

Along with his work in the State assembly, Keith builds upon his dedication to his community by being an active participant in community service organizations. Keith's community involvement includes the Elks, Summit Hill Fire Company, Knights of Columbus, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council, and his work as past president of the Panther Valley Irish American Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the community, his friends and family in paying tribute to an exemplary legislator and public servant. I congratulate the Panther Valley Irish American Association on its 50th year, for the work they do in the community, and for their outstanding choice for this year's Shamrock Award.

A TRIBUTE TO KEVIN "CASEY" GENTHER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of Kevin "Casey" Genther, the commander of American Legion Rim of the World Post No. 360. Casey will be relinquishing his position in July after 2 years of remarkable service to our community.

Casey has played an instrumental role in the growth and success of American Legion Post No. 360 since he assumed his position upon the resignation of the previous commander.

In that time, the enrollment of new members has increased by 20 percent. Casey has also been the driving force in getting Rim of the World Post No. 360 to participate in the activities of the Mountain Thrift Shoppe, a nonprofit resale store that benefits nine charitable and service organizations in our mountain community. In addition, donations and grants to local organizations in need of financial support have increased fivefold during his tenure in office.

Casey has also made a major contribution to local educational efforts and the lives of young people in our community. Scholarship funding for local high school graduates has increased from \$350 to \$4,000. Educational incentive grants for graduates of the local continuing education school have risen considerably. In addition, Casey has formalized the annual American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. He has also overseen a 100-percent increase in attendance at Boy's State and Girl's State by local high school juniors. Since Casey assumed his leadership position, Post No. 360 has sent eight local teachers to teaching workshops at the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, PA.

Mr. Speaker, Casey Genther has made a remarkable difference in the lives of many people through his leadership of the American Legion Rim of the World Post No. 360. His many contributions toward the betterment of Post No. 360, local education, and our community is certainly worthy of our appreciation and recognition. It is only appropriate that the House recognize Commander Genther today.

IN THE SPIRIT OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, I am inviting all my colleagues to become a Friend of Ireland. The Friends of Ireland is a bipartisan congressional organization established in 1981 by the late Speaker, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill. Every successive Speaker has carried on the tradition and my appointment as chairman by Speaker GINGRICH is a clear demonstration of the bipartisan nature of the Friends. The Speaker and Minority Leader GEPHARDT serve as honorary chairmen of the group.

The purpose of the Friends of Ireland is to increase the bonds of friendship and understanding between the American people and the people of Ireland. We look for a peaceful solution to the problems of this troubled land. Our organization is open to all members of the 105th Congress who share its principles and has attracted widespread support over the years. There are also several Senators who are members of the Friends.

Over the years, the statements of support for peace in Ireland, condemnations of human rights abuses, assistance to the International Fund for Ireland, and general expressions of goodwill have made a difference. The voice of the United States Congress is listened to very attentively in Ireland both in the Republic and in the North.

I would like to share with you this year's St. Patrick's Day statement:

STATEMENT BY THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND, ST. PATRICK'S DAY 1997

On this St. Patrick's Day, we the Friends of Ireland renew our call for the IRA to restore its cease-fire, which should be followed by Sinn Fein's immediate entry into the Northern Ireland all-party peace talks when they resume in June.

The Friends of Ireland commend our former colleague, Senator George Mitchell, for his outstanding service as chairman of the talks. The talks offer an historic opportunity to address the three key relationships which must underpin any settlement—those within Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between Ireland and Britain. We fully support this process, and recognize that there is much greater likelihood for success if all parties with an electoral mandate, including Sinn Fein, participate in the talks. Sinn Fein's participation in the talks, however, is properly conditional on the unequivocal restoration of the cease-fire by the IRA.

We also recognize that the IRA maintained a cease-fire for 17 months, from September 1994 to February 1996. It is of deepest concern that, during that long and hopeful period, additional obstacles were laid in the way of bringing all parties to the table. We hope that a renewed IRA cease-fire will on this occasion be met with an appropriate response by the British Government, including the taking of necessary confidence-building measures.

