

women Justices. During the course of her career, she witnessed encouraging changes taking place for women in the state political arena, but her hard work and leadership made Wahl one of the true "pioneers." Wahl has said, "I feel we as women move forward together . . . none of us can really get where we are today without the help of other women and the men who have given us a hand." Prior to becoming a Supreme Court Justice, Wahl worked for the State Public Defender starting in 1967, where she argued over 100 cases before the Supreme Court, upon which she would later serve herself. Wahl attended William Mitchell College of Law, where she later served as an assistant professor and ran the Clinical Criminal Program prior to joining Minnesota's highest court.

Joan Anderson Growe is the six-term Secretary of State of Minnesota and is the state's first woman constitutional officer to be elected in her own right. Her public life reflects a deep commitment to citizen participation and openness. As Secretary of State, Growe has led Minnesota in becoming an elections model for the nation. She instituted mandatory election judge training, had election safeguard laws enacted, and supervised election law recodification. Minnesota's statewide on-line computerized voter registration database is one of the first in the nation. Growe has assembled a coalition of public and private sector organizations and businesses to conduct a Get-Out-the-Vote drive in every general election. Minnesota led the nation in voter participation in 1976, 1980, 1984, and 1988 and tied with Maine in 1992 and 1996. She organized the National Advertising Council's first Get-Out-the-Vote drive in 1980.

Pamela G. Alexander is the Assistant Chief Judge of the Hennepin County District Court where she has served for the past 15 years. Her commitment to community service is evident both in and out of the courtroom. In the Hennepin County District Court, she serves on numerous committees which represent a wide range of issues. These include the Sexual Assault Coordinating Board, the Public Safety Facility Advisory Board, the Grand Jury Task Force, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. The Minnesota Supreme Court has also named her to the Racial Bias Task Force where she currently serves as Chair of the Implementation Committee for her district. Alexander has received several community service awards, including the Minnesota Minority Lawyers Profiles in Courage Award. She also serves as a motivational speaker for local youth, making many appearances in churches and schools throughout the year.

Alana Blahoski is one of two Minnesota women to have played on the gold-medal winning United States women's ice hockey team in the 1998 Winter Olympics. Her athletic achievements demonstrate genuine perseverance and dedication. A St. Paul native, Blahoski graduated from Johnson High School, where she was a three-time all-star hockey player. She graduated from Providence College in 1996. At Providence, she served as co-captain on the women's ice hockey team as a senior and was named the 1995-96 Eastern College Athletic Conference Co-Player of the Year. Blahoski went on to become a two-time member of the U.S. Women's National Team, recording two goals and four assists in ten games. She also appeared on U.S. Women's Select Teams in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

Jennifer Schmidgall is the second Minnesota woman to have been a member of the U.S. women's 1998 Olympic ice hockey team, showing exemplary athletic ability and sharing the excitement of earning a team gold medal at a young age. A native of Edina, Schmidgall's interest in ice hockey sparked during visits to an outdoor rink at Lewis Park with her father, where she would skate and watch him play hockey. She started playing "serious" hockey in the eighth grade. By 1995 she was a member of the U.S. Women's National Junior Ice Hockey Team, appearing on the team again in 1996. Schmidgall graduated from Edina High School in 1997. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota this year, where she would like to study business management and psychology.

I am pleased to honor these remarkable women in celebration of Women's History Month. I thank each of them for their contributions to the state of Minnesota and I wish them continued success in the future.

EAGLE SCOUT HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues an outstanding young individual from the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois who has completed a major goal in his Scouting career. Kevin J. Zielinski, a young man from Boy Scout Troop 358, Midlothian, Illinois will be honored at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

It is important to note that less than two percent of all Scouts in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those Scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities.

Kevin has clearly demonstrated such leadership abilities. When flood victims in North Dakota were in need of basic necessities, he took action. Kevin Zielinski led a group of volunteers that collected household cleaning supplies and personal care items for these victims of adverse circumstances. Through his achievements in Scouting, Kevin has shown that he is the kind of young man who can be counted upon to provide leadership in the community throughout his life.

