

50TH ANNIVERSARY MANHASSET
PUBLIC LIBRARY**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the residents of Manhasset as the Manhasset Public Library celebrates its 50th anniversary. With an intense community spirit and desire to develop neighborhood-related services, the residents of Manhasset initiated a program in May 1945 that would provide the community with library services for half a century.

Organized by the local branch of the American Association of University Women, the Manhasset Library came into being in a small rented store with an initial collection of 1,500 volumes. Its first director was Ruth Cowell, who served in that capacity until 1972. Responding to the growth of the community and the increasing demand for more materials, the library grew and a new facility was constructed to house its every-growing materials and services. Ten short years later, the library continued its expansion and a new children's room was added. Shortly thereafter, the Manhasset Public Library joined the 54 member Nassau Library System. In 1972, Elaine Seaton assumed the position of library director. It was during her tenure that the library's Sunday program was developed and the Friends of the Library was organized. In 1983, with Sylvia Levine serving as the director, the children's room was enlarged and the community room created. During the past 8 years, under the leadership of Marian Robertson, the library has witnessed a rapid growth in the expansion of computerized services, audio-visual materials, business and general reference services.

As the Manhasset community looks forward to an additional 50 years of outstanding library service, I ask my colleagues to join with me in applauding its efforts to help create and maintain a truly exceptional community.

BELARUS ON THE EVE OF
ELECTIONS**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 14, Belarus will be holding its first parliamentary elections since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Some 2,400 registered candidates are running for 240 seats. Concerns have been raised about actions of the Belarusian Government during the pre-election period. These concerns center primarily on restrictions on the press and the assault last month on 19 parliamentarians conducting a hunger strike in the parliamentary chambers. Nearly 100 paratroopers, armed with submachine guns or wearing black masks entered the parliament, accosted the parliamentarians, beat them and dragged them into the street. The parliamentarians were protesting President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's initiative to hold a referendum that they felt would violate the Belarusian Constitution.

Restrictions on the press in Belarus, Mr. Speaker, also appear to be growing. On April

25, President Lukashenka fired the editor of a youth newspaper—the fourth editor of a nationwide newspaper he has fired since the Presidential election last July. Earlier, on March 17, Lukashenka dismissed the editor of the Belarusian parliament's daily Narodnaja Hazeta, for publishing a letter criticizing the President's pro-Russian policies. Critics are understandably distressed about this and other attempts to reign in the more independent voices within the state-subsidized press, especially since the independent press remains relatively weak. In addition, according to the newspaper Segodnya, the Belarusian media have refrained from reporting on the election campaign so as not to anger the President.

Mr. Speaker, until recent months, Belarus appeared to be making slow but steady progress on human rights and democracy. Last year, Belarus held presidential elections that were generally free and fair, and Mr. Lukashenka defeated an entrenched incumbent by a large and unexpected margin. I have become increasingly concerned, though, about the apparent backsliding in the democratic process in this strategic country on the eve of parliamentary elections. It would be unfortunate if Mr. Lukashenka should turn around and use pressure tactics to hinder free and fair elections to the legislative branch. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I urge the Belarusian Government to respect its international human rights commitments, but most importantly, respect its commitments to the people of Belarus through the guarantee of unhindered, open elections.

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE J. LEWIS,
JR.**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, Jesse J. Lewis, Jr., was a graduate of Miles College, where he obtained a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He continued his concern for education throughout his life, attending numerous executive continuing education programs at colleges and universities around the country.

Mr. Lewis began his illustrious advertising and communications career in 1979 with Jesse J. Lewis and Associates, where he held several important positions. Under his direction, clients won numerous prestigious awards for advertising, including a Telly which is awarded for regional and local television advertising. His unrelenting dedication and leadership enabled his clients to grow and succeed.

In addition to marketing and communications expertise, Jesse worked extensively in the production field. He was chief engineer at the New London Record Studios, where he supervised the production of radio spots, jingles, and custom music for local and national clients.

As a member of the board of directors for the police athletic team, the Alabama Ballet Theater and the Magic City Art Connection, Jesse was actively involved in civic and social work throughout Alabama. He was a member of the National Association of Marketing De-

velopers, the Urban League, the Birmingham Area Musicians Association, and the Metropolitan Business Association. He was also chairman of special projects for Toys for Tots, and chairman of the Birmingham Crime Commission.

Jesse passed away suddenly due to a tragic car accident on February 26, 1995. He is survived by his loving mother, Helen; his devoted father, Jesse Lewis, Sr., former President of Lawson State Community College and Publisher of the Birmingham Times newspaper, and his brother, James Lewis.

Jesse Lewis, Jr., contributed immeasurably to the communications and business area of the African-American community of Birmingham, as well as to the constructive relationships with diverse business entities for the State of Alabama. Jesse will be greatly missed by family and friends. However, the legacy he leaves behind shall preserve an indelible impression for all of us who came to know and love him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RAYMOND
CLARKE ELLIS**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Raymond Clarke Ellis of Setauket, Long Island, NY upon his retirement from Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Co. on May 15, 1995.

Mr. Ellis' retirement is a very special occasion. It marks the conclusion of his 80 years of service to the Phoenix Insurance Co. That's right. Eighty years. That's a remarkable amount of time for anybody to remain employed, especially at the very same company.

On June 1, 1915, Mr. Ellis joined what was then called the Home Life Insurance Co. as an office staff person. He spent 7 years as a field underwriter and then became an assistant supervisor of agencies. In 1928—1 year before the Great Depression—Mr. Ellis was named head of the New York City agency. And Mr. Ellis has been producing business for the company ever since.

Raymond Ellis still commutes on the Long Island Railroad from his home in beautiful Setauket, Long Island to New York City. An avid swimmer and accomplished handball player, I'm sure that Mr. Ellis could continue this commute for at least another 25 years.

Mr. Ellis is also an active member of his community, serving in several charitable organizations, including the Fraternity of the Masons which he joined in 1919. As a community leader, Mr. Ellis has proven that the strongest people are those who serve others.

Raymond Ellis is certainly a model of hard work and dedication. I'm confident that if we all reflected upon the contributions that Mr. Ellis has already given, we would all be inspired to try a little harder and give a little more. He truly is an exemplary role model.

On behalf of the people of Long Island, I congratulate Mr. Ellis on a job well done. We wish him the best of luck for his retirement.