

American actress and producer, Carmen Zapata, along with Cuban-born actress and director, Margarita Galban, and Argentinean designer, Estela Scarlata, BFA has grown from a small, itinerant bilingual theater to a permanent cultural institution that utilizes the arts as a tool for exploration and understanding of the Latino community.

On the evening of May 22, 1997, Chairman Jesus Rangel, joined by Cochairs Enrique "Henry" Baray, Douglas M. West, and Latin Heat's Bel Hernandez and Loyda Ramos, will join BFA's supporters in honoring the outstanding contributions of women at the 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony. Receiving the El Angel Corporate Award will be the Coca Cola Co. and Kraft General Foods, for their support of Latino arts. Muralist Judy Baca and actress/comedian Liz Torres will receive the El Angel Artist Award, for their outstanding and innovative contributions to the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts for its unyielding commitment to promoting the arts in the Latino community, and to join me in congratulating 1997's El Angel Award recipients. I proudly, in recognition of BFA's contributions to our community for nearly a quarter of a century, declare May 22, 1997, to be Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my congressional district.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight to Washington, I missed rollcall Votes Nos. 139, 140, and 141. Had I been present I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 139, 140 and 141.

"MY GOOD FRIEND, THE  
PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN"

#### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I had the opportunity to visit Taiwan and I became an admirer of President Lee Teng-hui. He was graceful, charismatic, knowledgeable, and visionary as well. He deeply impressed me with his firm grasp of world events as he articulated his vision of a modern Taiwan that is economically prosperous, politically free, and internationally respected.

President Lee has certainly maintained Taiwan's spectacular economic growth. Politically he has introduced many reforms, including the upcoming debate on Taiwan's constitution. In terms of achieving greater international recognition for Taiwan, I have learned that Foreign Minister John Chang is succeeding in making the world see the injustices of excluding Taiwan, a major economic power, from many important international organizations. As for Taiwan's relationship with the United States, Taiwan certainly has many friends on Capitol Hill due to the efforts of Ambassador Jason Hu and his staff.

Congratulations to my good friend, the President of Taiwan, on the occasion of his first anniversary of his first elected term of office. He will always have my support and best wishes.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE WEST ST. LOUIS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on the event of its 40th anniversary. This chamber has faithfully served the cities of Ballwin, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Manchester, Valley Park, Wildwood, Winchester, and parts of unincorporated St. Louis County, MO.

Established on May 13, 1957, as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the chamber was founded to enrich the communities of the West St. Louis County corridor. At its first meeting held in the basement of Ballwin Elementary School, the chamber dedicated itself to improving the quality of education, highways, and sewer systems. From these humble beginnings, the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce has grown into one of the most dynamic and progressive chambers in this region. With 385 members and 601 representatives, the chamber continues to advance commercial, industrial, and civic interest, as well as enhancing the community environment within cities and unincorporated areas.

The West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce currently is involved in numerous activities including: monitoring local, State, and Federal legislative issues of specific interest to business; maintaining a proactive status to improve transportation facilities and services; publishing an annual "Buyer's Guide and Membership Directory" which is distributed to 50,000 residents; soliciting of new businesses and residents to the area; acts as a clearinghouse for information for prospective new businesses; and offers its members opportunities for networking, advertising, education, and referrals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the membership of the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on this occasion. I am confident that the chamber will continue to lead the West St. Louis County corridor well into the next millennium.

#### AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that on the eve of his retirement that I rise in tribute to the chairman and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities, Inc., Mr. James R. Leva.

Jim Leva is a true American success story and how he achieved that success defines what it is to be a good civic and corporate citizen—hard work, determination, commitment to

community, excellence in all efforts, and loyalty and love for family.

A 1950 graduate of Boonton High School and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Leva joined Jersey Central in 1952 as a utility worker and progressed to first-class lineman in 1954. He worked for 4 years as night troubleman while attending Fairleigh Dickinson University as a full-time day student in electrical engineering. At the same time, he was beginning his life with his wife, Marie Marinaro of Morristown, and raising their five children.