Kevin also has the honor of being the 40th Eagle Scout from Troop 358. This shows that he has been successful in a highly disciplined organization of young men, promoting the kinds of values and achievements that we will always need to keep America a great nation.

In light of the commendable leadership and courageous activities performed by this fine young man, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kevin J. Zielinski for attaining the highest honor in Scouting—the Rank of Eagle. Let us wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

DR. RUGGIERO HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished physician from Northeastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Nicholas Ruggiero. Dr. Ruggiero will be honored at a retirement dinner this week and I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute.

A native of Pittston, Pennsylvania, Dr. Ruggiero graduated from Pittston High School in 1953. His parents could not afford tuition, so he worked his way through King's College before joining the army to acquire the money for medical school. He received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1966. He interned close to his hometown at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and completed his residency and a fellowship at Jefferson.

During his fifteen-year tenure as the Director of the Coronary Care Unit at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Dr. Ruggiero began the Cardiac Lab at General Hospital. Its success led to the first open heart program in the area. Heart disease can now be diagnosed and treated at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ruggiero's successes with the Cardiac Lab and open heart program in Wilkes-Barre meant that heart patients could stay in Northeastern Pennsylvania for treatment. This was a major contribution to the region's medical community.

I am proud to be a part of a tribute to this fine physician and to have had the opportunity to bring his career and accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues. I join with his friends, his family, and the community in sending my very best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

THE SAFE ACT (H.R. 695) IS DETRIMENTAL TO ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, below is the Clinton Administration's official position regarding the effect of immediate decontrol of encryption technology on Israel.

The potential consequences of an immediate decontrol of encryption exports is of international concern. This is not an issue for United States alone. As proposed in H.R. 695 (the SAFE ACT), the immediate decontrol of encryption exports would likely result in the proliferation of strong encryption to entities such as terrorists groups which then could use encryption to hide their plans and intentions. Such a move will have a destabilizing effect on national security worldwide.

The proponents of H.R. 695 maintain that our enemies and Israel's enemies will eventually possess encryption technology. This may be true, but fails to explain why we should rush to make this technology available to our enemies. The United States and Israel need time to develop a strategy and countermeasures to address these new technologies.

and for this reason H.R. 695 should be opposed.

DRURY PANTHER'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAMS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Drury Panther's Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving Teams. During the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Swimming & Diving National Championship this year the men placed second overall for the second year in a row and the women placed first overall for the second year in a row. I congratulate both the men and women for their tremendous success at the national level. Even though these teams are made of great athletes, their success did not come easily. It came by spending between twenty-four to thirty hours a week in the pool. It came swimming between forty-two and sixty miles, six days a week. When you stop and realize that their time and commitment to swimming and diving doesn't happen in isolated preparation but as full time students at a college known for their high academic standards, it causes you to appreciate these student-athletes even more for their accomplishments both individually and as a team.

The Drury Panther's Swimming and Diving program is a program of success. It has been compared to the tradition of Nebraska Cornhusker football or Kentucky basketball. Only four years ago, Drury entered competition at the NCAA Division II level and both teams placed third overall in the first and second years. Before entering Division II, the men's team won seven national championships back to back at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) level. The women's program was established in 1988 and claimed three national championships at the NAIA level before going on the NCAA Division II. Any athletic program becoming a national force in ten years is almost unheard of at any level of competition. Much of that credit goes to Coach Brian Reynold's, a former All-American swimmer for Drury. He has been named National-Coach-of-the-Year at the NAIA level and the women's NCAA Division II Coach of the Year last season.

I congratulate Coach Reynold's, his coaching staff and most especially the young men and women on the Drury Swimming and Diving team for their success this year and wish them continued successes in the years to come.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MISS VALARIE K. WOLFE

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the

name of Valarie K. Wolfe, of Harrisburg, PA, in my congressional district. The late Miss Wolfe was a fourth-grade teacher at the Milton Hershey School, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, from 1967 to 1997. I am pleased to report that a flag of the United States of America was flown over the Capitol on February 6, 1998, in Miss Wolfe's honor.

