his community and I congratulate him on the milestone of his 90th birthday.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 318 OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, headquartered in Marion, IL.

1932, our nation was mired in the depths of the Great Depression. Prices were low. Few could afford the car or gas as employment was over 23 percent nationally with over 13 million Americans having lost their jobs since the beginning of the Depression in 1929. It was in this time of economic distress that Local 318 was founded in Harrisburg, IL.

Local 318 covers 14 counties in the southeastern area of Illinois and is comprised of 900 skilled operators. Their commitment to providing the highest quality of labor to their hundreds of signatory contractors extends to a strong training program, both at the apprentice level and upgrades for journeymen as well.

The members of Local 318 are also contributing members of their respective communities and, through their local, they support a number of area charities and provide a scholarship fund to support their dependents who attend college.

With union membership struggling in many areas of the country, Local 318 boasts a 98 percent union membership for their covered trades. This speaks well of the benefits that the members realize through their union membership and also the increased productivity for the contractors who use the skilled workers of Local 318.

In 1996 Local 318 moved its headquarters to Marion, IL. They continue to provide quality representation for their members and, through their training and community involvement, they are a positive example of organized labor in southern Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI JEROME DAVIDSON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Rabbi Jerome Davidson after nearly 50 years of dedicated service to the community of Great Neck, New York.

Rabbi Jerome Davidson is no ordinary rabbi. He has successfully fused his life as a religious leader and a Jewish mentor together with his commitment to a life of civic engagement and Tikvah Olam, or repairing the world. Throughout his years of service, Rabbi Davidson has effectively transcended the walls of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck in Nassau County, New York, establishing himself as an inspirational leader for both his congregation and community.

Jerome Davidson joined Temple Beth-El, a member congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism, as an assistant rabbi in 1958, and became its senior rabbi in 1971. Rabbi Davidson soon impressed the congregation with his dynamic sermons, driven enthusiasm and compelling sense of humor. Rabbi Davidson’s brilliance and erudition were key in shaping the congregation’s future. The educational opportunities presented by the Temple’s comprehensive library and historical museum were central to Rabbi Davidson’s success in teaching his congregants. Under his devoted tutelage, Temple Beth-El grew to become a thriving beacon of Jewish life in Great Neck; an arena of countless Bnai Mitzvah, weddings, other life-cycle events and social affairs.

Rabbi Davidson also laid the foundations of a successful Religious School and Early Childhood Education Center that addressed the needs of the diversified and growing congregation. Rabbi Davidson’s exceptional creativity and boundless imagination confirmed Temple Beth-El with its impressive membership of over 1200 families, as one of the most innovative and energetic Reform congregations in America. His uncoupled wisdom and unbridled inspiration served as a source of strength and encouragement in the aftermath of a devastating fire that struck the Temple in 1991.

Rabbi Davidson’s steady rise to Jewish national iconography is no surprise considering the unique leadership qualities he demonstrated in serving Temple Beth-El. Rabbi Davidson’s service as President of the Synagogue Council of America, as well as past president of the Rabbinic Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion only cemented Rabbi Davidson as a true Jewish leader.

Madam Speaker, Rabbi Davidson’s commitment to Reform Judaism informed and complemented his involvement in pluralism and social justice. Rabbi Davidson’s multiple terms as President of the Great Neck Clergy Association, and his groundbreaking efforts in developing interfaith dialogue, have served to better the lives of those around him, successfully realizing his lofty goals of building a community of tolerance and understanding. Rabbi Davidson’s exemplary interfaith achievements, coupled with his involvement as a founding member of the American Jewish World Service, led the New York Board of Rabbis to honor him “Rabbi of the Year” in 1994.

More recently, Rabbi Davidson has been a trailblazer in formally welcoming the gay and lesbian community into Jewish life. He has likewise advocated for religious pluralism in Israel. Today, Rabbi Davidson continues to serve on the faculty of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and as a member of its Board of Governors. Rabbi Davidson also serves on the Advisory Board of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, and is deeply involved in a plethora of other local and national Jewish organizations. Rabbi Davidson’s adept ability for translating his values into action by positively affecting the world around him is truly an inspiration to all of those whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, the accolades bestowed upon Jerome Davidson for his almost 50 years of outstanding service to the Long Island community are well deserved. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Jerome Davidson for his outstanding work and wishing him many more years of success as he becomes Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST LT. KEITH HEIDTMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute of an American patriot and fallen warrior, Keith Heidtmann.

