

SALUTE TO EARTH ANGELS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate Earth Day—an important occasion that has raised our national consciousness about environmental protection. In celebration of this event, I would like to pay tribute to one of the most committed environmental groups in the United States today, St. Louis' Earth Angels.

The Earth Angels are a very special group of young environmentalists who are dedicated champions of our natural world. A grassroots group, there are now 150 Earth Angels working to preserve and protect the natural environment in our city. Many of the children who become Earth Angels come from homes of limited resources and few privileges. And they are courageously committed to improving their lives by helping to improve the quality of life in our community.

The Earth Angels have adopted a noble mission. They are working to preserve the natural life of our planet. These children have worked thousands of hours recycling garbage, planting trees and raising funds to help protect the environment. They created and recently expanded a Model Prairie Garden at the Delmar Landing Metrolink station and now are hard at work on their third butterfly garden established on a vacant inner city lot.

Over the years, the Earth Angels have received many national awards for their environmental achievements. Today the Earth Angels are receiving a "Renew America Award" from the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability (NACES), a coalition of 60 national environmental, nonprofit, government and business organizations including the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, AT&T, National Geographic and the Smithsonian Institution. Later this month, the Earth Angels will receive the National Arbor Day Foundation's Annual Award for 1998 in the category of Environmental Education. And recently St. Louis' Earth Angels received a Giraffe award from the Giraffe Foundation of Washington State—an honor given to those who have "stuck their necks out" for the common good.

Mr. Speaker. The Earth Angels are truly among the finest citizens in the city of St. Louis. These children are wise beyond their years and are sure to become tomorrow's leaders. The Earth Angels have the highest respect for the living world. They observe Earth Day every day. The Earth Angels are hard-working achievers who have made many invaluable contributions to the St. Louis community—I am proud to salute these outstanding young people.

TRIBUTE TO LORA LUCKS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lora Lucks, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She will be honored to-

morrow evening for her outstanding contributions to the community at the Ninth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance that will be hosted by the Association of Jewish Professionals, Inc. in New York.

Born and raised in Brooklyn and a graduate of Brooklyn College, Lora Lucks started her teaching career at Mark Twain Junior High School. Thirty one years ago she joined P.S. 48 in the Bronx where she started her supervisory career. For the past 22 years she has served as Principal at P.S. 48 and played a prominent role as a true educational leader.

In addition, Mrs. Lucks has been the Project Director of the Hunts Point Cultural Arts Center for the past 14 years. This after-school program nurtures the artistic talents and fosters a sense of pride and accomplishments in students within the South Bronx Community. Having forged a strong alliance with businesses, organizations, and foundations, Lora has been able to bring much-needed resources to the school and the children of Hunts Point.

Through her years of service she has been given several awards. In 1992 she was honored as the District 8 Supervisor of the year and in 1993 she was the recipient of the Reliance Award for Excellence in Education.

Mrs. Lucks is married and has two sons, Stuart and Robert, one grandson, Arie, and a daughter-in-law, Charlotte. Her husband, Solomon is a retired New York City educator and supervisor. He served as the chairman of the Technology Department at Bayside High School for 27 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lora Lucks for her outstanding achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community.

THE PEOPLE OF BAYONNE
REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the people of Bayonne, New Jersey for the commitment they have made to honor the victims of the Holocaust. On May 4, 1998, the Inter-Faith Clergy and the Bayonne Jewish Community Council will sponsor The Holocaust Memorial Observance Program at the City Hall Council Chambers of Bayonne to acknowledge the fifty-second anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps of Europe at the end of the Second World War.

We must never forget that from 1933 to 1945, more than six million Jews were tortured and killed in the Holocaust.

I bring this event being held in Bayonne to the attention of my colleagues as a reminder that it has become the duty of us all, as citizens of a free and democratic society, to maintain an unwavering vigilance in order to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never repeated. This responsibility is dedicated to the observance of Yom Hasboab, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

By honoring the memory of those slain in the Holocaust and by emphasizing the importance of remaining vigilant against bigotry and tyranny, the people of Bayonne are doing their part to ensure that such atrocities will never again be committed.

VINCENT A. BERGAMO'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HARNESS RACING

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to announce the well deserved retirement of Vincent A. Bergamo from the New York State Racing and Wagering Board. There will probably never be another individual who has accomplished or meant as much to the sport of Harness Racing as Vincent Bergamo has. Due to Vincent's career of hard work and dedication, harness racing has been improved for the better.

