

Despina Marangos was born in Bethlehem, PA, on November 14, 1917. Despina's parents, Zaharias Kyriacou from Cyprus and Chrsanthi Protoulis from Lesbos, Greece, had entered the United States through Ellis Island in the early 1900's.

When Despina moved to New York at age six and enrolled in P.S. 116, her English language skills were limited. yet she graduated as valedictorian of her class and went on to attend Julia Richman High school where she was an honor student.

Despina's devotion to her family and community was evident in her willingness to act as an interpreter. Her devotion to her family was further exhibited during the Depression when Despina entered the work force at an early age to work with her mother in the garment industry.

At age 20, Despina met Pantelis John Maragos from Cyprus. They were married just before her 21st birthday on November 6, 1938, at Zodofo Pygi Greek Orthodox Church in the Bronx. Despina and Pantelis celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary just yesterday.

Despina continued to work until her daughter, mary Ann, was born in 1943. but, during World War II, Pantelis was sent overseas with the Navy. Despina was forced to move in with her parents and take a job at a defense plant in Long Island City. She worked nights and cared for her child during the day.

After the war, Pantelis returned and their son, John Zaharias, was born in 1950. Despina continued to enrich her life with reading, helping her children and caring for her aging parents. She also found time to be a den mother and an officer in the Women's Auxiliary and in the Parents' Association.

In 1959, a new phase of Despina's life began when she went back to work for the Christmas season at Macy's. Her work was so exemplary that Macy's retained her for 30 years. Since retiring, she has remained active in the retiree chapter of her union, Macy's Local 1S, and in the senior center she and Pantelis attend, where she is a board member.

As grandparents, Despina and Pantelis often travel with their granddaughters, Cindy and Denise. Even with Pantelis recovering from a stroke a year ago, they still make short trips. They are both working hard on his recovery and look forward to the day they can travel freely again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Despina Marangos, the daughter of immigrants who has combined the best of her hellenic heritage with the opportunities America has provided.

THE TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KASICH, and the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HAMILTON, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998. The purpose of this bipartisan legislation is to re-channel existing resources to facilitate debt for nature swaps with lesser developed countries

that contain some of the world's most biologically diverse tropical forests. Now is the time for action.

Despite all of the controversy over global warming, there is a consensus that tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits to citizens of the United States and people around the world. Tropical forests harbor a major share of the Earth's biological resources, which provide the ingredients for life-saving medicines and the genetic sources to revitalize agricultural crops that supply most of the world's food. They play a critical role as carbon sinks in reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and moderating potential global climate change. And these forests regulate hydrological cycles on which far-flung agricultural and coastal resources depend. In short, tropical forests are essential to sustaining life, treating deadly diseases, and preserving the agricultural economy.

Tragically, over half of the tropical forests on Earth have disappeared and the rapid rate of deforestation and degradation of these sensitive ecosystems continues unabated. In the past year alone, more than 30 million acres of tropical forests were lost. Such a record cannot continue without a dramatic impact on our environment for our generation and those to come.

Many of these biologically rich environments are located in less developed countries with significant amounts of U.S. debt. These countries have urgent needs for investment and capital for development and have allocated a significant amount of their forests to logging concessions. Poverty and economic pressures on the populations of developing countries have, over time, resulted in clearing of vast areas of forest for conversion to agriculture, which is often unsustainable in the poor soils underlying tropical forests. Mounting debts put more pressure on countries to sell off or convert their tropical forests for other uses.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act addresses the underlying causes of tropical deforestation and gives countries tangible incentives to protect their tropical forests.

The act builds upon the framework of President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative [EAI]. Under EAI, up to \$154 million was provided to environmental trust funds in Latin American countries to protect tropical rain forests through debt for nature swaps.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide the President authority to: First, reduce debt owned to the United States that is outstanding as of January 1, 1997, as a result of concessional loans; second, to reduce any amount owed to the United States outstanding as of January 1, 1997, as a result of any credits extended under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954; and third, to sell to any eligible purchaser, or reduce or cancel, any loan made before January 1, 1997, to any eligible country or any agency under the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945. Appropriations are authorized for these purposes for fiscal years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

The bill initially targets specific countries and gives the President discretion over time to designate countries that meet the criteria for designation. It facilitates debt for nature swaps in those developing countries that have tropical forests with the greatest degree of biodiversity and under the most severe threat.

