

CESAR CHAVEZ POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 925 to designate Chicago's 1859 South Ashland Avenue postal facility as the Cesar Chavez Post Office.

Born on the cusp of the Depression, he knew that hard work in hard times brought only hard luck for farm workers. As a 15-year-old, Chavez left school when his father was disabled in a car accident, and he took up work that would inform his legacy. He worked twelve hours a day hoeing beets and lettuce to help sustain his family. As a child he learned that farm workers' pay depended on the farm owner's good will or whim. As fields of fruit ripened before him, he saw that the agricultural economy depended on growers' abilities to hire enough short-term workers to harvest the crop. He also saw how immigration policies like the bracero program ensured a steady supply of labor willing to accept depressed wages.

But the work that nearly broke his back only strengthened his spirit, and Cesar Chavez went on to be one of this nation's greatest advocates for farm workers.

With first-hand knowledge of the field's wretched conditions, of farm workers' vulnerabilities and of the workers' essential role in maintaining agricultural production, he gave voice to hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who were too afraid to speak out alone. He mobilized the isolated and vulnerable into a unified power, and in the process strengthened the burgeoning civil rights movement. The union he founded, United Farm Workers, adhered to Gandhi's principles of nonviolence, and slowly improved the lives of farm workers and their families by insisting that work conditions are safe and humane.

Cesar Chavez is an American hero. He believed in the dignity of work, and fought for the humane treatment of each worker. His life's work and guiding values make our society a better place. I am privileged to stand in support commemorating his life and work with the designation of the U.S. Postal Service facility at 1859 South Ashland Avenue in Chicago as the Cesar Chavez Post Office.

HONORING ESCO BILLINGS JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to a hardworking American. Esco Billings Jr., of Pueblo, Colorado, selflessly served this great nation throughout his long and dedicated life. It is with great pride that I take this opportunity to highlight the many contributions Esco made to his community throughout his life.

Esco answered the honorable call to military service twice in his lifetime, serving with the U.S. Navy during both World War II and the Korean War. Esco continued his life of public

service when he returned home in 1951, embarking on a career with the Pueblo Fire Department. He ascended to the position of Assistant Chief in 1964, where he continued to serve until his retirement in 1979.

Esco's strong commitment to public service was only superseded by his devotion to family. Within his extended family of fellow policemen and firemen, he will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this Congress today to recognize Esco's devotion to his family and service to his country. Citizens like Esco provide the strength of spirit and character that make this nation great. While he will be dearly missed, we can all take solace in the fact that Esco's spirit will live on through the lives of those whom he has touched.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY SMITH, MOBILE AREA OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor and congratulate Mrs. Mary Smith for having recently received the Mobile Area Education Foundation's 2003 Outstanding Educator Award. She deserves our sincere and respectful congratulations. Her dedication and service have rightly earned her this prestigious award.

Mary Smith has taught middle school science at the Clark School of Mathematics and Science for eleven years. She has been very interactive with her science students, and she always gives her time and energy to her students and to her school. She frequently takes her classes on field trips and exposes them to hands-on experiments in and out of the classroom. She also gives up many nights and Saturdays to coach the Clark Science Olympiad. Her dedication and involvement have made a difference in many young lives.

One of Mrs. Smith's newest projects has been to capture the interest of her students with the NASA space program. "Signatures in Space" is a new government sponsored program that allows 500 different schools throughout the country to send their students' signatures into outer space with the next shuttle launch. Mary Smith was instrumental in procuring a spot on the signature list for the Clark School of Mathematics and Science. She also successfully helped a student to apply and get initiated into an extremely competitive national program allowing the student to communicate directly with the astronauts via a live telecast. Her devoted spirit and good-natured heart have made her more than deserving of this honorary award.

Mary Smith has been a real treasure to the students and faculty of Clark School of Mathematics and Science. The extra effort she always puts forth has allowed her to touch so many young lives. She is always going above and beyond and it shows in the hearts of all that she has touched. Heroes are not just the powerful and popular figures seen on television. True heroes are the people that touch lives, giving their heart and dedication to ev-

erything they do. True heroes are the Mary Smiths in the world. I can think of no one better deserving of this award and distinction. Once again, I congratulate Mary Smith for her hard work, dedication, and service to her students, to her community, and to our great country.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL H. KAHN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Daniel H. Kahn in recognition of his accomplishments in the field of business travel and for his public service.

