

of the presidential cabinet, and other policy-makers in extensive dialogue about the legislative process. I am extremely honored to salute Mrs. Gussie Jones, who has been selected as my Congressional Senior Citizen Intern. Mrs. Jones was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. A graduate of Case Western Reserve University, she is the type of person that my district is proud to have produced. Not only has Mrs. Jones handled the responsibilities associated with being a mother, grandmother and most recently being a great grandmother, but she is also a political activist and public speaker whose words of wisdom are well sought after in the Cleveland area. She has on many occasions represented me at various functions.

Mr. Speaker, for 32 years Mrs. Jones dedicated her career to being an assistant manager in the General Services Department and a member of the Ohio Bell Speakers Bureau. Her affiliations include the Inner Church Council, the Executive Board #1 of the Eliza Bryant Home for the Aged, the League of Women Voters, and the National Council of Negro Women. She also shares an affiliation with the Tau Gamma Delta Sorority Iota Chapter.

In particular Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Jones is very involved in the church environment. She is a very active member of both African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church. In addition to serving as administrative assistant to her Pastor and Presiding Elder, Mrs. Jones is the Director of Home Mission of A.M.E. Zion Church Conference, Secretary for the Cleveland District Connection, Executive Secretary of the Connectional Claims Committee, Member of the Home Mission Board, and the Stewardess Board #2. She is also the Chairperson of the Life Members Council for the Missionary Society, Chairperson of the Scholarship Fund Committee, and an honorary member and narrator of the Chancel Choir.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in honoring Mrs. Gussie Jones. She is an exceptional Christian woman who serves her community well. I am certain that Mrs. Jones will do an outstanding job as a Congressional Senior Citizen Intern. I want to congratulate her and express my appreciation for her participation in this very important program.

HONORING HOWELL CARNEGIE LIBRARY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mrs. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the Howell Carnegie Library, which will receive a Michigan Historical Marker on May 17, 1998.

The Howell library originated as the Ladies Library Association in 1875. That year, the ladies began offering books for lending. In 1902, this service grew to such lengths that a need developed for a town library. With the financial help of steel entrepreneur Andrew Carnegie, Detroit architect Elijah E. Meyers, who in previous years designed Michigan's Capital, designed the Neoclassical library with fieldstones collected throughout the country on land donated by the four sons of Howell pioneer William McPherson.

Reading is one of life's greatest pleasures and the knowledge gained through libraries is critical to maintaining our great democracy. With this dedication, we need to honor not only this important structure but the people who were so committed to this important community service many years ago. From A.G. Kuehnle, a Howell native who hand built the library; to Andrew Carnegie, who funded over 2,500 free public libraries throughout the English-speaking world; to the people of Howell who established and supported the library throughout the years, this is an example of what can happen when dedicated people come together to meet the needs of the community. The Howell Carnegie Library is an important landmark and I am pleased it is getting the recognition it deserves.

COMMEMORATION OF SECOND AN- NIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIA- TION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association on their second anniversary. This celebration is due to two years of community outreach. This organization began as a group of concerned citizens who wanted to better their community. Despite lack of funding and resources, the group managed to become an organized entity providing an array of vital services to the community.

The Brooklyn Chinese-American Association provides essential services in the areas of health, service, and education. They conduct a variety of health related workshops and provide medical check-ups, free eye-exams, blood pressure monitoring, and yearly flu shots. The organization also renders services to people of all ages from providing day care to supporting youth and senior citizen cultural activities. Educational programs such as citizenship classes, language skills, and music and dancing classes are also included in this multi-human service center. Enough cannot be said of the many services this organization provides to the community.

Despite the lack of government funding and manpower, the organization has already enrolled more than 1,600 members and serves more than 150 people per day. In its efforts to improve the overall quality of life, the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association has maintained ties with their local elected and public officials. Through town meetings and voter registration drives, the center has made efforts to increase the political participation of the community.

This organization has truly evolved in a short period of time to become integral to the community. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in commemorating the efforts of the many who have struggled to make the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association what it is today. Let this organization be held as a prime example of how much can be accomplished when citizens care enough to make a change in their community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VALENTINA UMANETS

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Mrs. Valentina Umanets of Bellingham, Washington. Valentina passed away at her home on Friday, May 15th 1998. Valentina was instrumental to the Sister Cities agreement between Bellingham, Washington in my district and Nakhodka in eastern Russia.

