

through the Russell Berrie Foundation, which Angelica serves as President. Amongst its many accomplishments, the Foundation has created the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Berrie Fellows Program for community leadership, the Berrie Humanistic Care Center at Englewood Hospital, and the Berrie Performing Arts Center at Ramapo College.

Angelica has been a generous benefactor, a compassionate voice, and a dedicated advocate for so many. In her lifetime, she has touched a million lives in overwhelmingly positive ways. Tonight the Adler Aphasia Center is honoring Angelica Berrie for her service to her fellow man, and I join them in commending her for giving so much of herself to make the world around her a better place.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY FIFIS

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2007*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jimmy Fifis, a family man and successful business owner of Ponzio's Restaurant in Cherry Hill. Mr. Fifis recently passed away and his restaurant, Ponzio's, was widely regarded as a Southern New Jersey dining tradition.

Born on the Greek Island of Andros in 1939, Mr. Fifis immigrated to Southern New Jersey in 1966. He began as a dishwasher in a restaurant owned by his two brothers and rose through the ranks to become the owner and operator of Ponzio's. Mr. Fifis has three sons who currently run the family business, which serves 10 to 12 thousand loyal customers per week. Mr. Fifis was loved and respected by all of his employees for his willingness to do any task, whether it was peeling potatoes or managing the restaurant.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Fifis today for all he has done for The First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country. Mr. Fifis's presence will surely be missed at Ponzio's and throughout the entire Southern New Jersey community. In addition to being a constituent, I am proud to call Mr. Fifis a friend.

#### EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of this bill, which will help hundreds of thousands of families realize the American Dream of homeownership. This bill helps protect those vulnerable to unscrupulous

subprime lending, and helps those who are currently struggling to make their payments by refinancing their loans at a more affordable rate.

It is not right for anyone to be struggling to meet his or her mortgage payments due to the unfair lending practices of predatory lenders. Putting lower-income families on the path to homeownership helps them become more financially solvent, and helps them have more of a stake in the health of their community. Homeownership leads to healthy families, healthy communities, and rosier financial situations for all.

I also applaud the passage of an amendment introduced by Chairman FRANK that will help more families, in my district specifically, afford homes. This amendment raises the Federal Housing Administration's single-family loan limits so that lower-income families are not barred from buying homes in the higher-cost markets where they may work. Why should a firefighter who works in my district be forced to commute a long way to her or his home instead of buying an affordable home near the fire station? This amendment will allow potential residents of high-price home markets to afford homes.

This is a good bill that will help America's families in numerous ways. I thank my colleague MAXINE WATERS for introducing it and look forward to benefits it will bring to the hard-working families in my district.

#### INTRODUCING THE TELEVISION CONSUMER FREEDOM ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Television Consumer Freedom Act, legislation repealing regulations that interfere with a consumer's ability to obtain desired television programming. The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals federal regulations that would increase the cost of a television.

My office has received numerous calls from rural satellite and cable TV customers who are upset because their satellite or cable service providers have informed them that they will lose access to certain network and cable programming. The reason my constituents cannot obtain their desired satellite and cable services is that the satellite and cable "marketplace" is fraught with government interventionism at every level. Local governments have historically granted cable companies franchises of monopoly privilege. Government has previously intervened to invalidate "exclusive dealings" contracts between private parties, namely cable service providers and program creators, and has most recently imposed price controls. The Library of Congress has even been delegated the power to determine prices at which program suppliers must make their programs available to cable and satellite programming service providers.

It is, of course, within the constitutionally enumerated powers of Congress to "promote the progress of Science and Useful Arts by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." However, operating

a clearing-house for the subsequent transfer of such property rights in the name of setting a just price or "instilling competition" via "central planning" seems to be neither economically prudent nor justifiable under this enumerated power. This process is one best reserved to the competitive marketplace.

