

RECOGNIZING THE "DEAN OF CALIFORNIA CITY ATTORNEYS" MR. ALLEN E. SPRAGUE

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to city attorney Allen E. Sprague for his dedicated years of service to the city of Fremont. During his tenure, Mr. Sprague has provided strong leadership to a city which has risen to new heights.

After graduating from University of California Boalt Law School, Mr. Sprague was hired as the city of Fremont's assistant city attorney in 1963. Six years later, he was appointed as their city attorney, thus attaining the title of "Dean of California City Attorneys," as the longest serving, continuous, and surviving city attorney in northern California. Mr. Sprague served as counsel to 18 separate city councils, and as a mentor to numerous staff members who have gone on to serve other California cities as city attorneys. During a difficult transitional period, Mr. Sprague also acted as interim city manager in 1980 and 1981.

Mr. Sprague's community commitment goes well beyond his years with the city. He was an active participant with the Kiwanis International Club for 20 years, where he served as local chapter president, regional and national officer. Mr. Sprague also shared his fellowship as a lay Eucharist minister at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Fremont and by raising the spirits and bringing comfort to those in need as a volunteer with the Vespers Hospice.

Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to recognize Mr. Allen E. Sprague for all his achievements and commitment to our community. I hope you and my colleagues will join me in congratulating this leader for his illustrious career and wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

HAPPY 50TH BRONNER'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

### HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there have been many times when we have wished it could be Christmas 365 days of the year. The special feeling that this wonderful holiday inspires enliven us, and helps us to focus on kindness toward all.

Well, the people who work at Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland should be the envy of us all because for them it is Christmas every day of the year. This Wednesday, Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store, celebrates its 50th anniversary at its store on 25 Christmas Lane in Frankenmuth, MI. This fantastic store, operated by Wallace "Wally" Bronner, supported by his parents, Herman and Ella Bronner, started as a small sign store to its current enviable position of offering a selection of more than 50,000 items from all over the world. The design and production of Christmas panels for merchants from Clare, MI, marked the first official sale of Christmas decorations to other communities.

Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland is a must-see holiday store for the consumer. And it is also a major supplier for churches, businesses, industries, cities, parks, shopping centers, parades and parties. It is a family-owned and operated business, now including its third generation of Bronners, that has grown from its early days as a small sign shop through several expansions that now allow it to boast a showroom equal to the size of four football fields. At peak time, more than 400 people are employed on a full or part-time basis at this manger of holiday spirit. Much of the merchandise is imported from other manufacturers, but the most special pieces include those designed and produced by Wally Bronner himself.

And not forgetting that the true part of Christmas is its religious heritage; Wally, Irene and other members of the Bronner family 3 years ago opened Bronner's Silent Night Memorial Chapel to both signify their thanks for God's blessings, as well as to provide an opportunity for the millions of people who surely visit Bronner's over the years to pause and offer their own thanks for what life has given them.

Mr. Speaker, Frankenmuth is a community that speaks volumes about what commitment to one's neighbor and hard work can accomplish. Like a sturdy tree, it supports many branches that extend through its commercial, agricultural, educational, and social greatness. It is filled with people who we would all like to have as our own neighbors. When it is crowned with the bright star of Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland, the decoration of this tree is truly complete. I urge you and all of our colleagues to wish the Bronner family and the hundreds of dedicated, good-spirit inspiring employees the very best on the 50th anniversary of Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELAINE STRAUSS

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the inspiring story of a woman who has been an active member of the Jewish community in Suffolk County for many years, Helaine Strauss.

Helaine Strauss became a Jewish community center professional on Long Island in 1967. This began a lifetime career in which she vastly changed the landscape of Long Island's Jewish community.

In 1980, a determined board of directors, Suffolk County Y staff and Helaine took a bold step forward. They moved the Y into a brand new setting that provided the first Jewish day care center in the United Jewish Appeal [UJA] federation network, as well as a nursery school, a senior citizen and singles' center. In addition to these conveniences, the Y developed and installed a state-of-the-art fitness center.

When the initial construction of this enormous project was completed, Ms. Strauss breathed a sigh of relief and embarked on a new project: building bridges. Today, the Suffolk

Y Jewish Community Center joins with a multitude of Jewish agencies, synagogues and community organizations sponsoring innovative programs and services.

