

says, is to "walk, talk, demonstrate, lobby, meet with our representatives, circulate petitions, and write letters, telegrams, faxes, and e-mail"—a veritable laundry list of the activities the framers protected in the first amendment to our Constitution.

Her decades of commitment have set an example and drawn numerous honors and awards. At one such ceremony, Nobel Peace Prize winner Linus Pauling said of Alice: "Down through the years I have been aware of and inspired by your strong commitment and contributions to world peace and justice. This strength will grow and grow so that our future generations may not have to sacrifice their security or lives."

I commend this history of activism to my colleagues and, on behalf of all of the residents of the ninth District, offer my thanks and appreciation for all that Alice Sachs Hamburg has done on behalf of my community and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR PACKING OF MADERA, CA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sahatdjian family of Madera, CA who own and operate Victor Packing. As farmers in the No. 1 agricultural county in the world, the Sahatdjian's are leaders in the grape industry.

In a recent article in the Armenian General Benevolent Union [AGBU] magazine, the Sahatdjian's are praised for their outstanding contribution to the San Joaquin Valley. The Sahatdjian family arrived in Fresno in 1924, after fleeing their home in Ezerum, Turkey because of the Armenian Genocide. Their father Vagharshag (Victor), mother Makrouhi and brothers Sarkis and Haig, arrived in the United States when they were 1½ and 4 years old. Farming and agriculture became a way of life as Victor, a former leather tanner, his wife, and children followed the crops along with many other migrant farm workers. The family went from Rio Vista near Sacramento to pack asparagus, back to Fresno to harvest figs and grapes and then to Northern California when peaches were in season. Eventually, the family settled in Fresno after Victor bought a vineyard of his own and began farming the land.

The Depression brought hard times for all in the Valley and the Sahatdjian family provided for members of their extended family by sharing with them the crops grown on their farm. In 1949, Victor purchased a 40-acre piece of land which would eventually become the base of Victor Packing. In 1963, Victor Packing became a full-time farming and packing business when Sarkis and Haig Sahatdjian began to process and pack their own raisins along with the raisins of other growers.

Desire, ingenuity, and business savvy paid off for the Sahatdjian brothers. Today, Victor Packing is known as one of the leading packing houses in the Fresno County area. They are the world's largest in production and market-share of golden raisins. They also have the world's largest dehydrator which allows them to produce more raisins at a time for their clients. Additionally, they have continued

to focus their efforts on the sun-dried raisin market and are expanding globally to manufacturers all over the world. Nearly 75 percent of their finished product is shipped to the Middle East, Far East, Europe, and the Pacific rim.

Mr. Speaker, Victor Packing is an example of the determination and hard work Victor Sahatdjian represented to his family his whole life. The Victor Packing logo is the Liberty Bell and is said to represent the land of freedom that the family found in the United States of America. I ask my colleagues to join me as I offer my best wishes to the entire Sahatdjian family for every continued success.

HONORING WESTHAMPTON FREE LIBRARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Westhampton Free Library, in my hometown of Westhampton Beach, Long Island, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. For the past century, this wondrous haven of literature has offered this tight-knit, seaside community a place for its children and adults to stimulate their intellectual curiosity and satisfy their lifelong love of reading.

From its modest beginnings on March 1, 1897, as collection of a little more than 100 borrowed books, the Westhampton Free Library has endured to become the cultural center of this south shore Long Island village. Today, this dynamic institution boasts an impressive collection of traditional hardbound volumes, along with an emerging addition of computerized research and communication tools. There are more than 7,000 patrons from the communities of Westhampton, Westhampton Beach, Speonk, Remsenburg, East Quogue, Eastport and East Moriches.

The library's original charter was signed by Melville Dewey, then the secretary of the New York State board of regents. This is the same gentleman who conceived the Dewey decimal system for cataloging books, the universal catalogue system used in America's schools and libraries. Mr. Dewey's christening foretold a bright future for the Westhampton Free Library.

