

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND PHILLIP
KENTER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed Chamber to pay tribute to Mary and Phillip Kenter, of Riverhead, Long Island, as they celebrate their blessed 40th wedding anniversary.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives believe as I do, that marriage is the bedrock of our society, the foundation on which all of our values, beliefs, and hopes for the future stand. That is why we, as national leaders, should take a moment to recognize and honor Mary and Phillip Kenter for all of the love, loyalty, and faith that goes into creating a marriage that has endured and grown for 40 years.

Though Phillip is a native of Flushing, Queens, and Mary is from Norwalk, CT, their love first ignited on the warm sands of Jones Beach, Long Island, where they met in 1955. With a courtship that progressed while Phillip attended the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School, the two were married on September 7, 1957, 1 month after he graduated OCS and a week before he shipped out aboard a Navy destroyer for the next 2½ years.

Their first son, Phillip, was born a little more than 2 years later and Dennis was born about the time his father left the Navy in 1961. Two years later, with a vision of providing TV to all of Long Island, Phillip founded Long Island Cablevision, a company he sold to the Los Angeles Times Mirror Co. in 1968. By then, their son Kevin had arrived and the Kenters settled in Riverhead.

Gifted with an entrepreneurial spirit, Phillip and Mary then founded Relay Communications Center. A true family business, each of the Kenter sons are active members of the telephone answering, two-way radio and paging services company. There are 45 other members of the Relay Communications work force and each of them are treated as members of the extended Kenter family, a feeling that Phillip and Mary extend to the entire Riverhead community.

Raising a family and growing a small business would drain the time and energy of most, but Phillip and Mary have also been active members of the Riverhead community as Scout leaders, volunteers at Central Suffolk Hospital, in the Rosary Altar Society at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, and the Riverhead Rotary, Women's and Garden clubs.

All of this demonstrates the values, caring and commitment that Phillip and Mary offer their community, attributes that have served their marriage well, while making Long Island an even better place by their example. The foundation of the Riverhead community, indeed all of Long Island, has been strengthened for the past 40 years by the hard work and devotion that Phillip and Mary Kenter have dedicated to their marriage. We see the many blessings and gifts that have been bestowed upon them, of which they so generously share, and understand the true meaning of family values. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this entire Chamber join me in offering our praise and heartiest congratulations to them on this

blessed anniversary. A union as blessed as theirs will surely endure forever.

RECOGNIZING THE GIFT OF TIME
FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of an outstanding new organization which has dedicated itself to aid in the development of our Nation's children. The Gift of Time Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing community service, academic, and physical fitness programs for children between the ages of 4 and 18.

The mission of the Gift of Time Foundation is: "To provide children with resources, opportunities and assistance that help them develop high self-esteem, self confidence, socially acceptable value systems, diverse cultural appreciation and family values by providing them with structured environments for membership in mandatory participation in physical fitness, academics, and community service programs. To provide children with personal character development assistance for self expression through structured positive activities alternatives."

The Gift of Time Foundation is spearheaded by Mr. E. Douglas McFarlin. His vision is to build a youth complex in St. Louis that will provide children with the upper direction to meet the challenges of our modern society. Mr. McFarlin is working closely with business, community, and civic leaders to launch this important project. He is hoping that the St. Louis complex will be the first of many across the country.

Mr. Speaker, organizations like the Gift of Time Foundation, can help a community in building character and values in its children. The efforts of Mr. McFarlin and his organization are to be commended for taking this challenge head on. I ask that you join me in recognizing this fine organization and wishing Mr. McFarlin the very best on his endeavors to bring this program to the children of our Nation.

QUEENSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE
COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned many times on the floor of Congress before, I hold a special respect and admiration for volunteer fire companies and firefighters. Naturally, I reserve even deeper admiration for the unit I served with myself for many years, my hometown fire department, Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company. It just so happens that this very special fire company is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, the whole community and town government will turn out for the celebration, which is quite understandable. That's because for 50 years, like her counterparts ev-

erywhere in rural and suburban America, Queensbury Central has provided outstanding fire protection for her neighbors in a growing community.

And I'd like to tell you about the traits which make me so fond of volunteer fire departments and the communities they serve. No. 1 is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. That camaraderie makes up much of the charm of small town life but also generates a desire to look out for one another and the needs of the community. That's what makes places like Queensbury such places, great places, to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the Queensbury Fire Company. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis.