Ms. Strauss' leadership has been widely recognized. She is past president of the New York chapter of the Metropolitan Association of Jewish Center Workers and participated in Jewish Welfare Board's Executive Development Program and the Jewish Community Center Association's Executive Fellows Program. Ms. Strauss serves on the nation board of the Jewish Community Center Association and on the advisory board of the Adelphi School of Social Work. She received the Woman of the Year Award from Friends of Lubavitch of eastern Long Island.

In 1985, Ms. Strauss received the Samuel W. and Rose Horowitz award from the Commission on Synagogue Relations of UJA-Federation of New York, and she has also been honored by the Women's American Organization of Rehabilitation Training (ORT).

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in saluting Ms. Helaine Strauss, for 20 years of outstanding service, commitment and devotion to not only the Suffolk Y, but the entire Jewish community of Suffolk County, Long Island.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS V.F.W.

### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago this summer, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 420 was established in Saratoga Springs, NY. The V.F.W., Mr. Speaker, has been and continues to be an organization of exceptional merit and service to the needs of many veterans. V.F.W. Post 420 was founded upon these principles in the summer of 1920, and continues to serve and remember those veterans who made sacrifices for America.

Post 420 was founded as a memorial to two brothers who courageously fought for America in WWI. On October 20, 1918, the Gurtler brothers were both killed in battle along the Hindenburg line in Germany. It is only appropriate that those brave men who placed themselves in harm's way overseas be represented by such an able organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is comforting to know that those who served the needs of our country and fought for the principles and ideas of America all over the globe can depend on the support of an organization like this post back home in upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, the service of Post 420 in Saratoga Springs is worthy of significant recognition. This post, and others like it, are the reason I fought so hard to attain department-level status for Veterans' Affairs. When President Ronald Reagan signed that legislation into law, veterans were finally afforded the degree of national consideration they deserve. The efforts of V.F.W. posts like this one, having served the needs of veterans since 1920, played a major role in the grassroots efforts by V.F.W. posts across this Nation to enact that bill into law. For this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 420 a tremendous debt.

The famous historian George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember history are bound to repeat it." V.F.W. posts all across America have not forgotten the past or those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I ask all my fellow Members to rise in tribute to V.F.W. Post 420 in Saratoga Springs on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary.

**JANET BANACH NAMED 1995  
POLISH WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Janet Banach on being named 1995 Polish Woman of the Year by the ladies auxiliary of the Polish National Alliance—Milwaukee Society.

Janet Banach is a person who is genuinely committed to well-being of others and to the betterment of her community. By selecting Janet as the 1995 Polish Woman of the Year, the Milwaukee Society—ladies auxiliary is rightfully recognizing a person who has devoted her time and talents to a wide variety of worthwhile activities.

Over the years, Janet Banach has been actively involved in a number of organizations dedicated to assisting the needy and less fortunate. Through her volunteer involvement with organizations such as the American Red Cross, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the SHARE Program, and the South Community Organization, Janet has transformed her concern for others into effective action. Through her involvement as a Cub Scout and Brownie leader Janet has helped to prepare our community's future leaders for the challenges that lay ahead.

Janet has also shown herself to be a person committed to her Catholic faith and her Polish-American heritage. Janet is a long-time member of Milwaukee's Holy Spirit Parish. Both she and her husband take an active role in sharing their faith with others through their parish activities. In addition, through her involvement with organizations such as the Polish National Alliance—Milwaukee Society and Polish Festivals Inc., Janet plays an active role in keeping Milwaukee's Polish-American heritage alive.

I would like to commend Janet on her outstanding and worthwhile achievements and I congratulate her on being named 1995 Polish Woman of the Year.

**OPENING OF EXHIBIT "DEFENDING  
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY": THE  
STORY OF THE BAHAIS**

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the Members and the general public of the opening of an exhibit entitled "Defending Religious Liberty," on view in the rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building, U.S. House of Representatives, May 2–5, 1995.

The focus of the exhibit is on repression of the Bahai community and portrays America's concern for religious freedom and the response of the United States and other nations to the persecution of members of Iran's largest religious minority.