The library's provisional charter was granted on March 1, 1897 and the surnames of trustees on that document included some of the most prominent families in Long Island's heritage. The descendants of the original trustees—including John B. Raynor, Mary E. Jessup, Mabel B. Stevens, Daniel E. Smith and Ernest H. Bishop—are today leaders in the Westhampton and Long Island community.

Perhaps the most important influence on the growth of the Westhampton Free Library was the largesse of Judge Harold Medina, a long-time summer resident of Westhampton and a true lover of books. Judge Medina established a library trust fund to build, furnish and equip a new library building as a gift to the people of Westhampton. By the Fall of 1953, the new library was complete and Judge Medina began the work of establishing a new collection of books. Then in 1958, he announced plans to build a new wing—named the "Judge Harold

R. Medina Room"—entirely devoted to American history and literature.

Today, the card catalogue is located on computerized files and the Westhampton Free Library boasts four on-line Internet terminals, connecting library patrons to a vast international network of computers. The three multi-media CD-ROM learning stations offer patrons immediate access to a vast array of informational resources. Paul Nevins, president of the library's board of trustees, put it best when he said: "You can't really call it a library anymore. It's more of a communications center."

One hundred years ago, the Westhampton Free Library was founded with a noble purpose of offering the finest literary and research collection possible. A century later, the technology and means have changed, but the objective remains steadfast: to provide the residents of this east end village ready access to vital information. Congratulations to the Westhampton Free Library on its 100th anniversary!

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BONNIE M. EPPS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor and pleasure to introduce to my colleagues, the Reverend Bonnie M. Epps. She is a wonderful example of living faith in action.

Reverend Epps is a native of Brooklyn, NY, and presently serves on the ministerial staff of the Bridge Street African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The reverend was educated in parochial and public schools in Brooklyn. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College of New York, with a concentration in elementary education. Her master's degree was obtained in supervision and administration from Bankstreet College, and she has attended the Principal's Center at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Reverend Epps is an innovator and motivator. She served as the assistant principal at the Philippa Schuyler Intermediate School for the gifted and talented. Her vision and instructional leadership is responsible for raising academic standards, self-esteem among the students, and prestige for the only talented and gifted program in my congressional district.

Another shining achievement for Reverend Epps is the success of her son Omar, an actor who has appeared on NBC's "ER", and has starred in HBO's "Deadly Voyage," and feature films such as "Higher Learning," "Juice," "Mayor League II," and "The Program."

I salute Reverend Epps for her service to God and the community.

THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the death of four Cuban-

Americans whose civilian aircraft were shot down by the fighter planes of the brutal Castro regime. For those who doubted the cruel means the Cuban dictator is willing to employ to protect his stranglehold on the island nation, this act was a shocking example.

On this first anniversary of their death, it is important to remember those who have given their lives to fight against Fidel Castro and to realize that this fight is still far from over. Of all of the lessons arising from this tragedy, perhaps the most telling is the need for America to maintain its resolve, to lead by example and to show that these patriots did not die in vain.

Most of the Members in this Chamber were here last year when we voted on the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, sponsored by Senator JESSE HELMS and Representative DAN BURTON. The passage of Helms-Burton was a bold step toward tougher sanctions on Cuba and signified an American commitment to add teeth to our policy toward Castro. Helms-Burton was not meant to punish the Cuban people, but rather to focus our efforts on Castro himself and to highlight the hypocrisy of those who choose to do business with the oppressive dictator.

Mr. Speaker, I find it unfortunate that it took a tragedy in the Florida Straits to energize Congress and the administration to act on tougher sanctions. I am hopeful, however, that the passing of these four brave individuals will help usher in a new era of change for Cuba and that we will forever remember the risks some are willing take for the promise of freedom.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 79th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. On Sunday, February 16, 1997, the Detroit-area Lithuanian community marked the event by holding a commemorative ceremony at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield, MI. The guest speaker was Majoras Valdos Sarapinas, the Military Attaché from the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

For nearly 55 years, Lithuania was occupied by Russian military forces. In the past 4 years, the people of Lithuania have been able to enjoy and celebrate the freedoms and privileges of a free nation.

