

14 the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven sponsored a Welcome Olympian celebration for Steven.

I have known Steven for many years and am a close friend of his parents, Barbara and Jim Segaloff. It gives me great pleasure to be able to recognize Steven's achievements. As a member of the Olympic crew team, Steven has embodied all that we have come to expect and admire in Olympic athletes. Originally introduced to the sport by his father, Steven has truly made it his own.

Crew is a sport which requires exceptional teamwork. The coxswain must coordinate the eight men rowing, guide the boat, and motivate the team. It is the role of the coxswain to pull the team together to function as a cohesive unit. This role demands keen judgment and extraordinary skill as a tactician. Throughout his rowing career, Steven has proven himself to be a master of these skills and an invaluable member of the team.

Steven first began to row at the Yale Boat-house on the Housatonic River in Derby, where he filled in for regular varsity coxes when they missed practice. He continued to cox for Cornell University's Varsity crew team. Upon graduation from Cornell, Steven went to work for Senator JOSEPH BIDEN as a staff assistant to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1993. However, his plans to continue in politics and law were put on hold indefinitely when he was asked to cox for the national team. In the past 3 years of preparation for the Olympics, Steven has coxed the national team to first place finishes at the 1994 World Rowing Championships, the 1994 Henley Royal Regatta in London, the 1994 Goodwill Games, and the 1995 Pan American Games in Argentina.

Steven came to the Olympic games with the same drive and determination that he brought to those competitions. The U.S. team qualified for the finals with a win in the first heat and finished in fifth place. Although Steven is disappointed to have missed the gold medal, New Haven is nothing but proud. Steven has shown all of us the beauty of an athlete pursuing a dream with extraordinary commitment, dedication, and passion. He has truly embodied the spirit of the Olympic games.

I am very pleased to join Steven's parents and friends as they welcome him back from the Olympics. I offer my heartfelt congratulations on a job well done. The United States has everything to be proud of in this great athlete.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION TIFEREH ISRAEL

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Congregation Tifereth Israel in Greenport, Long Island, NY, a focal point of Jewish religious and cultural life on Long Island's North Fork since it was founded 95 years ago.

Founded in 1901 by a few trail-blazing Jewish families, many of them merchants that settled near the North Fork's easternmost point, this sanctuary has flourished into a cornerstone of the Greenport community. On Sep-

tember 8, 1996, the Congregation Tifereth Israel, known to many as the Greenport Jewish Center, will celebrate its 95th anniversary.

The temple's origins date back to the late 1800's, when these Jewish families came to this bucolic fishing village seeking an improved economic lifestyle in the countryside 100 miles east of New York City. The orthodox believers among them founded Tifereth Israel in October of 1901 with the desire to build a synagogue to feed their spiritual hunger and to encourage development of a larger Jewish community.

While the founders worked to raise the \$1,430 needed to build the original temple, congregation members opened their homes for Sabbath and Holy Day services. By May of 1903 enough was raised to build a modest New England-style cottage that served as the synagogue. A devout Orthodox congregation, the synagogue was constructed with a balcony for female worshippers, a bina or dais in the sanctuary's center, and a ritual pool called a Mikvah in the basement. The Torah Ark was built against the rear wall and faced east, symbolizing the hope that Jerusalem would be restored as the capitol of Judaism and the sacred temple rebuilt to replace the one destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

When a rabbi was hired, the synagogue's board of directors required that he devote 3 hours each day to religious education. Education remains a vital component of the temple's activities that include a Hebrew school, Bar and Bat Mitzvah instruction, adult classes, lectures and intercongregational activities. To accommodate its membership, the synagogue was enlarged in the 1920's though the sanctuary was left intact. During the temple's life span a more ritual centrist Jewish population settled in the area affecting an ideological change in the synagogue's practices, including no longer segregating the genders during services and allowing women to become full participants in all rituals.

Throughout its 95 years, Tifereth Israel has been deservedly known for its benevolent efforts, raising money for charities and offering assistance to needy members of the congregation and community at large. The synagogue's members are vital contributors to the Greenport Ecumenical Council, raising funds and aiding the needy of all faiths. Tifereth Israel congregants are also active supporters of the Parish Outreach effort at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church.

