

care for migrant workers received national recognition.

In the following decade, the agency participated in the Salk vaccine testing program and gave field training to graduate nursing students from Rutgers University and Columbia. The Thrift Shop opened its doors in Manasquan in 1960. Also in the 1960s, the agency and the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders worked out a plan for countywide bedside nursing care.

The high quality of nursing, the aging of the population, the growing costs of hospital care and advances in home care technology led to explosive growth in home care services in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979, the agency formally changed its name to MCOSS Nursing Services. In 1988, service was expanded to Middlesex County through acquisition of the Visiting Nurse Association in Middlesex. In an effort to make the organization's identity clear in both Middlesex County and Monmouth County, the agency's trustees voted in December 1993 to adopt the name Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. (A visiting nurse association is a freestanding, community-based, nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of trustees, providing intermittent care in the home and helping to support itself through fund-raising.)

Significant developments of the 1980s and 1990s included creation of VNACJ Community Services, the administrative umbrella for grant-funded services and fund-raising programs; the foundation of the hospice program; growth of the rehabilitative services department; and establishment of primary care centers staffed by nurse practitioners. In 1988, the hospice program was certified by Medicare, and now serves more than 700 terminally ill patients and their families annually.

From mobile health clinics in the 1920s, services to migrants in the 1940s, hospice care in the 1980s, primary care in the 1990s, expansion of school-based clinics in 2000 to the introduction of advanced home care technology in 2001, the venturesome spirit of that early group of volunteers continues to infuse an organization which has consistently been in the vanguard of community health in this nation.

As VNA of Central Jersey celebrates its 90th year, it also pays tribute to Judith Stanley Coleman on her 25th anniversary as Chairman. First as trustee and then as the agency's sixth chairman, Mrs. Coleman has been an outstanding leader, advocate and supporter of the organization. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the voluntary nonprofit agency continue to honor its commitment to provide care to all in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

COMMENDING MR. LOWELL R.
OVERTON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Lowell R.

Overton, broker and co-owner of Coldwell Banker Realty in Diamond Bar, California.

Mr. Overton graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in social science followed in 1977 with a bachelor of science degree in behavioral science, accompanied with a criminal justice and corrections certificate.

After graduation from Cal Poly Pomona, Mr. Overton started his career in real estate at Goldenwest Realtors and Associates in Diamond Bar, where he quickly became office "Top Producer." He later joined Prudential California Realty in 1989. During his tenure there, he was honored with a total of eight Pinnacle Awards, representing placement among the top ten individuals nationally. In 1993, he was named National Champion of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates topping more than 38,000 agents nationwide. In doing so, he personally closed \$35 million in residential income and a total of 187 homes, becoming the first person in company history to generate more than 1 million dollars in gross commission income. In 1995, he was the recipient of the prestigious Legend Award, which is given to agents within the company exhibiting extraordinary "perseverance, expertise and consistency" in the course of their careers.

As an alumnus, Overton has been a strong supporter for many years of the Behavioral Sciences Department and the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences at Cal Poly Pomona. He has provided an endowment to fund a scholarship for an outstanding psychology, sociology or behavioral science major, which has enabled the department to make nine awards to date. He is also the founder of the CLASS Alumni Chapter Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Behavioral Sciences Department Endowed Scholarship Fund. He has also endowed the Lowell Overton Award for the Presidents Council Scholarship for the College of Letters Arts and Social alumni chapter, currently serving as the chapter's president. He is a director on the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, a member of the Kellogg Voorhis Heritage Society and the President's Council. Overton has also participated numerous times in the Professor for a Day Program and the Behavioral Sciences Department Honors Luncheon. He has also brought Cal Poly Pomona together with local statewide political leaders, most recently co-sponsoring a reception for California State Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

Thank you, Lowell for all of your hard work and dedication to California State Polytechnic University Pomona and to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CONNECTION COMMITTEE OF
THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
SORORITY, INCORPORATED

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives to join me in paying tribute to the members of the International Connection Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their outstanding years of service as leaders in the community.

For 60 years, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a registered 501(c)(7) nonprofit, nonpartisan fraternal organization, has been an active participant in fostering political activities. The Sorority's involvement has ranged from organizing the Nonpartisan Lobby for Economic and Democratic Rights to press for political, social and economic justice for African Americans to the establishment of the Office of Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing the importance of engaging its members in public policy initiatives and political campaign activities, the International Connection Committee became a reality in 1980 at the International Convention. The Committee's first major initiative was a nationwide "voter blitz" to mobilize the African American community to vote in the 1980 General Election. In 1998, members joined with the NAACP for the Mass Demonstration at the U.S. Supreme Court to protest the lack of minority law clerks employed by the Justices. To build on the success of the inaugural committee, the 1998–2000 International Connection Committee continued to move the public policy program by implementing a wide range of events including voter education and registration activities, training sessions for members who sought elective and appointive office, and AKA Lobby Days.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize the members of the 2000–2002 International Connection Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for their efforts to continue the work of an organization rich in both history and service. The members are Juanita Orr, Chairman; and representatives Lenora Gerald, North Atlantic Region; Leyser Morris-Hayes, South Eastern Region; Vivian Burke, Mid-Atlantic Region; Jenelle Elder-Green, Central Region; Vertelle Middleton, South Atlantic Region; Tari Bradford, South Central Region; Nancy Quarles, Great Lakes Region; Kimberly Scott, Mid-Western Region; Dawn Bobbitt, Far Western Region; Frances Molloy, International Region; Dorothy R. Jackson, Resource & Washington, D.C. Chairman of Millennium Public Policy Conferences, and Dr. Norma Solomon White, International President. I also acknowledge with pride and respect the many Connection Committee activists who preceded the current Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring the members for their exceptional service to our community. We are fortunate to have noble citizens like them to provide essential services and support to our society.