Mr. Leva graduated from the university magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1960. The same year he advanced to cadet engineer in the utility's central division engineering department and was promoted to assistant engineer the following year. His rise continued—from personnel assistant in 1962, assistant manager-employee relations in 1963, manager-employee relations in 1968, vice president personnel, safety and services in 1969 and vice president consumer affairs in 1979.

In 1980, Mr. Leva obtained his juris doctorate from Seton Hall Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar the same year.

In January 1992, he was elected president and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities Corp., the forerunner of GPU, Inc., and assumed the additional position of chairman in June 1992. He is also chairman of GPU Nuclear, Inc., and chairman and chief executive officer of all other major GPU companies.

And, while all this hard work was accomplished, Jim Leva never forgot his commitment to the county and State in which he lived. Mr. Leva has been active in local public affairs for many years. He served as a member of the Morris Township Board of Education, the Morris Township Committee, and was the township's police commissioner. He also served two terms as mayor of Morris Township.

Jim Leva has had an even broader sense of community than the county in which he lives. Among his other contributions, Mr. Leva is a director of the Utilities Mutual Insurance Co., New Jersey Utilities Association, Edison Electric Institute, and New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. He was national chairman of the 1996 U.S. Savings Bond campaign, chairman of the board of trustees of St. Clare's-Riverside Foundation, and chairman of the joint advisory board of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University. He is also a member of the board of trustees of Fairleigh Dickinson University and the TriCounty Scholarship Fund and a member of the board of directors of Prosperity New Jersey, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, this Friday, May 23, many people will gather to pay tribute to Jim Leva for his many achievements and leadership of GPU as well as his countless contributions to a better New Jersey. They will come from all walks of life—from the lineman to the government official, from business leaders to community volunteers to say thank you. We say thank you Jim for a job well done and thank you for serving as an example to us all. We are most grateful for your service and we wish you and your family many happy and well-deserved years of retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BARTLEY "BART"  
BENNETT

**HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great humanitarian and close friend, Mr. Bartley "Bart" Bennett. Bart has worked tirelessly for the housing industry and constantly volunteered his time throughout our community. For that, I would like to honor him today.

Bart and I have known each other for years. Since founding Christmas CanTree with Frank Riser in 1977, Bart has worked with numerous organizations providing for the less fortunate. He simultaneously served on the Salvation Army Modesto Corps Advisory Board and the Community Housing and Shelter Services Board for almost two decades. This unrelenting dedication has affected many lives over the years.

In addition to these services, Bart has served as chairman of the Big Five Fundraiser for 10 years. This organization benefits the Community Housing and Shelter Services. It is a pleasure to recognize Bart today for these selfless acts of good will.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL WRITE  
YOUR CONGRESSMAN

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased during the last few years to see that so many Americans take the opportunity to become involved in our Government. This involvement is reflected in the high volume of letters from my constituents regarding issues and events that affect their lives. I encourage and welcome this type of participation.

Today, I would like to recognize an organization that helps the people of this country send their thoughts and concerns to their Representatives in Washington, DC. National Write Your Congressman, founded in 1958, is a unique organization. It is different because it is not a lobbying organization and does not show partiality toward a particular issue. National Write Your Congressman researches legislation, presents both sides of national issues, and allows its members to develop their own opinions.

Once a month, this organization sends its members an opinion ballot outlining both sides of a controversial issue. They also conduct frequent national polls among their members and advise Representatives of the results. Finally, National Write Your Congressman keeps its members aware of their Representatives' voting records on national issues.

I am proud to see this organization actively encouraging busy Americans to voice their opinions on national issues. I commend National Write Your Congressman on its efforts to keep the American people in touch with their Representatives.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 553,  
SOUTH GLENS FALLS, NY, HON-  
ORED FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime member of the American Legion myself, it is with great pride that I commemorate the Mohican Post 553 of the American Legion in South Glens Falls, NY, in my congressional district. And it is with great humility that I stand here today and try and do justice to all the tremendous service and good this post has done for veterans and their families, as well as the entire community over the past 75 years.