Those who practice the Bahai faith number 6 million in more than 205 countries with more than 100,000 worshipers in the United States. The Islamic regime calls the Bahai faith a conspiracy and heresy. Followers have no legal rights and secret documents show official Government policy is suppression of the Bahai community. Bahai students have been expelled from schools, followers have been denied food ration cards, dismissed from jobs and denied pensions. Many have disappeared, been kidnapped, jailed, tortured, and executed on account of their religion.

Congress has acknowledged that the abusive treatment of the Bahais is a critical human rights concern. Although diplomatic pressure and critical publicity has elicited a positive response from the Iranian Government the Bahai community remains an oppressed minority, denied the right to elect leaders, conduct religious schools, and pursue other organized religious activities.

Bahai members are composed of the mainstream of people, from different races, nationalities, and social and economic backgrounds. They believe that all people are meant to live in peace and unity and should be supported in their continuing efforts to protest against the Iranian Government's persecution of Bahais.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this exhibit will remind us of the oppression of our fellow human beings. We must continue to direct our efforts toward resolving these crimes against humanity. Therefore, I propose we should never resume trade or diplomatic relations until the Islamic Revolutionary regime reverses their policy.

**SCHEURER HOSPITAL: CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY  
CARING**

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, this past week I was privileged to join a great number of people who came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon, MI. The many people in Huron County and around the western portion of the Thumb of Michigan who have been helped by the quality medical care provided by the dedicated staff at this facility over the years know a quality institution when they have the good fortune to be served by it.

Scheurer Hospital is named for Dr. Clare Scheurer, a physician who in 1944 was convinced that a new medical facility was needed for the people in the area who either overfilled his office, couldn't be served within the hours he had available for treating patients, or were too far away following surgery in the Bad Axe Hospital. Donations from friends and businesses in the area helped lead to the construction of the then 21-bed hospital, and its official opening on April 23, 1945. Mrs. C.H. Spence was the first patient admitted, and her

daughter, Margaret, was the first baby born at the hospital.

Over the years this facility continued to provide excellent elective and emergency care to patients, until it was replaced by the current 47-bed hospital in 1971. And an expansion and modernization program in 1985 provided more examination rooms, and an improved laboratory and pharmacy. This project was again heavily supported by the community served by this most important facility.

Today the thousands of people who live in Scheurer Hospital's service area know that they can count on the 28 doctors, 40 nurses, and nearly 170 other professionals that are part of the dedicated Scheurer team under the direction of Chief Executive Officer Dwight Gascho for a wide range of medical services including orthopedics, cardiology, nuclear medicine, micro eye surgery. In the hospital's last fiscal year, there were over 3,500 emergency room visits, nearly 5,800 redi-care visits, and 600 admissions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing the wonderful staff of Scheurer Hospital the very best of wishes on their 50th anniversary.

**HONORING JOYCE TOBIAS**

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 1, 1995*

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to one of Virginia's outstanding citizens, Joyce Tobias.

Joyce Tobias, a registered nurse and the mother of seven children, has been a community organizer and a parent and child advocate since 1967. A tribute dinner was held in her honor Friday, April 28th on the occasion of PANDAA's [Parents Association to Neutralize Drug and Alcohol Abuse] 15th anniversary. Joyce founded PANDAA in 1980 and has served as executive director, newsletter editor, and member of the board of directors since its founding. The organization greatly contributes to parents awareness of drug abuse among young children and gives hope and support to parents and children alike who face those problems.

PANDAA, a volunteer organization, combats alcohol and other drug abuse through education and civic action. Under the leadership of Joyce Tobias, PANDAA publishes a quarterly newsletter with a national distribution of 10,000 copies, provides a hotline and referral service for parents, conducts adult and youth conferences, maintains a speakers bureau and assists in the formation of new groups.

Joyce was also a founding member of the Virginia Federation of Parents [VFP] in 1982 and served as its president in 1992 and 1993.

Along with her strong advocacy role in Fairfax County, she has served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Education—1988–89—and other school districts across the country. She traveled to Brazil for the U.S. Information Agency in 1991, participated in electronic dialog with two countries in Africa, and represented the United States by speaking many foreign visitors through USIA.