In 1989, long before Perestroika allowed for the openness that is now sweeping across Russia, Valentina worked to bring about the Sister City agreement. She worked as the central staff member for the City of Nakhodka on this agreement. In 1993, Valentina immigrated to the United States at the request of Western Washington University and the City of Bellingham to enhance the Sister City program. Because of Valentina's hard work on this project, Bellingham and Nakhodka now have a vibrant Sister City agreement that has flourished in recent years with many valuable exchanges between the local governments, businesses and the citizens of these two communities.

Valentina worked as a Professor of Russian at Western Washington University, and had recently completed work on a new text book for teaching the Russian language. She was loved by her students, and her home always had visitors from either the University or the many Russian immigrants that call Bellingham and Whatcom County home. She was always willing to help those in the community that were in need of assistance with a government agency, a school or those that just needed something translated.

She also held events at the University and parties at her home to celebrate the rich Russian culture. Most recently, Valentina organized "An Evening of Russian Romance" at the University which featured Russian dance and music. The food for the evening was carefully prepared in Valentina's kitchen by her students and friends, but always under her watchful eye. Her home would be open each New Years Eve for a Russian celebration of one of the big holidays in Russia. On March 8th of each year, Valentina would again play host to a party in celebration of Womens Day, again an event of great importance in Russia.

Several American men in the Bellingham area, including a member of my staff, have married Russian women, and Valentina was often of great help for these couples as they worked to overcome cultural differences. She became a "den mother" of sorts to these women that were so far from home and their own mothers. Valentina was a very happy, caring person.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of both Bellingham and Nakhodka have suffered a great loss with the passing of Valentina. She has started a wonderful program between these two cities, and has kept it going to the point that it will continue to prosper without her. But to those that have already made friends across the vast Pacific or to those that will in the future, a great deal of thanks is owed to Valentina Umanets.

Mr. Speaker, Valentina is survived by her husband Eugene of Bellingham; her daughter

Erika of Sumas; her son Stanislav of Nakhodka and two grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my condolences as well as that of my staff to her family. She was loved by many and will be missed by all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for several roll call votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted no on roll call votes 156, 157, 158, 159 and yes on roll call vote 160.

HEROES

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor and thank the residents of Bakersville, NC for their participation in a rescue that saved the life of a neighbor and defined a true community. On Wednesday, January 7, 1998, Joe Snyder, a resident of the 10th district of North Carolina, suffered a severe heart attack in his home. Meanwhile, the small town of Bakersville was experiencing severe flooding caused by torrential rains, which closed roads and stranded residents. Despite the harsh weather, once neighbors and friends heard of Mr. Snyder's condition, they worked together and successfully transported him to a medical clinic to get the attention he so desperately needed. Not just one neighbor or two friends, but many members of the community united to offer CPR, transportation, and other support.

To the people who were present that day, who volunteered their support and aid, and who helped to turn a tragedy into triumph, I salute your determination and selflessness. As flood waters rose, conditions became extremely perilous, and a friend was in need of a miracle, the community of Bakersville, NC, came together as neighbors to save a life.

TRIBUTE TO THE ISRAEL'S 50TH GALA HONOREES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding collection of individuals for their unwavering commitment to the Jewish community in Los Angeles and their support of Israel throughout its 50 years. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Eric Alon, Ms. Lily Artenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Davidov, Mr. and Mrs. Shimon Erem, Mr. and Mrs. Jona Goldrich, Mr. Jonathan Mitchell and Ms. Gal Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sandel, Mr. and Mrs. Yehochai Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Shapow, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Shepher, Dr. and

Mrs. Jose Spiwak and Mr. and Mrs. Ike Starkman for their innovative leadership of the years.

The Talmud states "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." In the spirit of these words, these leaders have infused Israel and Los Angeles with a sense of purpose and pride. Through their work, they have upheld the Judaic tradition of generosity and concern for others. Their exceptional leadership has been instrumental in laying the foundation for a strong and cohesive Jewish community in the City of Los Angeles.