The Milton Hershey School was founded with a Deed of Trust as a school for orphan boys in 1909 by the chocolate magnate Milton S. Hershey and his wife, Catherine, for they could not have children of their own. After Catherine's death, Mr. Hershey gave his life fortune to the school so that it would last in perpetuity. Today, the school has more than seventy-three hundred alumni and has an enrollment of over one thousand needy boys and girls.

Miss Wolfe, a recipient of the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, was a graduate of Shippensburg University and a member of the Zion Lutheran Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher and played the piano. Miss Wolfe was also very active with the Dauphin Dog Training Club, where she was an instructor for many years. She often took her fourth-grade students to the Club to try to instill in them love and respect for animals. Her great love of animals was indicative of her kind, generous, and warm personality. In addition, Miss Wolfe enjoyed teaching children through drama, for she was involved in many of the plays presented in the elementary school, Memorial Hall. Throughout her long and extraordinary career, Miss Wolfe has made lasting impressions on those who have had the honor to have known her. She was well known for inspiring students and teachers alike during her three decades of service at Milton Hershey School.

Let the record reflect today that there is currently a void at the Milton Hershey School that will not soon be filled. Miss Wolfe always taught her fourth-grade pupils with dedication, understanding, patience, and love. I am honored to have had, in my congressional district, such a wonderful teacher who has touched the lives of so many. She will be missed, indeed.

THE PASSING OF FORMER MEMBER HON. BELLA ABZUG OF NEW YORK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to note the passing of a former Member who, in fact, was a noteworthy Member of the Congress.

When Bella Abzug was first elected to the Congress in 1970, she had the distinction of becoming the first Jewish woman to serve in this chamber. She soon became a household word not only in her own Congressional District in Manhattan, but throughout the nation.

On her very first day in Congress, she introduced legislation requiring the immediate withdrawal of all American forces from Southeast Asia. Although her resolution was defeated, it served notice to the Congress, the White House, and the nation at large that here was a Congressperson who was willing to make waves on behalf of her beliefs.

Soon, Bella Abzug was famous for introducing the resolution which forced the White House to make public the so-called "Pentagon Papers." As an ardent supporter of the Equal Rights for Women Amendment to the Constitution, she is credited with coining the well known phrase: "A woman's place is in the House—and also the Senate!"

Although at the time Bella Abzug had a reputation for abrasiveness, in fact she paved the path for many other women who followed her into this chamber, and for this we owe her a tremendous debt.

In 1976, Bella Abzug conducted an unsuccessful campaign for U.S. Senate, in which she was defeated by DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, who continues to serve to this day. A year later, she was an unsuccessful candidate for Mayor of New York City. Although never again elected to public office, she remained a force for the causes she espoused until her death earlier today due to complications from heart surgery at the age of 77.

Bella survived her husband, Martin, an attorney, by 12 years. Those of us who knew Bella and Martin will never forget that dynamic team whose dedication was to a better life for all of us.

Bella Abzug will be buried at a private funeral on Thursday, with a public memorial at a time and location to be announced later.

To her daughters, Isobel and Eve Gail, and to her sister, Helen Alexander, we extend our heartfelt condolences. The world is a better place because of Bella Abzug.

HONORING MR. ELIO ROCA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today it is an honor to recognize Mr. Elio Roca, a musical artist and actor well known to Hispanic audiences.

The Cuban patriot Jose Marti once said: "Men of action, above all, those whose actions are guided by love, live forever. Other famous men, those of much talk and few deeds, soon evaporate. Action is the dignity of greatness." Those words describe Elio Roca.

Mr. Roca has sung to sold out concerts in his native Argentina and has realized dozens of appearances on stages in Latin America and the United States. His performances at Madison Square Garden and the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles won critical acclaim. Mr. Roca is also known as one of the brightest actors in Latin America.

It must also be noted that this Argentinean native has been a supporter of human rights and a crusader against the Castro tyranny. He has written and dedicated a song entitled "To My Cuba I Shall Return" for all those Cubans who live in exile. Mr. Roca has been invited to tour the oppressed Cuban nation time and time again, and his answer has always been the same simple yet powerful response of a man of action, "never, never while Fidel is there."

Mr. Speaker, Elio Roca is a talented artist, a proud Argentinean, a friend of the Cuban people and above all, to quote a Cuban patriot "a man of action."