Beach Rotary Club.

I consider Mike a "lunch-pail politician," who prides himself on doing the little things—like parks and potholes—that help make the City of Redondo Beach one of the nicest places to live in California. He was famous for holding Saturday morning office hours with his constituents so he could spend time listening to their concerns.

But Mike's retirement from the City Council does not mean he is giving up on public service. In fact, this month Mike left his information services job to become Deputy to another good friend, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. I am delighted that much of the area Mike will cover for Supervisor Knabe remains in my own Congressional district. My staff and I look forward to working with Mike in this new capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Mike's warm personality on the City Council but am glad he will continue to play an active role in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VILLAGE
REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB ON
THEIR 20TH ANNUAL DINNER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Village Reform Democratic Club on the occasion of their 20th annual dinner. For over 20 years, the Village Reform Democratic Club has led its neighborhood in addressing and resolving important political and community issues.

As is their custom the Village Reform Democratic Club will honor community leaders at their dinner. This year the honorees will be the Caring Community for 30 years of service to the elderly, as well as Saul Fishman and Barry Benepe, two men who in their own ways

have helped shape the cultural and social fabric of New York City.

For more than 30 years, professionals and volunteers at the Caring Community have helped and empowered seniors within our community, offering a broad array of programs and services, including the home delivery of over 50,000 hot meals, assistance with shopping and home repairs and assistance to seniors who are crime victims.

Most importantly Caring Community operates four centers for older adults. These four centers, at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, Independence Plaza, The First Presbyterian Church and Center on the Square, are open Monday to Friday from 9 to 5. These centers offer a wide variety of programs for seniors as well as a place where seniors can enjoy a hot meal.

One center is located at Independence Plaza, a neighbor to the World Trade Center. The seniors in Independence Plaza were displaced from their homes for weeks or longer. Without the crucial assistance provided by the Caring Community, many of these seniors would have been unable to deal with the psychological impact of 9/11 and might never have returned to their homes.

In this time, when government is reducing spending on all services, and charitable giving, especially by corporations has been severely curtailed, along with the Village Reform Democratic Club I am proud to recognize all those who contribute their time and resources to the work of the Caring Center.

Saul Fishman is a pioneer in the fight for domestic partnership for gay and lesbian couples. Beginning in 1987, Saul served as spokesman for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gays Rights and later as the chair of the Family Diversity Coalition and as a member of the Mayor's Partner Task Force.

As an activist in the Civil Service Bar Association, the union representing attorneys employed by New York City, Saul persuaded the union to become the first to offer domestic partner benefits to its members. Saul later convinced the municipal unions to demand that the City of New York grant bereavement leave to any City employee who lost a domestic partner. In a dramatic confrontation with then Mayor Koch, Saul got the mayor to accept the provision.

Having secured significant protections for the domestic partners of New York City employees, Saul turned to the wider issue of domestic partnership law to protect all New Yorkers. After I agreed to sponsor the bill in the City Council, Saul lobbied other members to be cosponsors and supporters. Passage of that first domestic partnership bill was hailed as an unparalleled victory for the gay and lesbian community. It is a testament to Saul Fishman's unending energy and unwavering belief that all people should have equal protection under the law.

In 1976 Barry Benepe had the idea of bringing fresh produce directly to the people of New York City, and with that the Green Market was born. Starting with three sites and few local farmers, over the past 2½ decades the Green Market has expanded to 18 locations bringing over 150 farmers from 4 states.

Consumers appreciate the fresh alternatives offered by the Green Market, while many environmentalists commend the transportation and environmental benefits of locally grown foods. For this Barry was awarded a Special Citation

by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He also received a Municipal Art Society's Certificate of Merit as well as a National Recognition Award from the America the Beautiful Fund.

It is members like Saul Fishman and Barry Benepe that have made the Village Reform Democratic Club a force for social change in New York City.

In recognition of these outstanding contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Caring Community, Saul Fishman, Barry Benepe and Village Reform Democratic Club on the occasion of their 20th annual dinner.

HONORING TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on his third anniversary in office. Three years ago, voters in Taiwan elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan, which marks the first successful and peaceful transition of power in Taiwan's history. Now in the year 2003, President Chen continues to make strides towards ensuring a robust democracy by guaranteeing the Taiwanese people freedom of speech and fundamental human rights.

Many events have transpired in Taiwan since President Chen Shui-bian has taken office. Over the last three years, President Chen has sought a meaningful dialogue and maintained a positive interaction with China. Unfortunately China has ignored President Chen's gestures of goodwill and has continued to deploy missiles along the coastal provinces aimed at Taiwan. It is my hope the leadership in China will realize that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is in everyone's best interest.

Taiwan has also endured the outbreak of the alarming disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). I wish Taiwan's government and people every success in their endeavor to fight vigorously in order to control further spread of the SARS disease. As Secretary Powell said recently, SARS recognizes no international borders. Taiwan has made significant achievements in the field of healthcare and its medical experts have the potential to greatly contribute to the science of health. That said, Taiwan shouldn't be ruled out from the World Health Organization mainly due to political concern or obstruction.

We in the U.S. Congress appreciate Taiwan's friendship and support over the years. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Taiwan has offered assistance in helping the United States fight global terrorism. At the conclusion of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Taiwan government issued a statement supporting the Coalition of the Willing's cause and pledging to offer humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq, just as they graciously did in the case of Afghanistan. Taiwan's generosity is welcomed and I look forward to a strong relationship with Taiwan for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of President Chen's third anniversary in office, I join my