It is impossible for the government to set the just price for satellite programming. Overregulation of the cable industry has resulted in competition among service providers for government privilege rather than free market competition among providers to offer a better product at a lower price. While federal regulation does leave satellite programming service providers free to bypass the governmental royalty distribution scheme and negotiate directly with owners of programming for program rights, there is a federal prohibition on satellite service providers making local network affiliates' programs available to nearby satellite subscribers. This bill repeals that federal prohibition so satellite service providers may freely negotiate with program owners for programming desired by satellite service subscribers. Technology is now available by which viewers could view network programs via satellite as presented by their nearest network affiliate. This market-generated technology will remove a major stumbling block to negotiations that should currently be taking place between network program owners and satellite service providers.

This bill also repeals Federal laws that force cable companies to carry certain programs. These Federal "must carry" mandates deny cable companies the ability to provide the programming their customers' desire. Decisions about what programming to carry on a cable system should be made by consumers, not Federal bureaucrats.

The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals Federal regulations that mandate that all TVs sold in the United States contain "digital technology." In complete disregard of all free market and constitutional principles, the FCC actually plans to forbid consumers from buying TVs, after 2006, that are not equipped to carry digital broadcasts. According to economist Stephen Moore, this could raise the price of a TV by as much as \$250 dollars. While some television manufacturers and broadcasters may believe they will benefit from this government-imposed price increase, they will actually lose business as consumers refrain from purchasing new TVs because of the government-mandated price increase.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Government should not interfere with a consumer's ability to purchase services such as satellite or cable television in the free market. I therefore urge my colleagues to take a step toward restoring freedom by cosponsoring my Television Consumer Freedom Act.

#### HONORING ART DONOVAN

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Art Donovan, a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame and American sports hero.

Art Donovan, Jr., was born in the Bronx, New York, on June 5, 1925. He first played

football at Mount St. Michael's High School in the Bronx. The son of a famed boxing referee Arthur Donovan, Sr., who supervised many of professional boxing's Joe Louis's matches, Donovan postponed completing his education and served as an aircraft gunner on the USS *San Jacinto* during World War II, participating in actions in the Pacific Theater.

Art joined professional football as a rookie defensive tackle in 1950 for the Baltimore Colts at the age of 26. The early Colts franchise folded after one season, and Art joined the New York Yanks in 1951, played for the Dallas Texans in 1952 and finally joined the next Colts franchise in 1953. Art became a hugely popular player and was considered one of the best defensive tackles in league history. He was an All-NFL selection five times and played in five Pro Bowls and the world championship for two years. The first Colts player elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Donovan played 12 seasons in the National Football League.

Donovan's Baltimore Colts jersey No. 70 was retired by the team in 1962 and he was elected to the Football Hall of Fame in 1968. Donovan is presently the owner of the Valley Country Club in Baltimore, where my parents were original members. Since 1955, the club has been owned and managed by Art Donovan, his wife, Dorothy, and his family. In 1987, he published his memoir, titled *Fatso*, and has been a frequent and popular guest on talk shows such as the David Letterman Show.

Art has been a friend to me and the entire Ruppertsberger family for many years. After Baltimore Colts football games, I enjoyed going to Valley Country Club and talking football with Art and other Colts players. He would delight us with stories of the Baltimore Colts' championship teams of 1958 and 1959 which featured Hall of Fame defensive end Gino Marchetti, Don Joyce, "Big Daddy" Lipscomb, and Donovan. His sharp wit, contagious laughter, and wonderful stories made all of us his friends. I was amazed at how many Salami sandwiches and kosher hot dogs he could eat in one setting and wash it down with a Schlitz beer. Art played football with his friend George Young, who was my football coach at City College in Baltimore and later went on to become general manager of the New York Giants.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Arthur Donovan, Jr. It has been a great honor for me to call Art my friend. He is a true American sports hero in Maryland, the United States of America, and around the world.

HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH H.  
RODRIGUEZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez for winning the 2007 Judge John F. Gerry Award. The Camden County Bar Association marks Judge Gerry's life for his outstanding humanitarian spirit and integrity, in which Mr. Rodriguez greatly exemplifies.

The Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez is a Senior Judge of the United States District

Court for the District of New Jersey. He is currently a member of the board of trustees for LaSalle University. In addition, he has been a lecturer for the past 37 years for the Professional Trial Lawyers Seminar. He has been distinguished in an impressive amount of honorary doctor of law degrees from St. Peter's College, 1972; Rutgers University, 1974; Seton Hall University, 1974; Montclair State College, 1985; and Kean College, 1985. Furthermore, for "Distinguished Service in the Cause of Justice," Judge Rodriguez received the Trial Bar Award in 1981 from the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey. In 1985, he accepted the Karen Ann Quinlan Center of Hope Award, "Friend of Hospice." His Honor was named "Man of the Year" in 1992 from the National Hispanic Bar Association. The Camden County Bar Association has previously bestowed another award upon him, the "Peter J. Devine Award" in 1992. Judge Rodriguez was also the recipient of the "Spirit of Edison" Award in 1997 from Thomas Edison State College. The "Medal of Honor Award" was awarded to him in 1999 from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. That same year, the Association of Federal Bar of State of New Jersey awarded this astounding individual the "William J. Brennan Jr. Award." Recently, in 2001, Judge Rodriguez was named Knight by Order of St. Gregory the Great in receiving the "St. Thomas More Society Award."

Madam Speaker, I commend the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez. His dedication and selfless public service to the first district of New Jersey is greatly treasured and respected. I want to sincerely thank Mr. Rodriguez and wish Judge Rodriguez the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JANE ADAMS  
SPAHR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr, a Presbyterian minister committed to justice for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. A self-described lesbian and feminist, Janie is retiring after 33 years.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA, with her twin sister Joanie to Chet and Susanna Adams, Janie was ordained a Presbyterian minister in December 1974, to the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. From 1975 to 1979 she served as assistant pastor of First Presbyterian in San Rafael, CA, and in 1979–1980 was the executive director of Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches where she was encouraged to resign after coming out as a lesbian.

Janie began her "out" liberation work with and for LGBT people as the minister of pastoral care in the Castro area of Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco from 1980 to 1982. In 1982, this "lesbyterian" founded the Ministry of Light, which later became the Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. She served for 10 years as the executive director of Spectrum.

In 1991, Rev. Spahr was called to serve as a copastor at the Downtown United Pres-

byterian Church in Rochester, NY, marking the first time a Presbyterian Church had chosen an "out" pastor. The call, however, was challenged, and the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church refused to allow Rev. Spahr to assume the coposition. In response to the ruling Janie was hired by the Downtown United Presbyterian Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon, CA, who formed the "That All May Freely Serve" project. She was employed to work within the denomination to end discrimination and increase inclusiveness for all people.

In 2006, Rev. Spahr made national headlines when the Commission of the Presbytery of the Redwoods ruled she acted within her "right of conscience" as a Christian when she performed commitment ceremonies for two lesbian couples. The Presbyterian Church's highest court ruled in 2000 that ministers could "bless" same-sex unions but not preside over them or call them marriages. Janie challenged the church's constitution and won a victory for justice and inclusion, but the battle is not yet over as the Prosecuting Committee has filed an appeal.

During her undergraduate years at Penn State, Jane met Jim Spahr whom she later married and had two sons, Jim and Chet. Jim now fondly refers to Janie as his "wife emerita" and the "sister-in-love" of Jackie Spahr, Jim's partner, and Bill Fenton, her sister Joanie's partner.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr whose courageous passion for justice and inclusion for LGBT people has left a legacy that is paving the way to a better future. Rev. Spahr has touched so many lives as a minister, and though she is retiring she will remain a mentor and role model to all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
JAMES ROSS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Dr. James Ross of Houlton, ME.

As a distinguished senior member of Family Health International, FHI, Dr. Ross made substantial contributions toward the global fight against HIV and AIDS.

During his time at FHI, Dr. Ross became a mentor to many, and a benefactor to many more.

Before becoming FHI's senior director of Global Operations for the Asia-Pacific Region, Dr. Ross had served as a country program director for nations in both Africa and Asia.

My sincere condolences go to his wife, Cheryl, his son, Benjamin James, and all of those who have also been personally touched by Dr. Ross's life and work.

While he is no longer with us, his memory and his contributions live on. It is with the utmost gratitude that I salute Dr. Ross.

The citizens of the State of Maine, the United States of America and individuals across the globe are extremely fortunate to have had such a wonderful friend and advocate.