Such countries must also meet the criteria established by Congress under the EAI, including, among other things, that the government must be democratically elected, has not repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, is not failing to cooperate on international narcotics control matters, and does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

Each beneficiary country will establish a tropical forest fund. Amounts deposited in the fund will be used to preserve, maintain, and restore tropical forests in those countries. There is accountability in the process—such funds shall be administered and overseen by U.S. Government officials, environmental non-governmental organizations active in the beneficiary country, and scientific or academic organizations.

The goal of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 is to help protect the planet's remaining storehouses of biological diversity. These forests have a direct impact on U.S. taxpayers—on the air we breath, the food we eat and the medicines that are developed to cure disease. Action is needed now in these developing countries to address the underlying causes of deforestation and environmental degradation so that these important ecosystems can be preserved before it is too late.

This legislation has strong support in the environmental community, including Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy, and the World Wildlife Fund strongly support this legislation.

We look forward to working with our colleagues on a bipartisan basis and with the administration to protect these invaluable resources.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY KUIPER

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service and dedication of a constituent in my district, Mr. Henry "Hank" Kuiper of El Centro, CA. Hank is a devoted member of this community serving the city of El Centro for the past 12 years, 3 of these as mayor. He is soon retiring and I would like to take a moment to commend his dedicated service in local government and community programs.

Hank's involvement and accomplishments extend well beyond his 12 year tenure with the city council. Aside from being a member of the small business community, he also served as a member of the Joint Powers Insurance Authority, Air Pollution Control Board, Citizens Advisory Committee—Centinela State Prison, Border Trade Alliance, Free Trade Commission, and was appointed by Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt to the Colorado River Flood Way Task Force.

Hank is a symbol of commitment and dedication to his fellow citizens and community. He has pledged a great share of his life to the service of others and he has surely made El Centro a better place to live. Today, let us honor him for his unwavering contributions. Mr. Hank Kuiper is well deserving and I wish him great happiness in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE CITIZENS ADVICE
BUREAU**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise the Citizens Advice Bureau, an organization started in the Bronx 25 years ago which has helped thousands of people to make a better life.

The CAB is a multiservice organization founded by clergy, community activists, and social workers who were concerned about the rising level of poverty and the massive housing loss the Bronx was suffering. From a single office it has expanded to 20 offices serving an area with a population of 600,000.

It was a pioneer in the consumer protection field, entitlements and advocacy for senior citizens. In its initial years, it worked for affordable housing and tenant protection. In the late 1980's, CAB was one of the first Bronx organizations to implement an AIDS services program. In the 1990's, its transitional housing program and family relocation services enabled more than 1,000 families to stabilize their lives and secure permanent housing. Its eviction prevention program has kept 10,000 families in permanent housing.

The CAB now works to provide immigrants with help and guidance. Every year more than 1,500 young people participate in its early childhood development programs, summer camp, and teen programs.

The Homeless Outreach Team patrols 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in streets, highways, and parks to find and help homeless people. Because of their efforts not a single homeless person has died in the Bronx during the past two winters.

The CAB helps those in need, making the Bronx a better place for people of all ages. It deserves thanks from all of us.

HELPING EMPOWER LOW-INCOME
PARENTS [HELP] SCHOLARSHIPS
AMENDMENTS OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the comments made earlier in this debate by the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ]. I would refer the House to the RECORD on this matter, for the gentleman misquoted my remarks and blatantly mischaracterized by comments which were clearly made in support of competitive schools and free-market economics.

Observations previously expressed by me on the House floor were obviously directed at those Government-owned schools which are absolutely terrified by school choice. Without question, this excludes the majority of education institutions in America today which embrace competition and are competitive. In fact, they compete very well. I would suggest the gentleman visit Colorado and see for himself how charter schools, intradistrict choice, and post-secondary enrollment options have re-

sulted in more opportunities for schoolchildren. Perhaps these kinds of schools exist in his State too.