Just as importantly, the congregation has strived to preserve its Jewish heritage and offer its members spiritual sustenance. In that steadfast commitment to its own religious and cultural heritage, the synagogue has enriched the entire east end of Long Island. Congratulations, Tifereth Israel. Mazel Tov.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO W. FERRELL SHUCK, PUBLISHER OF THE LEE'S SUMMIT JOURNAL

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Missouri's great newsmen, W. Ferrell Shuck, publisher of the Lee's Summit Journal. On October 18, Mr. Shuck

will be formally inducted into the Missouri Press Association Newspaper Hall of Fame in honor of his exemplary contributions to journalism, his leadership in the industry, and his commitment to the community.

Mr. Shuck started in the newspaper business 45 years ago as a young newspaper carrier. As his interest in newspapers developed, Mr. Shuck began writing and worked his way to sports editor for the Daily Gazette in McCook, NE. He later worked in advertising sales and management at the Daily Star in Miles City, MT, and the Omaha World Herald. Mr. Shuck has served as publisher for the Bates County Democrat in Butler, MO, Townsend Communications and the Lee's Summit Journal where he has published papers for 28 years. He also is a longtime member and the current secretary of the Missouri Press Association.

Those who work with him at the Journal say his intense love and knowledge of the newspaper business grows each and every day. Always striving for excellence, Mr. Shuck continues to oversee every aspect of the newspaper's production. His wisdom and experience ensures depth and substance in news coverage. Mr. Shuck also is known for his attention to detail, often catching the smallest typo before the paper goes to print.

Having served communities throughout the heartland, Mr. Shuck has developed a deep understanding and appreciation of the American experience. He has been described as the "conscience of Lee's Summit" for his role as a community watchdog and for his efforts to improve the quality of life for area residents.

Mr. Shuck does not simply report on events and life in Lee's Summit. He is an integral part of the community, one of the fastest growing areas in the State. In his efforts to promote economic development and contribute as a community partner, he serves as a member of the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, the Lee's Summit Downtown Main Street, Inc., Lee's Summit Economic Development Council and Lee's Summit Rotary.

Mr. Shuck is being recognized in Lee's Summit today by his friends, family, staff, and neighbors. We salute his commitment to solid journalism, uncompromising integrity, and community enhancement. I send my sincere congratulations to Mr. Shuck, his family, and all at the Lee's Summit Journal who contribute to his success and help fulfill his vision.

#### INTRODUCING A BILL TO REDUCE MEDICARE PAYMENTS TO TRANSPLANT CENTERS FOR GENERAL OVERHEAD COSTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill which will save Medicare millions of dollars each year. This savings will not involve a decrease in coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. It simply allows us to stop paying someone else's laundry bill, and I mean that literally.

Medicare was established to provide basic protection against the costs of health care while providing quality services. As organ transplants became a medical reality, Medicare became a full insurer for kidney, heart,

lung, and liver transplants. Hospitals must apply for certification to perform each type of transplant and receive Medicare reimbursement. There are approximately 160 hospitals across the country which hold such contracts.

We seem to be under the impression that because we have approved these facilities, all of the items in their bills to Medicare are justified. But this is not the case; hospitals add on approximately 25 percent of an imported organ's acquisition cost to cover a portion of administrative and general overhead costs, such as laundry, housekeeping services, rent, and utilities. This add-on system cost Medicare \$22 million in 1995.

Let me back up for a moment and put this in context. Under the diagnostic related group [DRG] system, Medicare pays hospitals a set rate for each type of injury or illness. The DRG payment covers all items and services provided by the hospital to the patient, and includes an allocation for overhead associated with each service rendered. Organ acquisition is covered separately from the DRG for organ transplants. In this case, Medicare separately reimburses transplant centers for the acquisition cost of each organ. It is this cost to which hospitals make the add-on. The problem lies particularly with cases in which the organ is imported from an organ procurement organization.

Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to imply that hospitals have acted inappropriately. It is normal practice for hospitals to distribute their overhead to cost centers which are not covered by DRG's. Indirect costs are allocated across the board to all possible cost centers. However, the DRG for organ transplantation already includes an allocation for overhead. Since no medical service is associated with simply acquiring an organ from an outside agency and then billing Medicare for the organ, adding a portion of unrelated administrative and general costs is unreasonable.

For example, if acquiring an organ cost a hospital \$10,000, Medicare would be billed that amount plus an extra 25 percent, bringing the total to \$12,500. This process bleeds the system of millions every year by charging Medicare more than its share of the overhead costs associated with transplants. The 25 percent add-on is not associated with medical services to the patient, nor administrative or general services other than billing Medicare. If we allow this practice to continue, Health and Human Services estimates suggest that this will cost Medicare as much as \$35 million in 1999.