Daniel H. Kahn, CTC is a principal of Marketing Solutions Network, LLC. He is a recognized expert in the areas of leisure travel, tourism, corporate travel, and travel and expense management. Dan has held numerous executive and managerial positions in travel management during his 34 years at American Express.

Most recently, Dan was vice-president of Global and Corporate travel for American Express. In this capacity, he was responsible for the negotiations and management of all of the company's contracts with the world's leading travel suppliers, as well as the company's corporate travel policies. On an annual basis, he negotiated contracts in excess of \$200 million.

Dan was selected to serve as Deputy Director of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. As an Executive-on-Loan from American Express, he was responsible for travel industry relations and fundraising activities for the conference, which was held in Washington, DC in 1995. Dan enjoys favorable relationships with virtually all of the leading travel companies throughout the world.

Throughout his career at American Express, Dan held position of increasing responsibility including Vice President of Consumer Travel, Vice President of National Accounts, Vice President of Sales Planning and Development, and Vice President/General Manager of Destinations Services for the U.S. and Canada.

Dan is active in a number of travel industry and civic organizations. These include the National Business Travel Associations (NBTA), Association for Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE), American Society of Travel Agents (STA), and the Institute of Certified Travel Agents (ICTA). He is also on the advisory board and a charter member of American Sightseeing International, and on the Board of Directors for the Vocational Foundation, Inc. (VFI), the nation's first job training and placement agency for youth. He is Chairman of VFI's Hospitality program. In his personal life, Dan is on the Board of Trustees of Temple Beth Haverim in Mahwah, New Jersey.

Dan earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Rider College and acquired his Certified Travel Counselor (CTC) designation from the Institute of Certified Travel Agents (ICTA) in 1972. He lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, with his wife Nancy and two daughters, Stefanie and Jamie.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Kahn has reached the highest level of accomplishment in business travel. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my

colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN HONOR OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognition of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus as they celebrate 85 years of promoting Ukrainian arts and culture through their historic and significant musical achievement focused on the bandura—the ageless instrument and melodic voice of the Ukraine.

The bandura, an instrument that connects acoustic principles of the lute and harp, produces a sound that is both strong and fragile; it is a sound that has echoed the culture, spirit and people of Eastern Europe for thousands of years—a sound kept alive by the artistic talent of the bandurists—a sound that signifies a nation's struggle for freedom—a sound that is taught to every new generation—a sound that reaches across oceans and spans centuries.

The heart and soul of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus encompasses ideals of faith, freedom and the human spirit—reflecting the soul of the Ukraine. The Chorus also represents survival and renewal of a persecuted people. Like countless individuals and groups seeking freedom from the dark days of European oppression and war during the 1930's and 1940's—the artists and musicians of the Ukraine were persecuted for their art, faith, and love of country. But their music and heritage would survive and grow—in the Ukraine, and in communities across North America, as Ukrainian artists and musicians sought refuge in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the internationally reknowned Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, as they celebrate eighty-five years of Ukrainian culture and history by blending the ageless sound of the bandura with voices of song—resounding Ukrainian history, faith, and struggle for liberty. The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus symbolizes triumph over oppression and the bandura serves as a stark historical metaphor—lest we forget—the strength in our struggle for freedom, and the fragility in our struggle to preserve it—as fragile and strong as the melody of the bandura.

MEMORY AND ACTION: RUTH MANDEL'S REMARKS COMMEMORATING THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last month leaders and citizens from throughout America gathered in the Capitol Rotunda to commemorate the Days of Remembrance. This annual ceremony assumed special significance this year, as it took place during the 60th anniversary

of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an event that epitomizes the true meaning of bravery and honor.

In April 1943, the Gestapo set out to liquidate the surviving Jews of Warsaw. Most ghetto residents—over 300,000—had been deported to Treblinka the previous year, where they faced immediate death in the gas chambers of the notorious extermination camp. Those left in Warsaw vowed not to meet a similar fate.