And in many rural areas, these volunteer fire companies offer the only available fire protection. But there is nothing wanting in the professionalism and training of these companies. Every year they save countless lives and millions of dollars in property across New York State. These volunteer firemen and the devoted ladies auxiliaries that provide much-needed support make incredible sacrifices in time and effort. Often, they must drop whatever they're doing and respond to a fire alarm. You never know how many lives, not to mention homes and property, may be at stake. Mr. Speaker, in many ways these volunteer fire companies are the last remnants of America's pioneer spirit when neighbor helped neighbor in times of need or trouble.

Which brings me to the other primary reason I have such fondness for fire departments like the one in Queensbury, the spirit of volunteerism they exemplify. You know, volunteerism, pride, and patriotism are the three principles which make this country great. And there is just something so staunchly American about being a volunteer fire company. Giving of oneself with no expectation of gain or profit. That's what it's all about.

Mr. Speaker, I have always judged people based on what they give back to their communities. By that measure, all the members of the Queensbury Volunteer Fire Company and the auxiliary are truly great Americans. On the weekend of September 13 and 14, their 50th anniversary will be commemorated with an open house, parade, and firefighter's competition. But Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all members join me today in paying our own tribute to Chief Richard Jones and the other members of Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company, which for 50 years has served my hometown in the finest American tradition of helping one's fellowman.

BOMBING IN ISRAEL

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to use my 1 minute today for two purposes: The first is to extend condolences to all Israelis and their families who were involved in the bombing at the Ben-Yehuda marketplace this morning.

The second is to urge PLO Chairman Yasar Arafat to take immediate and decisive action

against Hamas and prove to the Israeli people and to the United States that he is truly a proponent of peace and an opponent of violence.

Just 2 weeks ago, I embarked on a trip to Israel with a group of congressional colleagues. We mourned the loss of those killed in the bombing at the marketplace on July 30, visited the West Bank and met with both Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat.

During our meeting, I asked Mr. Arafat if he supported the actions of groups like the Hamas. He insisted he did not. Two days ago, Mr. Arafat participated in what he dubbed "unite" meetings and was seen kissing the heads of Hamas operatives. Today that same group has allegedly claimed credit, yes credit, for taking the lives of innocent people.

So far this morning, we have heard that this bombing has killed 6 innocent Israelis and injured more than 165 others.

On my last visit, I found Israel more contentious than it was on my previous trip—2 weeks before the signing of the Oslo peace accord.

As Members of Congress, we all play a role in policy toward the PLO. In my opinion, Mr. Arafat, you must move yourself miles from the actions of groups like the Hamas and take strong action against them, whether it is with your armed services or in another way. Otherwise, I can't understand why the United States should supply your organization with funds and support.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BETTY SHABAZZ

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Betty Shabazz, a woman of great courage and dignity, who died tragically on June 23, 1997. We all will miss her presence.

I attended Dr. Shabazz' funeral in New York City, remembering with others how much her work has affected us all. Betty Shabazz was a woman who faced down tragedy and rose above the sadness, emerging strong and powerful. When she could have been bitter and angry, she chose instead a path to peace and hope for the future.

A pillar of strength for all women, she did not live her life in her husband's shadow. Instead, she claimed her place in both the women's rights and civil rights movement. Left a widow after the assassination of her husband, Betty Shabazz triumphed over every hurdle placed in her way. She used her nursing degree to support herself and her six daughters. She returned to school, and received her doctorate in education. She inspired thousands of young people, teaching them about the legacy of Malcolm X. At the time of her death she served as the director of Institutional Advancement and Public Relations at Medgar Evers College, of the City University of New York.

We have come a long way, from when no political leader dared show his face at her husband's funeral, to where thousands of us, irrespective of politics, were united in grief for this wonderful woman. Dr. Betty Shabazz made this journey possible. I expect her work

to be as important and as far reaching as her husband's.

TRIBUTE TO LEGH KNOWLES

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. RIGGS, and I would like to give our condolences and respect on the passing of Leh Knowles, who died on August 15 in Napa, CA. Once a trumpet player in the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Legh went on to become an accomplished and passionate representative of the wine industry, and chairman of California's famous Beaulieu Vineyard in the Napa Valley. Legh lived a wonderful and productive life, which will be admired for years to come. He will be remembered and missed by his friends and loved ones, and by his peers who knew his passion for life and his fellow man.

