

October 2, 2003

Prisoners are occasionally executed in front of crowds in fields or stadiums.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE
CARON FOUNDATION

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Caron Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide an enlightened and caring treatment community in which all those affected by alcoholism or other drug addiction may begin a new life.

The great work of this organization began when Richard J. Caron, an industrialist and recovering alcoholic from Reading, PA, and his wife Catherine, spent hours in their home "chit chatting" with people who came to them for help.

Dick published a newsletter, which he called Chit Chat, to reach out to others who needed support and an encouraging word. In 1957, after years of opening their home to those needing a guiding hand in recovery, they established a halfway house. Before long, this too proved to be inadequate to accommodate the many individuals who sought their counsel.

In 1959, the Carons purchased a historic resort hotel on South Mountain in Wernersville, PA, and opened Chit Chat Farms—a facility that has gained an international reputation for excellence as one of the first and foremost chemical dependency treatment centers in the United States.

Now in its fifth decade of providing quality services, Caron offers a full spectrum of gender-specific chemical dependency treatment programs to meet the needs of everyone—from adolescents to seniors. Today, the Caron Foundation, rooted in the "Chit Chat" tradition, stands as a beacon of hope to individuals and families whose lives have become unmanageable because of chemical dependency.

The Caron Foundation, one of the Nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit chemical dependency treatment providers, is located in a serene mountain setting in Berks County, PA. The Foundation is nearing completion of a 4-year \$16 million master campus improvement and renovation project. This facility will enable Caron Foundation to continue to serve thousands in need of help.

On Sunday, October 19, 2003, the Foundation will host an official campus dedication ceremony, appropriately themed, A Celebration of Growth and Change. John Schwarzlose, President and CEO of the Betty Ford Center will be the keynote speaker; among the honored guests will be the well-known philanthropist, Mrs. Leonore Annenberg.

This celebration will allow Caron's Board of Directors and leaders to recognize the many donors whose generosity and support made this project possible.

It will also provide Caron with an opportunity to showcase the newly constructed buildings, as well as the beautifully restored historic buildings that have been part of Caron's history for more than 45 years.

It's time that we pay proper tribute to the people and organizations that make such a profound difference in the lives of people in

desperate need to hope. The Caron Foundation has given so many the opportunities to make a new choice and start a new life.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, commemorating the extraordinary contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to our country throughout history. During this one-month period of celebration and tribute, we honor the culture and achievements of the Hispanic community, all of which have played a historic role in our Nation.

I am proud, honored and privileged to represent a region in Congress that is extraordinarily diverse and home to many citizens who are of Hispanic heritage. To commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, I would like to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of an organization in my district committed to serving its neighbors.

Founded in 1946, La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center is a family community ministry serving 5,800 clients per year, ranging from infants to the elderly. La Casa is unique in that it is a centrally located facility addressing the multicultural needs and interests of its diverse community—primarily Hispanic and Native American working poor—in their efforts to overcome the barriers of underemployment, poverty, inadequate housing, limited education, and lack of medical care. These efforts on behalf of the community have been extraordinary.

Today, with an estimated Hispanic population of over 38 million in our country, we must also recognize that our efforts to commemorate Hispanic culture should not be limited merely to a one-month period.

In addition to recognizing great accomplishments, we must also demonstrate our commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Americans. Specifically, we must ensure that educational resources are readily available to all Americans. Since the future of our children is perhaps one of our most vital priorities, educational programs such as Head Start need to be supported and funded, rather than cut from our minority communities. We must also support economic empowerment and provide economic security for all Americans and work to ensure access to health care for the uninsured and underserved.

Cesar Chavez once said, "We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community and this Nation." As we reflect on Mr. Chavez's words and on this month of festivities and celebrations to honor Hispanic-Americans, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to civil rights for all Americans and promote increased representation in Government from all facets of our diverse country.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Wayne Public Library, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary of service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

Founded in June, 1923, and tucked within the Morrison and John Shoe Store on Michigan Avenue, the library was run by Ms. Emma John, the shoe store owner's daughter, who lent out the initial stock of 500 volumes to some 886 registered patrons in-between waiting on shoe customers.

My, how times—and shoe styles—have changed.

Today, the Wayne Public Library operates in a state-of-the-art facility of 24,000 square feet, which houses both Adults' and Children's reading rooms; meeting rooms; reference services; and numerous special events and classes for the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking the Wayne Public Library for their 80 years of outstanding service to the people of Wayne, Michigan.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
WEEK 2003

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mental Health Awareness Week. With the Census Bureau reporting yesterday that the number of people without health insurance shot up last year by 2.4 million, the largest increase in a decade, raising the total to 43.6 million, showing there is no hiding that our Nation is facing a health crisis. The reason behind this remarkable increase has been blamed on soaring health costs and many workers losing coverage provided by their employers. Although it is usually a misconception that those who are uninsured are also unemployed, the number of full-time workers without health insurance rose by 897,000 last year, to 19.9 million. Among people living in poverty, 49 percent of those worked full-time were uninsured. Beside a lack of information and education about mental illness, being uninsured plays a significant role on whether an individual reaches out for help or even receives treatment.

In our Nation, one percent of the population has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, one percent has been diagnosed with manic depression and between 5–10 percent of Americans will experience at least one episode of major depression. This gives us a base number of about 14–24 million individuals. If you add in the millions who suffer with panic attacks or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and include the more than four million who suffer with dementing illnesses, such as Alzheimer's Disease. Then if we include substance abuse and other addictive disorders, we reach a number that includes a quarter to a third of the American public who suffers with some form