

and not ourselves, for it is not of our making." I would like to recognize Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz for giving of themselves to the betterment of the community and utilizing their talents to help those in our community who have been less fortunate. I am pleased to congratulate the de la Cruz' for having recently been honored with the Simon Wiesenthal Award for Community Service.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center recognizes South Florida residents who have exhibited a spirit of true commitment and leadership in their community. After having been forced to flee communist aggression in Cuba in 1960, the de la Cruz' moved around the country, finally settling in Miami in 1975. Since then they have dedicated their efforts to improving the accessibility and quality of educational and social services available to our South Florida youth, as well as bringing awareness and appreciation for the arts.

While dedicating tremendous time and effort to our community's youth, they are also successful business owners. As board members for various foundations, they have also contributed to furthering the work of such wonderful institutions as the Dade Community Foundation, the Performing Arts Foundation of Greater Miami, and the United Way where they were honored with the 1997 Alexis de Tocqueville Award for community service. They have been an inspiring force in improving the quality of life for many South Florida residents.

HONORING THE HUFFINGTON CENTER ON AGING AT BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine as the center celebrates its tenth anniversary on April 7, 1998. The anniversary celebration will highlight the breakthrough research on aging conducted by the Center's internationally renowned scientists, as well as the contributions that older Americans can and do make throughout their lives.

The Huffington Center on Aging is committed to addressing the needs of an aging population by providing medical education and training, conducting basic and clinical science research, and delivering health care through Baylor College of Medicine-affiliated hospitals and other institutions. In just 10 years, the Center has grown to national and international stature in all of these areas, becoming one of the premier centers on aging in the world.

The Center's history dates to 1980, when Robert J. Luchi, M.D., current Director of the Huffington Center on Aging, established a Geriatric Evaluation Unit at the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), a Baylor-affiliated institution. As needs grew, the program and staff increased with support from the VAMC and Baylor's Department of Medicine. In early 1987, Baylor College of Medicine committed funds to create the Baylor Program in Aging, and the National Institute on Aging awarded a Geriatric Leadership Academic Award to Dr. Luchi as principal investigator

and James R. Smith, Ph.D., as co-principal investigator. In 1988, the Honorable Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington endowed the program to establish the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Center on Aging.

The Center facilitates and coordinates interdepartmental research and initiates its own research studies in areas including cell and molecular biology of aging, adrenal cell biology, aging of the skin, control of gene expression in cellular senescence, the aging cardiovascular system, health care outcomes research, and ethical issues in acute and long-term care settings.

The Center's educational opportunities include courses and seminars in the basic and clinical sciences for clinical practitioners, students, trainees, faculty, staff, and health professionals, as well as continuing medical education courses. The Center sponsors courses for medical students, geriatric medicine clinical rotations for medical residents, and an accredited Geriatric Fellowship Training Program.

Clinical faculty and trainees provide patient care to older persons through the Geriatric Medicine Associates of Baylor College of Medicine at Smith Tower and the Methodist Hospital; the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and several hospital and community long-term care facilities.

During its short history, the Huffington Center on Aging has produced some important research breakthroughs. Center researchers cloned a gene critical for control of cell proliferation, creating opportunities for treating certain conditions associated with aging, including cancer. The Center's computer experts and faculty developed a hypertext module for geriatric education of health professionals that has been nationally judged the most wanted new education tool in geriatrics. The Center has also been widely praised for creating one of the most successful community programs on health issues of importance to older women.

For its many successes, the Huffington Center on Aging has been named a national Center of Excellence in Geriatrics by the John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc., of New York. As such, the Huffington Center on Aging has the mandate to train the future national leaders in geriatrics and gerontology. Baylor College of Medicine has committed substantial additional resources to the Center and the Huffington family and other supporters of the Center continue to be generous in their support. As a result, the Center's educational programs embrace virtually all the health professions trained in the Texas Medical Center and allied institutions and extend widely throughout the state of Texas. The alliance between the Huffington Center and the Methodist Hospital is breaking new ground in the delivery of superb patient care to the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine for ten years of excellence and innovation in improving the quality of life for older people, and I look forward to even greater successes as they work to ensure healthier lives for older Americans in the 21st Century.

IN HONOR OF COMDR. RICHARD R. UZL, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Commander Richard R. Uzl, Jr. for his years of devoted service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of District 7 and to his country. Commander Uzl exemplifies the American spirit at the highest level.