Below is a tribute to Legh written by Frank Prial of the New York Times on August 19, offering a kind and appropriate gesture.

[From the New York Times, Aug. 19, 1997]

LEGH KNOWLES IS DEAD AT 78; TRUMPETER HEADED WINERY

(By Frank J. Prial)

Legh Knowles, a trumpet player in the Glenn Miller Orchestra who went on to become chairman of Beaulieu Vineyard, one of California's most famous wineries, and a passionate spokesman for all California wines, died on Friday at a convalescent residence near his home in Napa, Calif. He was 78.

The cause of death was cancer of the esophagus, said his wife, Margaret.

Legh (pronounced lee) Knowles entered the wine business as a complete neophyte: just out of the Air Force in 1948, he answered an advertisement from the California Wine Advisory Board, a trade organization, for someone to promote California wines.

"I didn't know anything about wine," he recalled in a 1986 interview, "but they wanted someone who could stand up before large crowds," and, as a big-band trumpeter, "I'd done a lot of that."

Mr. Knowles played with a number of big bands at various times before entering the service in 1942, but he always looked back on his days with Glenn Miller as the peak of his musical career.

"In 1939, we played 359 nights," he once said. "I can't remember what I did with the other 6."

The nomadic life of a musician prepared him well for the wine business. He moved 13 times in his first 10 years in the business, as spokesman or salesman, and then spent much of the rest of his life on the road.

From the California Wine Advisory Board, Mr. Knowles went to the Taylor Wine Company in New York. And from there, he joined the E. & J. Gallo Winery in California in 1958 for four years of what he later called the toughest and best training he ever had.

"Gallo salesmen had a saying," he recalled. "We don't want most of the business; we want it all."

In 1962, Mr. Knowles moved on to Beaulieu Vineyard, in Rutherford, Calif., in the Napa Valley. It was the golden age of Beaulieu, which was still owned by the family of Georges de Latour, the elegant Frenchman who had founded it at the turn of the century. When Mr. Knowles arrived, Andre Tchelistcheff was making the wine, and the winery's principal label, Georges de Latour

Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, was widely considered the best made in America.

Beaulieu was sold to Heublein Inc. in 1969, and despite his prickly relations with Heublein executives in Connecticut—he called them bean counters—Mr. Knowles became the winery's vice president and general manager that year. He was appointed president in 1975 and chairman in 1982. In 1987, the Napa Valley Vintners Association named him one of the Valley's 12 "living legends," a group that included Robert Mondavi, Peter Mondavi, Louis P. Martini and Hanns Kornell.

Mr. Knowles, a native of Bethel, Conn., took to the trumpet as a small boy and was hired at the age of 12 to play in a local jazz band. During the big-band era he played first with Red Norvo and Mildred Bailey, then with Glenn Miller and later with Charlie Spivak and his orchestra. He made 122 records with the Miller band, including "In the Mood," its signature recording.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Barbara Pinches of New Rochelle, N.Y.; a brother, Robert; a sister, Bernice Scott, and two grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO RANSOM EVERGLADES SCHOOL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize one of the five oldest institutions in Dade County and in my congressional district, Ransom Everglades School, as it dedicates its new Middle School Science Center today, September 4. The Middle School Science Center has been built in true Ransom Everglades form, with all volunteer and donated funds.

Ransom Everglades School traces its founding to 1893 when a young Harvard-educated lawyer, Paul Ransom, came to pioneer Miami from Buffalo, NY. Mr. Ransom built a small tutoring camp he called Pine Knot Camp in Coconut Grove. He also contributed property in New York's Adirondack Mountains, and started a northern campus, making it the first migratory college-preparatory boarding school for young men, with winter months spent at the Coconut Grove campus and the remainder of the year spent at the Adirondack campus. Duty to one's country and society, along with academic excellence, was always emphasized by Mr. Ransom. In 1974, Ransom School merged with another independent school in Coconut Grove, Everglades Schools For Girls, and was later renamed as Ransom Everglades School.

Today, the school continues as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, independent, and co-educational college-preparatory day school for grades 6 through 12, with 870 students on both campuses. Although it has only a small endowment, a significant number of its students are on scholarship based on financial need and merit admission. Ransom Everglades is also a founding member of Summerbridge, a national program to educate students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds at the Nation's best college-preparatory, independent schools. Despite its very limited financial resources, Ransom Everglades has achieved national stature, sending its well-prepared students to the finest colleges in the country.