Mr. Speaker, never have I equated America's public schools with a Communist legacy, as the gentleman from California suggested. In fact, I have never before mentioned both in one speech.

Any comments I have made regarding Government monopolies were plainly an indication that centrally planned economies found in other countries are models of failure. In fact the Communist legacy was a failure because that party's economic policies guaranteed mediocrity. The purpose of this observation was also plainly meant as a warning to avoid allowing our Federal Government to trample on our federalist traditions and restrain competitiveness with respect to educating children.

Quite the contrary, our Government should resist such tendencies of some bureaucracies to limit competition and establish monopolies. That was the clear point of my speech which was properly received by the majority of our colleagues.

It is regrettable that anyone would misinterpret these remarks as anything other than an admonition against Government monopolies and in favor of competitive schools which again constitute the vast majority of American institutions.

I hereby reaffirm my strong support for a thriving public education system. I restate my rejection of increased Federal intrusion in local school settings, and I fully approve of the innovations in public education that are improving education quality for America's schoolchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we should resent any suggestions to the contrary and regard them as malicious in intent, certainly reckless in use. At these times, we do well to call upon the faculties of statesmanship and honor than invective.

The American people demand full and honest debate by their Representative in Congress, on the topics which matter most. Useful dialog should be encouraged through intellectual discourse, not suppressed by partisan sniping, as is the effect of the mischaracterizations made by the gentleman from California.

Our devotion, instead should be toward the American children who have a right to expect first-rate learning opportunities. Perhaps today's lesson is one on the difference between statesmanship and imprudence.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM
OF THE PRESS**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House for a time about the sanctity of one of America's most treasured rights: the freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech is central to most every other right that we hold dear in the United States and serves to strengthen the democracy of our great country.

It is unfortunate, then, when actions occur that might be interpreted as contrary to this honored tenet.

Currently there is a dispute between journalists in my district and the new owners of the Monterey County Herald newspapers. All employees of the newspaper were required to reapply for their jobs when the new owners took over the paper. Several of the employees—some of them prize-winning journalists—were not rehired.

This action has left many in the community feeling that the newspaper is acting unfairly toward the reporters and fearing that it will affect the tenor of the news reported. Further there are suspicions that the owners may be engaging in antiunion efforts, casting further pall on the ability of the paper to serve the reading public.

I urge every American—no matter the position they hold in this society of ours—to carefully consider the actions they take when those actions concern the dissemination of public information. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are much too powerful rights to be lost to squabbles over the union or nonunion status of employees. They are too basic to the structure and fabric of American life to fall victim to bottom line dollar equations.

I know the fired employees and the new owners of the Herald continue to negotiate over this matter. I am hopeful that the two sides can come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement that leaves the journalists reporting, the paper profiting, and the reading public informed.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
CHEMISTRY WEEK**HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, November 2 to 8, 1997 is the 10th celebration of National Chemistry Week. I rise, today, in recognition of the members of the American Chemical Society who are volunteering their time this week to increase the public's understanding about the important role chemistry plays in the success of this Nation and in our everyday lives. Through hands-on activities, chemical demonstration programs, and a variety of other events, kids of all ages will learn and do chemistry.

The feature activity of the week is a national effort to test water hardness in local neighborhoods. Children are receiving copies of a Planet Chemistry activities booklet through their schools that allows them to be part of the national effort. They then go out and get a water sample from their local stream, lake, or well and use the test strip included in the booklet to determine the hardness of the water, and report their results through the ACS site on the Web. The test strips were produced by a company in my district, Environmental Test Systems of Elkhart, IN. I am proud to tell you that 2.6 million of these strips distributed in 650,000 copies of the booklet allowed this project to get children all over the country involved.

Volunteer chemists and chemical engineers of the ACS St. Joseph Valley Section in my home district also scheduled events, such as panel discussions and hands-on educational demonstrations, to highlight chemistry for their