

IN HONOR OF THE PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WOMEN'S ISSUE NETWORK AND MRS. YIANOULLA VASSILIOU

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network on the occasion of their first annual dinner dance. I would also like to honor the Pancyprian Women's Issue Network's first 1998 Woman of the Year Award honoree, Mrs. Yianoulla Vassiliou.

Mrs. Vassiliou, who is visiting the United States for several weeks, is a former principal and elementary school teacher in the occupied part of Cyprus in the village of Rizokarpaso Cyprus. Yianoulla Vassiliou has devoted the past 24 years to educating these enclaved children. For selflessly leaving her family and dedicating her time to ensure that these children in the occupied area receive an education, Mrs. Vassiliou is a worthy recipient of the first Pancyprian Women's Issue Network 1998 Woman of the Year Award.

The Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network was established in the spring of 1996 by a group of dedicated women as a division of the Pancyprian Association of America, Inc. in an effort to bring together women of Hellenic origin. The Founding President, Dr. Florentina Christodoulidou, has spearheaded the organization to be a significant component of the Hellenic women's movement.

The Pancyprian Women's Issues Network is a network group providing information and services to women within the Hellenic communities. It helps raise awareness about social, health, economic and other issues as they relate to women's roles as mothers, daughters, wives, breadwinners and homemakers.

The philosophy of the Pancyprian Women's Issues Network is one of extending a helping hand to others, and which is deeply rooted in efforts to develop mutual prosperity and steering lives towards family fulfillment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to the Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network, a group of dedicated Hellenic women who have successfully integrated the Hellenic spirit with American ideals and values. I also ask my colleagues to rise in tribute to the Pancyprian Association's Woman of the Year honoree, Mrs. Yianoulla Vassiliou.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NEW HOPE FOUNDATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to acknowledge the positive efforts of the New Hope Foundation, Inc. in Jackson, MS. New Hope was established in 1981 as a non-profit organization to provide community-based alcohol and other drug abuse correction services to individuals, regardless of race, sex, re-

ligion, or national origin. New Hope's mission is to prevent, treat, and educate individuals living in low and moderate income communities about alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.

Some of New Hope's programs include a Three Quarter-way House for males. This program is a secondary alcohol and drug treatment program for recovering chemically dependent persons. In this program, individuals are given an opportunity to improve their lives by participating in vocational and employment activities. New Hope also conducts several other programs such as support groups that help aid in temporary and permanent housing, medical assistance, achieving a Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED), aid to the homeless and many other worthwhile benefits for men subjected and victimized by the ills of society. It is refreshing to know that organizations such as New Hope are created to help people who are not able to help themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I salute The New Hope Foundation. We can learn a lot from their determination and their commitment to assisting the less fortunate. I congratulate New Hope on their accomplishments and I encourage them in their quest to empowering a part of America that is almost too often neglected.

SALUTE TO DR. JOHN S. MBITI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives a very special man, Dr. John S. Mbiti.

Dr. Mbiti has studied the attitudes of mind and belief that have evolved in the many societies of Africa. His interests are in biblical studies in relation to the expansion of Christianity and theological developments in Africa, Asia, and Oceania, and missiology, ecumenics, and the science of religion. Mbiti adds a new dimension to the understanding of the history, thinking, and life throughout the African continent. Religion is approached from an African point of view but is as accessible to readers who belong to non-African societies as it is to those who have grown up in African nations. The publication of his book "African Religions and Philosophy," has become essential reading for anyone concerned with African religion, history, philosophy, anthropology or general African studies.

As the representative of Elizabeth in Congress, I am proud of the accomplishments of Dr. John S. Mbiti. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Dr. John S. Mbiti for his numerous outstanding contributions to humankind.

HONORING PETER C. CAMPANELLI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the numerous achievements of Peter C. Campanelli during his fiftieth birthday celebration. His dedication to providing vital clinical

services to individuals afflicted with mental illness has been incomparable.

As an adjunct professor at Rutgers and as a supervisor of students working towards an expertise in Cognitive/Behavioral Psychotherapy, Dr. Campanelli has trained a new generation to deal with the intricacies of the mental health field. He also organized and directed the Institute for Community Living (ICL), a private not-for-profit corporation, for the purpose of development and operation of community residences for the mentally ill within the catchment areas of two large state psychiatric hospitals. ICL currently provides approximately five hundred and sixty residential beds within various levels of care. It is clear that Dr. Campanelli strives to provide vital services to a constituency desperate for health and social services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Peter C. Campanelli on his fiftieth birthday and thank him for sowing the seeds for others in our community to follow in his footsteps and provide the needed services for those who live there.

IN HONOR OF IRENE KLEMENTOWICZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Irene Klementowicz, a resident of my district who has fought hard to protect the environmental health of her community.

Ms. Klementowicz has actively worked to improve her community since she first arrived in Greenpoint. Among her many activities, she helped ensure that a local factory started implementing pollution controls. This was especially important since it was situated directly across from two schools.

This early activism led to an appointment to Community Board 1, where she continues to champion the health and safety of her district. Among her accomplishments, she can be credited with a hard-fought and successful campaign to shut down the Greenpoint incinerator, long a source of pollution and nuisance.

Ms. Klementowicz's efforts have been recognized by numerous civic organizations. The City Club of New York honored her with an award for grass-roots leadership to the Concerned Citizens of Greenpoint, of which she is president. This group was formed to address environmental conditions that are detrimental to the health of Greenpoint citizens.

Her selfless efforts on behalf of the Greenpoint community have earned her the respect, and in some cases trepidation, of numerous public officials. She is both a tireless opponent of environmental degradation, and a committed activist for improving the quality of life in her district.