Basic issues of equal justice and human rights are at the heart of the conflict in Northern Ireland and they must be central to any realistic resolution of the conflict. Peace without justice is not sustainable. It is only likely to flourish when all sides feel that their basic rights are respected and pro-

tected. Accordingly, we urge prompt action to remedy outstanding miscarriages of justice such as the Casement and Latimer cases. In light of the compelling new evidence surrounding Bloody Sunday, we add our voice to the calls for a new inquiry into this tragedy.

We are also concerned by the deteriorating conditions under which Republican prisoners are being held in Britain and in particular the treatment of Roisin McAliskey. It is essential, in negotiating a new political framework for Northern Ireland, that respect for human rights be guaranteed. The creation of a Bill of Rights, and a police service with the confidence of the whole community, are essential to ensure the protection of the rights of all and to lay a solid foundation for a lasting peace.

We strongly oppose the continued and increased punishment beatings by paramilitaries in both communities. Such atrocities have no place in society, and we call for an immediate end to these attacks.

It is essential that there be no repeat of the deplorable events during last year's marching season. The RUC behavior at Drumcree further eroded the confidence of the Catholic community in fairness of the police force. As the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices recently noted: "Many observers on both sides of the community perceived the Government's reversal in the face of unlawful Unionist protests as a victory of might over the rule of law, and the incident damaged the RUC's reputation as a impartial police force."

We therefore strongly endorse the recommendations in the North Report that an independent parades commission be given full decision-making powers to deal effectively with controversial parades. We are concerned at the British Government's decision to delay implementation of significant sections of the report, which in our view must be in place in advance of this year's marching season.

The Friends of Ireland welcome the strong commitment of President Clinton and the Congress to the success of the peace process in Northern Ireland, and the transformation in the situation which all have helped bring about. We are confident that the United States will continue to play a constructive role in encouraging an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict for the benefit of all of the people of Northern Ireland.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Edward M. Kennedy, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Christopher J. Dodd, Newt Gingrich, Richard A. Gephardt, and James T. Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO DICK LANGE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Dick Lange as he retires from the Macomb Intermediate School District. His friends and colleagues will host a party in his honor at Partridge Creek Golf Course.

Education has always been central in Dick's life. His hard work in school was rewarded when he was honored with a 4-year Ford scholarship to the University of Michigan. While at U. of M., Dick was extremely active in intramural sports. His experience and success as a student gave him the insight he would later need as a teacher, administrator, and educational leader.

After college graduation, Dick taught high school social studies at Lakeview High School. His dedication to his students was not limited to the classroom. As a football coach, he was able to give to his students the same satisfaction in sports that he enjoyed as a student. As a teacher and coach, Dick was able to capture the energy and minds of the students he taught.

Not only was Dick an inspiration to students, but also to teachers. In 1972, he began representing teachers with the Michigan Education Association. His dedication to improving education prompted him to cofound Local 1, the first collective bargaining unit in Macomb County. Dick was instrumental in bringing together 16 school districts into 1 united group.

In 1982, Dick returned to Lakeview Public Schools as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and personnel where he turned his talents to review texts books and curriculum. For the past 11 years, Dick has been the director of consultant services of the Macomb Intermediate School District. His vision to provide quality education for our youth has made him successful in training teachers. He has used his leadership skills to guide teachers to inspire and teach the next generation.

I have known Dick for over 20 years and have witnessed the caring attitude that Dick has toward both teachers and students. His simple goal of providing a quality education for our youth has inspired not only teacher and students, but parents and the community. Throughout the years, Dick has been a dedicated volunteer in Macomb County as well as defending and improving public schools.

On behalf of myself and those who have had the opportunity to work with Dick, I would like to wish him well and thank him for his numerous contributions to our community.

FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK
HONOR JUDGE BLEWITT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Pittston, PA, in paying tribute to the Honorable U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Blewitt. The judge will be the recipient of the W. Francis Swingle Irishman of the Year Award at their 83d annual St. Patrick's Day banquet. I am extremely pleased to have been asked to participate in this annual tradition.