The Gestapo expected the clearing out of the ghetto to be a simple operation. How could a small number of Jews, poorly fed and with few arms, even think about fighting back against thousands of machine gun-toting storm troopers? When the Nazis entered the ghetto on the early morning of April 19th, this question met with an emphatic answer. Young Jewish fighters greeted the Gestapo with a hail of bullets and homemade Molotov cocktails, forcing the Nazis into a panicked retreat. "Juden haben waffen," they yelled at the top of their lungs. "Juden haben waffen." Translated literally: "The Jews have arms." The men and women of the ghetto would not die quietly.

For the next month, the Jews of Warsaw fought with a fierce determination that stunned the Nazi leaders and inspired the world. Few expected to survive, and few did. Nevertheless, the courageous men and women of the Warsaw Ghetto live on through the power of their heroism and the strength of their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, the Days of Remembrance ceremony included moving remarks on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Ruth B. Mandel, the Vice Chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (USHMC) since 1993. Professor Mandel is the Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics and Board of Governors Professor of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her contributions to the USHMC have been extraordinary, and I'm honored to enter her remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE REMARKS

RUTH B. MANDEL, VICE CHAIR UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL APRIL 30, 2003—THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Memory and Action

Honored guests, one and all: It is April 30, 2003. We gather to Remember and to pay our respects. To light a candle in memory.

The memory of a past we wish not to repeat is tantamount to a hope. Hope can be uplifting or comforting, an expectation that something positive might happen—I hope for good luck; I hope for a cure; I hope for happiness. Yet in itself, hope is a passive stance, a rather weak force.

For memory to be a strong force, it must be the fuel for action. An active stance can be inspired by memory, but it cannot linger in memory. It must move beyond memory.

Thus, as we observe this Day of Remembrance, as we recall our personal nightmares and once again revisit our losses, even as we honor those we memorialize—the millions in the human family, our families, annihilated by guns and gas in the unspeakably grotesque collapse of civilized society, let us each consider how to link memory to action.

In these frightening, worrisome times, the understandable question of despair—"But what can I do?"—is a perfectly rational individual response to the magnitude of pain and threat humanity visits on itself regularly. But it is not an adequate response.

Honoring memory as an active stance requires some effort to use it. Even in the smallest ways, use memory.

Honored guests, one and all: It is April 30, 2003, and we are here to memorialize children . . . and men . . . and women—millions annihilated by guns and gas in the grotesque collapse of civilized society.

Today we pay special tribute to some of those who defied evil with heroic action. Their actions offer lessons, warnings, and even inspiration for the issues we face in our own times. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 60 years ago is just such an event. At the beginning of a new and, so far, troubled century, the uprising's power to inform, enlighten, and challenge our own choices remains strong.

On April 23, 1943, determined to uphold the honor of the Jewish people in the face of odds they knew they could not overcome, the Warsaw Ghetto fighters wrote:

Let it be known that every threshold in the ghetto has been and will continue to be a fortress, that we may all persist in this struggle, but we will not surrender; that, like you, we breathe with desire for revenge for the crimes of our common foe. A battle is being waged for your freedom as well as ours. For your and our human, civic, and national honor and dignity.

That battle was waged not only in Warsaw. Although Warsaw is most well known, throughout occupied Europe there were many brave individuals who took up arms against their oppressors in order to affirm their humanity, and ours.

These brave fighters bequeathed the memory of heroic action to a people. Reflecting on the future of the Jewish people, they realized that the memory of their efforts would be as important as the struggle itself.

The Warsaw revolt began in desperation; ultimately, it was an act of inspiration. They spoke about fighting for their freedom and ours; they taught us a lesson for their time and for ours. In lighting a candle to remember those who stood against the Nazis, we honor those who perished and are in turn reminded that the moral conscience of the individual can be a great weapon against evil. This was a lesson of the last century; this is a warning for the present one.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA ROCKWELL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Virginia Rockwell of Swink, Colorado. Virginia has devoted more than twenty years of her life to mentoring and guiding many of Colorado's children. From kindergarten to their senior year of high school—and often times beyond—Virginia has performed her duties as a school counselor in the Swink schools admirably. Virginia's devotion to our youth is remarkable and it is fitting that she be recognized here before this body of Congress and this nation upon her retirement.

In the early nineties, Virginia was State Multi-Level Counselor of the Year, as well as a runner-up nationally. She has worked not only with children but also with their parents and their teachers in order to provide them the support and guidance they need to flourish in school and in life. Even after college, former students have not hesitated to come back and seek help from Virginia, whose door is always open.