

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SALUTE TO THE COMMUNITY OF LINCOLN PARK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the community of Lincoln Park, which celebrates its 105th anniversary this year.

Located in the city of Rockville, MD, Lincoln Park has managed to keep the history and traditions of a self-contained community. Lincoln Park is a predominantly African-American community, unique not only for the respect with which it treats its heritage, but also for the manner in which its residents have chosen to connect with one another. They have continued their dedication to working as a community, in the same manner that their ancestors did long ago.

The Lincoln Park community was started in February 1891 when Mr. William Welsh purchased several tracts of land in a place known as Valentine Garden Enlarged. On June 30, 1891, Ms. Ella Martin became the first black landowner at Lincoln Park, purchasing her land for \$80. Deaconess Helda Martin became Lincoln Park's second black landowner that same day, also for the sum of \$80. Descendants of these original landowners still live in Lincoln Park, a sign of the great respect that this community reserves for its history.

With the month of February designated Black History Month, it is only to be expected that a community so rich in African-American history would seek to share and explore its roots. The Lincoln Park Historical Society will be having their 19th Annual Black History Program at Richard Montgomery High School on February 24. As befits a group of citizens who truly believe in the concept of a community, this program will focus on the young people of our society whose hopes and dreams will be the future of Lincoln Park and of America.

The willingness to work for a true sense of community gives Lincoln Park a mission which is all too unique in today's society. The effort to retain and continue the traditions of their history give the community respect for their ancestors and vision for their descendants. For 105 years the people of Lincoln Park have dedicated themselves to this ethos, and for 105 years neighbors have greeted each other by name and taken pride in what they, as a unit, have built.

Mr. Speaker, it is a proud moment for me to pay tribute to Anita Neal Powell, founding president of the Lincoln Park Historical Society [LPHS], Deacon Leroy Neal, vice-president of the LPHS, and William Gordon, who will be the historical conductor for the anniversary program, for their hard work and their dedication in preserving and promoting the rich history of this important community. I hope that everyone will join me in wishing the whole Lincoln Park community a most happy and successful 105th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MICHELE RUSSO FOR DISTINGUISHED AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF HOBOKEN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michele Russo, an outstanding individual who has distinguished herself by her selfless dedication to the residents of Hoboken. Ms. Russo will be honored today at the Ninth Annual Lincoln Day Dinner sponsored by Senator Bernard F. Kenny and the Lincoln Day Dinner Committee.

The commemoration celebrates the generous contributions made by Ms. Russo to her hometown of Hoboken. Lincoln's birthday is an appropriate day to celebrate Ms. Russo's achievements because of her talent in unifying people. As an active member of the Anthony Russo Civic Organization, Ms. Russo's coordination of community programs has earned much respect. In one program, local senior citizens have been fortunate recipients of flowers on major holidays. For the past 2 years, FAITH Service, an AIDS resource center, has greatly benefited from an event co-chaired by Ms. Russo.

Family plays a major role for our esteemed honoree. A lifelong resident of Hoboken, Ms. Russo is the former Michele DeStefano, daughter of Mary and Pasquale DeStefano. When it came time to think about marriage, Michele married Anthony Russo who was subsequently elected mayor of Hoboken. This joyful union produced three sons to carry on the family tradition of community involvement: Nicky, Michael, and Anthony.

Ms. Russo has a strong interest in building a bright and positive future for the youth of Hoboken. She was instrumental in securing funding to erect the Florence Reilly Casazza concession stand at Hoboken High School's JFK Stadium. Ms. Russo is an active committee member of Boy Scout Troop 20 at St. Ann's Church in Hoboken.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and considerate woman residing in my district. Michele Russo exemplifies community service at its best. I am certain my colleagues will join me in recognition of this superb community leader.

HONORING THE LATE ALEC COURTELIS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 20, 1996

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Floridian, Alec

Courtelis, who died last month at the age of 68. Alec's life defined the American success story. He came to America as a 20-year-old Greek immigrant and persevered to achieve great success as a Florida developer, breeder of Arabian racehorses, chairman of the board of regents, and as a major player in the national political arena.

As a teenager growing up in Alexandria, Egypt, Alec watched John Wayne movies and dreamed of one day moving to America. At 20, he was accepted to the University of Miami and traveled 7,000 miles across the Mediterranean and Atlantic to begin life in a country that would not inhibit his hopes and aspirations.

Upon graduation from the University of Miami, Alec worked as an engineer for 5 years before launching a thriving career in real estate development and construction. Under Alec's direction, Florida swamps and sand pits were converted into lavish housing developments and upscale shopping malls. Included in Alec's projects were the Falls in South Dade, Skylake in Northeast Dade, Town Park Estates in the Coral Park area, and University Lakes in Miami.

Alec strongly embraced this country and the belief that each person can make a difference. He became well entrenched in the political arena, not only locally, but on a national scale. Alec's accomplishments were not limited to real estate and politics; he was also a major player in the Arabian racehorse business. The Courtelis' owned a 320-acre farm near Gainesville that provided both a home for their champion stallions and a place for the family to spend time together.

Perhaps the triumph for which Alec will be best remembered was his battle with cancer. When Alec was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer in 1993, he told doctors that he could not accept their prognosis; he still had too much to do. Although Alec was told to get his estate in order as he had only a few months left, he beat the odds for 2 incredible years and attributed his success to psychotherapy and a positive mental attitude. He devoted himself to legitimizing alternative treatments and to sharing his amazing experience with others. The University of Miami's new Courtelis Center for Research and Treatment in Psychosocial Oncology furthers Alec's devotion to lending validity to alternative treatments and provides new hope for its patients.

A sign at Alec's farm read, "It's performance that counts." This is a motto that Alec abided by throughout his life. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Alec Courtelis.

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