A native Cleveland, Commander Uzl attended local schools and graduated from James F. Rhodes High School in January, 1963. Commander Uzl then made a crucial decision in his life: to serve in the armed forces of the United States. During a tumultuous time when the profession of serviceman was not exactly glamorous, Commander Uzl sacrificed his immediate future to serve his nation in its armed services. He joined the U.S. Air Force in February, 1963 and served four years in the Air Force until his discharge in 1967. He served as an aircraft mechanic, earning leadership position while serving in two world hotspots: Korea and Vietnam.

After leaving the Air Force, Commander Uzl chose to continue his education and earned two degrees from Applied Technology in Cleveland. However, Commander Uzl continued his association with our nation's armed services by becoming a charter member of "Old Brooklyn" VFW Post No. 10228 in 1988. Named Post Commander in 1991, Uzl worked his way through the ranks of County VFW offices, serving on numerous committees and administering the district Voice of Democracy program for patriotic youth. Currently, Commander Uzl is the District 7 Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a model American who has defended his country and continued Americanism and patriotism by serving with the VFW, Commander Richard R. Uzl, Jr.

SALUTING AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith. Ambassador Kennedy Smith has announced that she will be leaving Dublin this year, completing a remarkable diplomatic career in Ireland.

Under her leadership, the U.S. asserted its moral leadership and began to take an active role in the Irish peace process. Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith deserves much of the credit for helping to bring about the best opportunity for a just and lasting peace in Ireland in more than 75 years.

Jean Kennedy Smith is beyond all doubt the most active, dynamic and effective U.S. Ambassador in our entire history of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Ireland. She will be missed and it will be extraordinarily difficult to fill her shoes. I am proud to have worked closely with Ambassador Kennedy Smith and even more to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I submit an editorial analysis of Ambassador Kennedy Smith's remarkable legacy from the Irish Voice newspaper.

[From the Irish Voice, Mar. 18-24, 1998]

TIME TO RETHINK U.S. EMBASSY ROLE

The announcement that U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith will be leaving her post this summer brings to an end the most extraordinary chapter yet in Irish and American diplomatic relations.

She will be greatly missed, not just for her contribution to the peace process but for her overall energy and commitment to improving understanding and links between Ireland and America.

There will likely never be another ambassador like Kennedy Smith, who played such a crucial role in the Irish peace process and redefined the American/Irish diplomatic relationship in a way that has transformed that office forever.

Indeed, the major question following her departure should be whether it is now time to institutionalize what she has put in place—the acceptance that the U.S. ambassador in Dublin plays as important a role in Northern Ireland affairs as does the American envoy in London.

It has always exclusively been the purview of the London ambassador to report on and deliver assessments on Northern Ireland to the Secretary of State and the President. Just how flawed some of those assessments can be was highlighted by the recent memoirs of former U.K. ambassador Raymond Seitz, whose total involvement was to visit Northern Ireland once in a British army helicopter before sending back his "insights." He refused to meet SDLP leader John Hume on that trip, which surely endeared him to moderate Nationalist supporters.

At a time when the Irish government is likely to have a larger say in the affairs of the North, it seems fitting that the U.S. ambassador in Dublin should have significant input into State Department decision making, and that it should not again revert to being the sole concern of the U.S. ambassador in Britain.

There is also a need to keep a high caliber ambassador in Dublin such as Kennedy Smith. Proximity to the President matters most in such appointments, and there were few closer than Senator Edward Kennedy and his sister to Bill Clinton.

Before Kennedy Smith the occupants of the position tended to be elderly, well-heeled gentlemen—appointed mainly in return for financial contributions—who coasted for a few years in Dublin before retirement. The notion of Dublin as a sleepy backwater took hold, encouraged no doubt by those in the State Department who viewed Northern Ireland as a problem for the London embassy to deal with.

The notoriously pro-British slant in the State Department also extended to many in their Dublin embassy, a fact which caused Kennedy Smith no amount of problems. It is time that the embassy there reflected the importance of the Irish issue to the U.S., and also that Northern Irish specialists be appointed to Dublin.

Kennedy Smith has certainly made a start on this. Despite her lack of experience on Irish issues she entered the minefield of Northern Ireland and emerged not only unscathed but triumphant. At several critical moments in the peace process—most notably when the visa issue for Gerry Adams was being debated—she showed leadership and courage and withstood the slings and arrows of her opponents, many of whom worked through the British press to malign her.