The bill would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for savings in the Medicare Program by reducing overhead payment for Medicare transplant centers. It states that hospitals may not allocate their general or administrative costs to the acquisition cost of organs imported for transplant as they determine costs to be reimbursed by Medicare. This is a bill to improve the efficiency of the Medicare Program, an objective I believe we all would like to accomplish.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JOSEPH C. TAITANO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend and congratulate Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph C. Taitano of the Guam Army National Guard on his distinguished career and his well-earned retirement. A 30-year veteran, Command Sergeant Major Taitano served in Vietnam and in the Persian Gulf.

Born in the village of Tamuning, he is the son of Henry and Josephine Taitano. He grew up in the village of Dededo and attended George Washington Senior High School. Upon graduating in 1966, he enlisted in the Army where he rose from the ranks. Serving in various leadership positions ranging from squad leader to command sergeant major, Command Sergeant Major Taitano holds the distinction of being the only soldier to have served in all of the Army's components in the sergeant major position. His assignments included tours of duty with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam and the Army Central Command/3d U.S. Army in the Persian Gulf. He was also stationed at a number of locations prior to being assigned to the Guam Army National Guard.

A host of awards and decorations were conferred to him during three decades of service. They include, among others, two Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals and an Army Achievement Medal. Aside from attending the University of Guam, Command Sergeant Major Taitano received a wide range of formal military and technical training. He also completed numerous leadership courses including the Command Sergeant Major Course.

After 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service, Command Sergeant Major Taitano has chosen to retire from the Army in order to spend more time with his family. In addition to the great contributions his military career has made toward the strength and security of this Nation, Command Sergeant Major Taitano's achievements have undoubtedly brought pride to the Island of Guam and its people. He is a role model; he is a leader; he is a great representative of his island home.

I join his parents, Henry and Josephine Taitano, who, together with his children—Nolan, Samantha, Neal, Sophina, and their mother Elizabeth—are proud to celebrate his great accomplishments. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Command Sergeant Major Taitano. I hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase' CSM Taitano.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES PRESERVATION ACT

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3487, the National Marine

Sanctuaries Preservation Act. This bill contains language I introduced in the Committee on Resources to amend the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico to include a nearby area known as Stetson Bank. The Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary was established by Congress in 1992, and has been a model for the National Marine Sanctuary Program. It is located 120 miles off the Texas coast and protects the northernmost living coral reefs on the U.S. Continental Shelf. The Sanctuary Program has demonstrated our ability to preserve and protect valuable marine resources, such as the coral reefs of the Flower Garden Banks, while sustaining the important multiple uses of the surrounding marine environment.

Stetson Bank is a small coral bank approximately three-quarters of a square mile in area. Currently, it is a no activity zone under Mineral Management Service regulations which prohibit exploring, developing, or producing oil, natural gas, or minerals. Stetson Bank provides habitat for a spectacular array of fish and invertebrates and is a feeding ground for manta rays, whale sharks, and spotted dolphins.

These resources have made this area a popular destination for sport divers to spearfish and collect shells; activities which have resulted in depletion of the natural resources and severe anchor damage to the coral formations. These effects have led local scientists and sports diving groups to request inclusion of Stetson Bank in the protection and preservation measures of the Flower Gardens Bank Sanctuary. This will help ensure these valuable resources will be preserved for future uses.

I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG, ranking member MILLER and their staffs for their help bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor. I would also like to thank the petroleum industry representatives for their help. I believe this is a piece of legislation that will add to the economic and ecological riches of the gulf, and I urge the support of my colleagues.

## TRIBUTE TO PASTOR L.M. THORNE

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great commitment and devotion, Pastor L.M. Thorne. For over 30 years, Pastor Thorne has spread God's word to countless individuals while enriching the lives of those who know him. He is truly an inspiration to us all.

Pastor Thorne committed himself at a very young age to spreading the Gospel of the Lord. His formal training began at the Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland, FL, where he received a bachelor of theology. He then went on to earn a doctor of divinity at the Christian International University.

Pastor Thorne established the Abundant Life Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL, and Samson, AL, in the mid-1970's. The Fort Walton Beach church boasts an extremely active congregation of over 500 families, active not only in the local community, but across the Nation and abroad as well. Abundant Life has sent numerous missionaries to the foreign