Having had the honor and distinction of working with Vince, I believe he exemplifies all that is great about this sport: he is dedicated, hard working and honest. Mr. Bergamo has served Harness Racing for 40 years and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Bergamo's distinguished career began in 1958 at the Monticello Raceway. However, his love for harness racing began long before. As a native of Goshen, NY, Vince early became acquainted with the sport. As a young man he worked as a stable boy for the Harriman Family and then for five years, while teaching history and math in Middletown NY, he worked summers as a judge at several race tracks. At the age of 23, Vince's love for the sport became a full time commitment, as he became the youngest Presiding Judge in the history of the Saratoga Harness Racing Track.

Throughout his distinguished career Vince fulfilled the presiding judge responsibilities at every track in New York State and at tracks in the state of Florida, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Known for being tough, but fair, Vince fostered an environment of true integrity and competitiveness in the sport wherever he went.

As one of its founding members, Mr. Bergamo has been devoted and responsible for saving and preserving the Goshen Historic Track, the oldest existing sporting site in the United States. The Goshen Historic Track was greatly endangered when the Harriman Family relinquished its title after nearly a century of ownership. Vince's exhaustive efforts, purely voluntary, on behalf of the track, directly led to its designation as a Historic Site in the National Register. Today, the men and women who serve on the Goshen Historic Track Board of Directors successfully keep the track alive and well, as a non-profit corporation.

During his illustrious career Mr. Bergamo has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and honors, including: 1994 William Houghton Memorial; 1993 Elected Trustee of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame and Museum; 1992 Presidents Medal of Harness Racing; 1991 National Amateur Lifetime Award; 1987 USHWA Distinguished Service; 1986 Recognized for 25 Years Historic Track with "Bergamo Day"; 1986 Member of the USHWA; 1971 Founded C.K.G. Billings Series; 1961 Founded the Goshen Matinee Program.

Along with all of his accomplishments, Vincent A. Bergamo is also a family man, who has raised 10 children: 7 sons and 3 daughters. He is a dedicated man, whether it be to

his family or to the sport, and there will never be another quite like him. His years of selfless volunteering have earned him a long and plentiful retirement.

Mr. Speaker I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting a remarkable man on the conclusion of his great career, and in wishing Vince, his wife, and their family many years of good health and happiness in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRED SENIOR
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF HOUSTON
AND HENRY COUNTIES

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the House a very special group from my congressional district celebrating a milestone of public service to the people of Southeast Alabama.

I am speaking about the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Houston and Henry Counties in the Alabama Wiregrass region. This month this organization celebrates 25 years of community volunteerism and selfless public service.

Founded locally in 1973, the RSVP provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for people who are retired or semi-retired. During the past quarter century, the RSVP's volunteers have impacted Houston County, Alabama with 2 million hours of service. If you were to convert that to a monetary value, it would exceed \$10 million.

Federally funded by the Corporation of National Service and sponsored by the Zonta Club of the Dothan Area Incorporated, the RSVP is making a difference in the lives of many Alabamians. I am very proud to salute the RSVP of Houston and Henry Counties as they commemorate 25 years of helping others. I join all my colleagues in wishing them 25 more productive and beneficial years of community service.

EARTH DAY RECOGNITION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of 4-H while growing up in eastern Connecticut, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the results of a recent national poll conducted by 4-H and Honda, which shows the American people are demanding more vigilance from the U.S. government and industry in safeguarding the environment.

According to the EarthView survey released this week, teenagers and baby boomers agree that government and industry are falling short of their environmental obligations and that time is running out to protect the Earth from permanent environmental damage.

Sixty-three percent of teens and 64% of boomers agree that government leaders are not concerned about the future impact of today's environmental problems.

Eighty-two percent of teens and 76% of boomers think government leaders should do more to control pollution from the oil and chemical industries, even if that increases the price of oil.

The American people have rejected the extreme policies of the anti-environmentalists in Congress. In fact, every poll conducted since the 1994 election, which includes questions about the environment, demonstrates the vast majority of the American people support the progress of the past twenty five years. Moreover, a majority of Americans continue to reject the false choice between the environment and economic growth. Public opinion aside, the Republican Party is committed to rolling back important protections which guarantee every American can enjoy a healthy environment. I have opposed these dangerous attacks on the House floor as well as a former member of the Resources Committee.