Since 1991, when the United States granted Lithuania most-favored-nation status, Lithuania has been trying to align itself with Western nations. In 1996, Lithuania reaped the benefits of economic reform with lower inflation rates and stable currencies. Their GDP was expected to grow 6.1%. The integration of Western economic and security structures along with the desire to join NATO has transformed Lithuania into a growing competitive nation.

I am optimistic that the recent economic and political progress in Lithuania will continue. Lithuania has my full support in joining the Western nations and institutions as they strive to build their country upon the principles of de-

mocracy. This celebration marks the fourth anniversary of freedom from the military forces deployed inside Lithuania.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their vigilance through the many difficult years and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 79th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.

SMALL 401(K) PENSION PLAN DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced the Small 401(k) Pension Plan Disclosure Act of 1997. This legislation is of importance to millions of working Americans sav-

ing for their retirement. Current law requires that pension plans file detailed investment reports with the Department of the Treasury and make the reports available to any participant. Small pension plans, those with fewer than 100 participants and active beneficiaries, are exempted from this requirement.

Firms that sponsor traditional, defined benefit pension plans guarantee that investments will provide the promised question and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation insures the plan. Neither applies to 401(k)'s. Participants assume the risk of poor investment return of a 401(k). It is only fair that participants in small 401(k) plans be told how their contributions are invested.

The Small 401(k) Pension Plan Disclosure Act of 1997 would require that the Secretary of Labor issue regulations requiring that small 401(k)'s provide each participant with an investment report once a year. The details of the report are left up to the Secretary. The bill also encourages the Secretary to provide for delivery of the reports through company e-mail to bring down costs. Participant-directed 401(k) plans are exempted because those participants already receive investment reports.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge our colleagues to examine this legislation and to cosponsor this bill of great importance to hard-working American families.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small 401(k) Pension Disclosure Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT OF ANNUAL, DETAILED INVESTMENT REPORTS APPLIED TO CERTAIN 401(K) PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104(b)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1024(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" after "(3)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B)(i) If a plan includes a qualified cash or deferred arrangement (as defined in section 401(k)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) and is maintained by an employer with less than 100 participants, the administrators shall furnish to each participant and to each beneficiary receiving benefits under the plan an annual investment report detailing such information as the Secretary by regulation shall require.

"(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any participant described in section 404(c)."

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in prescribing regulations required under section 104(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023(b)(3)(B)(i)), as added by subsection (a), shall consider including in the information required in an annual investment report the following:

(A) Total plan assets and liabilities as of the beginning and ending of the plan year.

(B) Plan income and expenses and contributions made and benefits paid for the plan year.

(C) Any transaction between the plan and the employer, any fiduciary, or any 10-percent owner during the plan year, including the acquisition of any employer security or employer real property.

(D) Any noncash contributions made to or purchases of nonpublicly traded securities made by the plan during the plan year without an appraisal by an independent third party.

(2) ELECTRONIC TRANSFER.—The Secretary of Labor in prescribing such regulations shall also make provision for the electronic transfer of the required annual investment report by a plan administrator to plan participants and beneficiaries.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending Hope Lutheran Church on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, and Community Christian School on its 20th anniversary. Located in Plant City, FL, Hope Lutheran Church and Community Christian School celebrated their anniversaries on February 22, as families and friends gathered to give thanks to God for His many blessings over the years.

As five families met together in February 1957, little did they know that their small congregation would one day grow to become Hope Lutheran Church. Forty years later, this church body is a thriving force in the community and a testimony to God's gracious leading along the way.

Community Christian School, celebrating its first 20 years, is the only Christian day school in Plant City. With its excellent programs and opportunities, students are receiving a solid education as well as a moral foundation for their lives. Community Christian School is preparing our young people well for the challenges they will face in the future.

As we commemorate the anniversaries of Hope Lutheran Church and Community Christian School, we recognize God's blessings on these two institutions. King David reminded us in the Psalms, "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it." Likewise, we understand that it is God who has made this church and school flourish. He is the reason for this celebration, and we look forward to seeing the wonderful things that He will continue to do in the future.