Keith was a 2001 graduate of Norwich Free Academy where he was an all-conference...
baseball player, talented basketball player, and honor student. He then attended the University of Connecticut where he participated in ROTC, graduating cum laude in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in resource economics.

After graduation, Keith joined the army. At the top of his class, he chose to attend the United States Army Aviation Warfighting Center where he became a helicopter pilot. He was deployed to Iraq in December as part of Task Force Lightning.

Keith Heidtman represents the promise of America. A talented and dedicated young man, he laid down his life to serve his country. While his smile may no longer brighten the lives of those around him, the memory of his life shall always endure. Young men and women are serving our Nation with honor and distinction every day. They are on the frontlines, defending those in need of help. There is no job nobler. Keith understood this great responsibility and volunteered for service to protect his country and its citizens, strangers, and family members alike.

At his funeral, I was moved by the incredible outpouring of support demonstrated by his friends and community. Hundreds of people came to pay their respects and salute this American hero.

I recently had the chance to meet Keith’s mother and stepfather, Maureen and Arthur, at their home in Norwich. After meeting them it was clear to me where Keith developed his penchant for service—his mother. As an employee for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Maureen has dedicated her life to helping those in need. Keith carried on her legacy in the U.S. Army where he bravely served his country and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman and his service to our great Nation. Keith and his sacrifice will forever be remembered by me, a mourning Connecticut, a grateful Nation, and family members who will never forget.

HONORING DR. MANUEL LOPEZ’S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Manuel (Manny) Lopez as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Dr. Lopez has served the Oxnard community as a doctor, an elected official. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Manuel Lopez for his ongoing service to his community on this joyous occasion of his 80th Birthday.

Lopez represented the city on a number of local and regional committees dealing with such issues as transportation planning, wastewater treatment, local airport policy and agricultural land preservation. He has also participated in many community groups such as the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Oxnard Optimist Club, the Oxnard Boys and Girls Club and many others.

As a result of his dedication to his community, Dr. Lopez was chosen as the 1991 Oxnard Distinguished Citizen of the Year and, in 1992, received the Patrick Henry Award. In 2006 Dr. Lopez was the Grand Marshal of the Oxnard Christmas Parade. It is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize and commend Dr. Manuel Lopez for his ongoing service to his community on this joyous occasion of his 80th Birthday.

CANCER PATIENTS ENDURE CHEMOTHERAPY, RADIATION THERAPY, SURGICAL OPERATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT TO FIGHT THE NUMEROUS TYPES OF CANCER. THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO CONDUCT RESEARCH TO FIND CURES FOR CANCER AND DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO TREAT INDIVIDUALS STRUGGLING WITH THE DISEASE. UNFORTUNATELY THESE MEDICAL ADVANCES ARE OUT OF REACH FOR MANY MINORITIES DEALING WITH CANCER. THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY HAS DOCUMENTED THAT THE ADVANCES IN CANCER PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, AND TREATMENT HAS EVaded MINORITY GROUPS:

MINORITY POPULATIONS OFTEN FACE NUMEROUS OBSTACLES RECEIVING EQUAL ACCESS TO PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, AND QUALITY TREATMENT AND TEND TO RECEIVE LOWER QUALITY HEALTH CARE THAN WHITE PATIENTS EVEN WHEN INSURANCE STATUS, INCOME, AGE, AND SEVERITY OF CONDITIONS ARE COMPAREABLE.

RACIALIZED ETHNIC MINORITIES MAY LACK HEALTH INSURANCE, EARN LOWER INCOMES, AND EXPERIENCE LANGUAGE BARRIERS, RACIAL BIAS, AND STEREOTYPING WHICH CAN AFFECT INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS AND CONTRIBUTE TO MISCOMMUNICATION OR DELIVERY OF SUBSTANDARD CARE.

EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND 35 PERCENT OF HISPANIC/LATINOS ARE UNINSURED, WHILE ONLY 12 PERCENT OF WHITES LACK HEALTH INSURANCE.

I APPLAUD THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK FOR BRINGING NATIONAL AWARENESS TO THE ISSUES FACED BY MINORITY CANCER PATIENTS AND FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.