She had her share of critics in the State Department too, who saw their long undis-

puted hegemony over Irish issues crumble. Events and history will prove her right in that debate.

The greatest send-off she could now receive would be another visit from the President to Ireland as part of a successful conclusion to the peace process. It is the least Jean Kennedy Smith deserves after such an impressive term of office.

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT TO SERVICE DEDICATION TO MR. FRED QUELLMALZ

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor an outstanding individual on his service to the success of citizen diplomacy, Mr. Fred Quellmalz. Mr. Quellmalz has been dedicated to service with the Sister Cities International for the past 40 years.

In 1956, Mr. Quellmalz and a select group of people met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House to discuss a people-to-people citizen diplomacy program. This program grew and became Sister Cities International. Mr. Quellmalz has been an active member of this program for the past 40 years and has helped to get people in the community involved with citizen diplomacy.

On April 18, 1998 the Illinois Chapter of Sister Cities International will honor Fred Quellmalz with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding dedicated service to the people in the community and to the life of the citizen diplomacy program. Mr. Quellmalz not only watched the program grow, but was actively involved in its progress. In fact, Mr. Quellmalz was founder of two chapters in Illinois, the Des Plaines and the Illinois State Chapter, as well as Treasurer for both organizations.

I would like to extend my very best wishes to Mr. Fred Quellmalz on his achievements with Sister Cities International as well as his dedicated community service.

THE PASSING OF FRANK WONG

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a great American, a man dedicated to the democratic principles that are at the very foundation of our country. Frank Wong died on March 9th after suffering a stroke. He was 79.

Mr. Wong founded the Chinese Democracy Education Foundation in San Francisco 13 years ago and was instrumental in coordinating protests and other activities in the Bay Area after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing. He was instrumental in the effort to bring the Goddess of Democracy, a replica on the statue created by the student protesters, to Portsmouth Square in Chinatown soon after the massacre. He also hosted many of the student dissidents who came to the United States as political refugees after the tragedy.

Mr. Wong was born in China in 1919, and came to the United States in the 1940's to study at New York University. His heart, however, was never far from his homeland, and inspired by the freedoms he enjoyed in this country, he returned to China to become the editor of a Chinese newspaper. His return would not be an easy one. The Chinese Communists were in control, and his ideas for a free and open society ran counter to the prevailing powers. In 1957, Communist Party officials had him arrested for his pro-democracy position and advocacy for human rights. He was sentenced to three years in a re-education forced labor camp.

After his release from prison, Frank Wong came back to the United States. Despite his hardship, his belief in the freedom of the human spirit could not be shaken. He remained committed to the principles of democracy and human rights in China. The Chinese Democracy Education Foundation is dedicated to promoting these values, and since its inception has given out 40 awards to individuals and groups which have worked towards achieving these goals.

As one who had the privilege of working with Frank, I was always impressed by his courage, dedication to democratic ideals and his gentle manner. It is with great regret and respect that I extend my deepest sympathy to Frank's wife, his children Eric and Joyce and his five grandchildren.

RED RIBBON WEEK IN BYRON DISTRICT #226

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to commend the efforts of the families, students, parents, and teachers of the communities of Byron, Mt. Morris, Oregon, and Stillman Valley, Illinois, as they launch this year's celebration of Red Ribbon Week, from March 30 to April 3. I extend a special thanks to Randy Vavra, his co-workers, and the many others involved in planning drug awareness activities for assisting in the coordination of this week. The significance of Red Ribbon Week and its impact on the young people in our communities is crucial to getting out the message that drug use destroys lives.

The Red Ribbon Campaign is a national effort organized to commemorate federal agent Enrique Camarena, who was tortured and murdered by drug traffickers in February 1985. In his memory, the Red Ribbon has become a symbol recognizing volunteers and professionals working in the field of drug and violence prevention, drug demand reduction, law enforcement, and treatment. These efforts are supported by schools, churches, media, law enforcement agencies, business, and government.

Although Red Ribbon Week is normally recognized in October, this year Byron and nearby communities have moved the celebration to the spring in order to bring in internationally renowned drug prevention speaker Milton Creagh. Mr. Creagh sports an impressive resume of professional and community activities for which he has received many honors and