Just last year, I had the tremendous good fortune of addressing both the New York State and the National American Legion Convention where I was awarded with the American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award. Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me that among all the things I've done in this Congress, I literally cherish above all else the time I've spent working alongside the American Legion. Together we've achieved so much on behalf of flag and country.

But Mr. Speaker, those achievements are what makes the men and women of American Legion Posts like No. 553 in South Glens Falls the true heroes. Not only have they served their country in uniform, but they have served America and their fellow veterans as members of the Legion. A group that is always in the forefront of efforts to develop and maintain adequate veterans benefits and programs.

And as if that wasn't enough, there are the tremendous programs and activities the members of Post 553 run on behalf of their community. I'm talking about things like scholarships and teams they sponsor for the youth in Glens Falls as well as community wide events.

Because of efforts like these, their promotion of pride, patriotism, and good citizenship goes unparalleled. And that's why I can't wait to pass the constitutional amendment to protect Old Glory right here on the House floor knowing I have the wholehearted support of my fellow Legionnaires from Post 553 in South Glens Falls, New York.

Mr. Speaker, protecting our flag, watching out for fellow veterans and ensuring a strong national defense may seem like a large and daunting agenda to some. But that's not half of what Legion Posts like this one have done over the 75 year history dating back to 1922. But I know there's no limit to what they can accomplish. That's because this post is made up of patriotic Americans who have served their country and earned the right to call themselves veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and proud members of the American Legion.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all members join me in paying tribute to all the members of South Glens Falls Legion Post 553 for their tireless and selfless devotion to America and their community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR.  
ROBERT L. FULLER

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, 1997, Mt. Hermon Baptist Church will honor a dedicated individual and servant of God. The church, which is in my congressional district, will pay special tribute to Dr. Robert Lawrence Fuller, a pastor who completed 81 years in the Gospel Ministry. I join the Mt. Hermon Church family and the Greater Cleveland community in saluting Dr. Fuller. I want to share with my colleagues and others some information regarding this distinguished individual.

Dr. Fuller was born on October 10, 1911, in Decatur, AL. At the age of 5, his call to the ministry was recognized. Although Dr. Fuller was born with a speech impediment and had never been to school, he undertook the preaching of the Gospel with an unwavering conviction. He received his license at the age of 11, and was ordained some 8 years later. At the youthful age of 22, Dr. Fuller accepted his first pastorate at the Union Hill Baptist Church of Chattanooga, TN.

Mr. Speaker, in February 1937, Dr. Fuller arrived in Cleveland, OH, and began his ministerial service at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church. With the country in the Depression and the congregation on the verge of losing its place of worship, Dr. Fuller began a faith-building itinerary which would continue throughout his tenure. In 1939, the Mt. Hermon congregation began to purchase its first building. They burned the mortgage in 1942. As the membership continued to increase, a building fund was established, with a view to expansion. The ground breaking for the new place of worship took place on July 7, 1957. On August 10, 1958, the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church conducted its first worship service in the newly-completed, half-million dollar edifice on East 40th Street.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Fuller retired as pastor of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in October 1992, after a record 55 years of dedicated service. He left with an impressive list of accomplishments to his credit. Under Dr. Fuller's leadership, renovations continued to take place, including the installation of an infra-ray heating system, a state-of-the-art public chime system, and the completion of a tower and third floor addition. Further, Dr. Fuller was instrumental in seeing that Mt. Hermon was responsive to the needs of the Greater Cleveland community. He led the congregation in evangelistic crusades and conducting religious surveys. Dr. Fuller was also responsible for the planning and building of the Good Samaritan Foundation Home which officially opened its doors to the community in October of 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church family and many others in saluting Dr. Robert L. Fuller. His slogan that he is "God's Minute Man," exemplifies his intention to immediately respond to God's direction. I applaud Dr. Fuller for his strong commitment and dedicated service throughout the years. I recognize his achievements, and I wish him continued blessings and Godspeed.