In August of 1897, over a century ago, the first Zionist Congress affirmed its aspiration to form a Jewish homeland in the historic State of Israel. After the horrors of the Holocaust, in which one-third of the Jewish population of the world lost their lives, the Jewish people returned to their ancient homeland and established the State of Israel.

Since the Nation's founding, over a million Jews from throughout the world have sought refuge in Israel. Over the last 50 years, Israel has rebuilt a nation, maintained a pluralist democracy—the only one in the Middle East—and based that democracy on freedoms and the rule of law. It has developed a thriving economy and society, transforming the desert into a land of milk and honey.

The State of Israel was formed in the face of tremendous adversity. Its survival has depended upon the support and involvement of people such as these special leaders. I rise today to congratulate these leaders along with the people of Israel on the 50th anniversary of their rebirth and independence.

CONGRATULATING JAMES MOSEMAN AND FINALISTS OF THE 19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ARTS COMPETITION

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, James Moseman, who attends Marion High School and has won first place in the 19th Congressional District Arts Competition. James was also the winner of the People's Choice Award, along with Trenton Kessler of Stewardson-Strasburg High School.

I was very proud to be honorary chairman of this distinguished event, which was held at Eastwood's Art and Teacher Supply Store in Marion. We had many outstanding contributions from high school students throughout the district. All the entries displayed so much beauty and potential, including finalists Sarah Thompson and Jill Zerrusen, both of Teutopolis High School; Kristin Jankowicz of MacArthur High School in Decatur; Shannon Gonzalez of Neoga High School; Ginnie Gsell of Benton High School; and Gabe McClellan and Candace Taylor, both of Marion High School.

I would like to thank the steering committee members for organizing the district competition. Mary Jo Trimble of the Little Egypt Arts Association and Cary Knoop, a retired Eastern Illinois University arts instructor, were instrumental in helping plan this special event. The

judges for the contest, art educators Robert Maguire, Marie Samuel and Rebecca Spoon, also deserve special recognition.

As you know Mr. Speaker, this contest is held every year, after which the winner's paintings are proudly displayed in the United States Capitol building. James' excellent work will be exhibited along with other paintings from around the country, and I am honored to represent James and the other participants in the House of Representatives.

It is wonderful to not only see the incredible talents our youth possess, but also to be a part of the exciting events which showcase these talents. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing James and the finalists from the 19th Congressional District Arts Competition.

HIV/AIDS VACCINE AWARENESS DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are at an important crossroad in the history of the AIDS epidemic. Although dramatic new treatments and improvements in care for people living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, have offered new hope in the AIDS fight, the number of new infections continues to rise among adolescents, women, and minority communities. In fact, about half of new HIV infections occur in young people age 15–24—our future generation. It is clear that the only way to halt the continued spread of this disease is by developing an AIDS vaccine.

"Only a truly effective, preventive HIV vaccine can limit and eventually eliminate the threat of AIDS . . . let us commit ourselves to developing an AIDS vaccine within the next decade," President Clinton stated one year ago today. We are closer now than ever before to developing a vaccine that prevents people from becoming infected with HIV. Recent scientific advances coupled with the dedication of thousands of volunteers suggests that the development of a vaccine is feasible. The anniversary of President Clinton's commitment to this goal will be marked by the first HIV/AIDS Vaccine Awareness Day, a national day dedicated to informing people about the vaccine initiative and its role in the fight against the AIDS epidemic in our communities. Enormous challenges remain in our effort to develop a safe and effective HIV/AIDS vaccine, and we, as a community must seize this opportunity to meet these challenges.

Seattle has played an integral role in the development of an AIDS vaccine. The AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit (AVEU) at the University of Washington is one of only six centers in the U.S. funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct AIDS vaccine testing. Established 10 years ago, the AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit has benefited immeasurably from the dedicated participation of more than 650 community volunteers.

The AVEU volunteers are critical to the pursuit of an AIDS vaccine for many reasons, most notably the scientific and social challenges this vaccine presents. Volunteers are between the ages of 18 and 60, HIV-negative, and in good health. These community volunteers have made a very personal commitment