I remain committed to preserving the fundamental tenets of our most important environmental statutes. While we have made tremendous progress over the last generation, we must remain vigilant. The American people do not believe we have gone too far and that it's time to turn back the clock. We need to continue our efforts to improve water quality to ensure our children will be able to enjoy our precious natural resources like the Quinebaug and Shetucket rivers in eastern Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We must preserve endangered plants and animals for their aesthetic, economic and pharmacological benefits. National standards must be maintained to ensure every American, regardless of where they live, will receive certain basic protections and to guarantee taxpayers in our state do not see their investments rendered meaningless by actions of our neighbors. Finally, changes to major statutes must be fully debated before the American people and not brought about through backdoor tactics.

Finally, I would like to submit for the RECORD an op-ed piece by William Strauss and Neil Howe which appeared in USA Today regarding this survey. Be assured that I will continue to fight to preserve, and further, the gains of the past twenty-five years and I hope you will join me in the fight.

GRANDPA SURE WOULD LIKE THIS EARTH DAY
(By William Strauss and Neil Howe)

The original Earth Day, April 22, 1970, took place when the fabled "generation gap" between young boomers and their middle-age parents was at its widest. Back then, eco-activists openly loathed the pro-construction mind-set of the dominant "can-do" G.I. generation.

The times, they are (again) a-changin'. A new generational wave is about to break over the environmental movement as the boomers' own "can-do" kids come of age, according to a new poll.

ENTER THE 'MILLENNIALS'

Today's teens are the front ranks of the Millennial Generation, 1980s babies who are now populating American middle and high schools. Whereas their boomer parents were better talkers than doers, these Millennial kids are doers first, the poll says.

Millennials are no more like Generation X than inner-driven Xers were like boomers. Through the 1980s and early '90s, Gen X teens commonly viewed Earth Day not as boomer-style "eco-awareness," but rather as an occasion to do something personal, local and manageable. They'd recycle, pick up litter or tidy up a park. All that was useful, but it

narrowed the crusading spirit of the original Earth-Day activism.

Earth View, a new poll conducted by the National 4-H Council and Honda, compares the environmental views of 1,000 American teen-agers ages 13-18 with those of 1,000 of their parents, now in their 40s and early 50s. The poll reveals that the "eco-awareness" of Earth Days gone by soon may be supplanted by "eco-action."

Consider this. Three out of five boomer parents believe their own generation cares more about the environment than their kids do. Talking isn't doing, though. Millennials agree that their parents' generation cares as much about the environment as they do, but they see their own generation as far more inclined to take concrete action.

Where boomer parents are somewhat more likely than their kids to have donated to eco-causes or to have boycotted polluters' products, more Millennials have actually cleaned up or measured pollution, the poll shows.

Today's teens are more willing than their parents—or than teens a decade ago—to dig into their pockets. Seven in 10 say they would support shelling out 50 cents more per gallon for gasoline to make the air cleaner. Nearly eight in 10 would pay 50 cents more per compact disc to fund plastic-recycling programs.

Where the Earth Days of the '70s reflected a distrust of technology—recall the burying of automobiles—the Earth Days of the next century are likely to celebrate it. Aging boomers and Millennials overwhelmingly agree that technology can play a major role in safeguarding the planet.

ACTIVISM REVIVED

More than their parents, today's teens feel an urgency about the environment. Yet the Earth View poll also shows them to be more optimistic that they can do something about it. Fully 86% believe that it's their generation—and only 9% believe that it's boomers—whose actions today will matter most in 20 or 25 years.

If current trends continue, eco-activism early in the next century could become a modern version of what it was in the 1930s. That's when uninformed workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps cut trails, planted trees, and built enormous flood-control and power-generation edifices.

And who were those civic doers whose attitudes remind us of today's teens? The same G.I. Generation that won World War II—and then came home to create suburbia and give birth to the boomers.

The boomers' own environmental visions may be achieved by their children, whose attitudes resemble the boomers' parents. Yet it's the G.I. generation's grand constructions that the original Earth Day activists so often condemned. How ironic.

Neil Howe and William Strauss are co-authors of *Generations*, 13th-Gen and *The Fourth Turning*.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY CHAPTER OF SIGMA DELTA PI

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to epsilon Kappa. St. John's University's Chapter of sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Society which, for seventy-seven years has been promoting Hispanic culture and language in the United