The efficiency and effectiveness Irene Klementowicz has displayed in Greenpoint should serve as a model for all community activists. Without people like Ms. Klementowicz working to improve communities on the local level, our work as Members of Congress would be compounded tenfold. It is the hard-working people like Ms. Klementowicz who

keep alive the small-town feeling which could so easily be lost in a big city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Ms. Irene Klementowicz, a woman who has worked very hard to improve her community.

AMERICA'S CREDIT UNION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's Credit Unions. The United States Supreme Court ruled last week that the Depression-era statute which authorized the creation of our Nation's credit unions does not permit them to draw members from a variety of occupations. This decision will upset long-standing federal policies and the personal lives of 70 million credit union members and countless more workers who are considering their financial-planning options.

While the Supreme Court's ruling will stand as long as the statutes governing credit unions remain the same, Congress can act now to clarify the law and protect credit unions. H.R. 1151, "The Credit Union Membership Access Act," would permit credit unions to continue recruiting members according to their traditional practices. This bill has already received 182 co-sponsors, but it desperately needs more support to break its deadlock in Committee.

Credit Unions are the only source of financial services for many low-income Americans. It is unfortunate that I am the only Member of Congress from Mississippi—one of the poorest states in the Union—who is a co-sponsor of this bill even though there are over 419,000 thousand credit union members in Mississippi alone. Nonetheless, Congress can not afford to ignore this issue, and I sense the mood is changing here. Let us act swiftly and move to save credit unions by enacting this bill; more than 70 million Americans are waiting.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RHODA HOOPER

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an outstanding woman and worker, Rhoda Hooper, from my home state of New Hampshire.

Mrs. Hooper was recently named as the "Outstanding Older Worker" from our fine state and I believe she serves as an example to us all that ability is truly timeless.

At the age of 88, Mrs. Hooper is the type of person we would all like to be, and certainly would be lucky to hire. Her success story is both poignant and triumphant. Forced to find employment after the death of her husband, Mrs. Hooper entered the job market as an older worker without significant work experience outside the home or even a driver's license. But despite the odds seemingly stacked against her, Mrs. Hooper found work at New Boston Central School where she has

fulfilled the role of office aide and so much more for the past seven years.

Since she does not drive, on a pleasant day she walks the quarter mile from her home to her job where she never missed a day. Her strong work ethic seems to be matched only by the size of her generous heart. Despite demanding office duties, Mrs. Hooper takes the time to take a personal interest in each of the students. For instance, you will never find a student at New Boston Central School without mittens. She knows when any of the children are without them and makes sure they do not leave school without a hand-knit pair. If you've ever experienced a New Hampshire winter, you know just how wonderful that gift of warm mittens can be.

Her co-workers call her "a lifesaver and a joy to work with." The students affectionately call her "Grandma." I call her a "winner." Not just because she has won a richly deserved award, but because she is a role model for workers everywhere. Mrs. Hooper has overcome obstacles to achieve her goals and change her life, and in the process has enriched the lives of countless others.

I extend my best wishes to Mrs. Hooper as she receives her award and urge her to keep up the good work. She is truly a special person and I am privileged to recognize her here today.

NEWARK STUDENTS PRACTICE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the students of New Jersey for winning the Kindness and Justice Challenge. Pupils of New Jersey led the nation with 96,816 acts of kindness. Students from my home district of Newark, New Jersey led all municipalities with 30,615 good deeds. This is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent such model students.

The competition was started 3 years ago by Newark students who wanted to do something about all the negative images that faced their communities. Today we have over 40,000 pupils in over 12,000 classrooms participating in the contest across the nation. Good deeds are recorded on the Internet to keep an accurate account. Teachers had to pitch in during lunch breaks and at night because not all students had access to computers at home.

Newark students were led by Latoya Hedgespeth, a fifth grader at Madison Avenue School who recorded the most acts of kindness with 321 goods deeds. This truly exemplifies the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and should serve as a lesson to us all. The students were honored by Superintendent Beverly Hall and Mayor Sharpe James.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues will join me as I extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the students of New Jersey.

HONORING KANDACE V. SIMMONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of one of the hardest working young women in my district, Ms. Kandace V. Simmons.

Kandace is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Simmons Design Group, Ltd., a building design firm located in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Simmons Design Group was established in 1969 by her father, the late Harry Simmons, Jr. as Simmons Architects. Ms. Simmons over sees the strategic planning marketing, financial administration, and project management of the firm.

Prior to permanently joining the family business in 1994, Kandace had a varied career. After graduation from Yale University in 1988, she was a financial analyst with Chemical Bank. She later moved to New York City Department of General Services (DGS) becoming a senior policy analyst where she implemented City-wide cost savings initiatives. Ms. Simmons also coordinated activities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in city-owned buildings. In 1992, while still employed by DGS, she founded Simmons Entertainment, managing jazz musicians and producing concerts in Houston, TX.

At her father's request, Ms. Simmons returned to Simmons Architects in July, 1994 with overall responsibility for the business management of the firm. After the death of her father in October 1994, Ms. Simmons took charge of the company. In addition to managing Simmons Design Group, she is an architectural student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Kandace Simmons is the eldest child of the late Harry Simmons, Jr. and Dr. Sharon E. Simmons. She is also the sister of Harry Simmons III and Carlton Tarver.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Kandace Simmons for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and showing young women everywhere that they can do, and accomplish, anything.

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS IN MOLDOVA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues information about a serious human rights situation in the Trans-Dnestr region of Moldova.

Since 1993, the men known as the "Ilascu Six" have been imprisoned for allegedly murdering two separatists in this region.

The State Department's most recent human rights report for Moldova states that serious questions have been raised about the fairness of the trial of the "Ilascu Six" conducted by Trans-Dnestr officials. There is a strong belief that these men were persecuted for political reasons—solely because they are supporters of reunification with Romania.