Judge Blewitt was appointed on February 21, 1992, to an 8-year term. From January 1, 1986 through February 1992, he served as assistant Federal public defender in the Scranton division. From May 1984 to January 1986, he was assistant district attorney for Lackawanna County. From December 1972 to October 1980, he was a special investigator for the Pennsylvania Department of Justice, Bureau of Consumer Protection.

A graduate of Scranton Prep in 1968, he went on to the University of Scranton, Marywood College and earned his juris doctorate from Temple School of Law in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Blewitt is well deserving of this prestigious award not only for his professional accomplishments but for his sincere commitment and involvement in his commu-

nity. He has served on the board of directors for the Friendship House Children's Center, Family Services of Lackawanna County, and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association as well as the Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

Once again, I am pleased and proud to have the opportunity to bring Judge Blewitt's accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues. I congratulate the judge on this fine honor and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on their 83d year.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO
ALEXANDRA APOSTOLIDES
SONENFELD

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the recent passing of Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld, a role model and inspiration to many throughout California. Alexandra died in her sleep in San Francisco on July 26, 1996, just 10 days shy of her 100th birthday.

Alexandra Sonenfeld was born on August 6, 1896, in Sokraki on the Island of Corfu, Greece. One of nine children of Father Mandilla, a priest, and Barbara Chondroyanis, a schoolteacher, Alexandra accompanied her father on a trip to the United States when she was 10 years old. She remained in the United States until her recent passing, never rejoining her family in Sokraki.

Alexandra married Dr. Emmanuel Apostolides at the age of 20 and together they settled in San Francisco and raised three children—Alexander, Zoe, and Kleo. Her first husband passed away and she later married her second husband, Howard Sonenfeld.

In 1929, Alexandra Sonenfeld opened her home to wives of the members of the Order of AHEPA in San Francisco to discuss the formation of a women's auxiliary. Shortly thereafter, the first chapter of the Daughters of Penelope was established. In 1931, the Daughters of Penelope was chartered and incorporated in the State of California as a non-profit organization. In the decade that followed, Alexandra Sonenfeld devoted her time to the development and expansion of this organization across the United States as well as the formulation of bylaws and a constitution. In 1939, she was elected the first grand president of the Daughters of Penelope. Over the years, this worthy organization has grown to its current 390 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, including 4 chapters in Greece.

Mr. Speaker, words do not begin to convey the love and admiration with which Alexandra Sonenfeld was held by her family, friends, and supporters. Her life journey stands as a remarkable testament to faith and hope and her memory will continue to inspire countless people. It is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to this courageous woman today.

CODIFICATION OF RECENT LAWS
IN TITLE 49, UNITED STATES
CODE, TRANSPORTATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to codify in title 49, United States Code, recent laws related to transportation, and to make other technical and conforming amendments to the Code. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives under its statutory mandate to prepare and submit periodically revisions of positive law titles of the Code to keep those titles current. This bill makes no change in the substance of existing law.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the bill and a section-by-section summary—containing reviser's notes—of the bill should contact John R. Miller, acting law revision counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-6711. The telephone number is (202) 226-2411.

Persons wishing to comment on the bill should submit those comments to the acting law revision counsel no later than April 30, 1997.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EM-
BASSY IN BUENOS AIRES—HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50
URGES ACTION FROM ARGENTIN-
EAN AUTHORITIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, on March 17, 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was destroyed by a massive suicide bomb, and several nearby buildings were also destroyed. In that bombing, 29 people were killed and an additional 252 innocent people were injured, many seriously.

Victims of the attack included employees of the Israeli Embassy and their families, children from a nearby Roman Catholic primary school, men and women from a nearby Roman Catholic church shelter, a Roman Catholic priest, and others. Two years later the Jewish Community in Buenos Aires was also destroyed in a terrorist bombing in which 86 people died and over 200 were injured.

Despite worldwide attention to these catastrophes, we are now marking the fifth anniversary of this hideous terrorist bombing and yet we still have had no prosecution and even no sign of progress in identifying those who carried out this vicious attack. It is time for the Congress to express our serious concern about this outrageous and unacceptable situation.

Mr. Speaker, on this tragic anniversary, with 12 of our distinguished colleagues, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 50 which notes the fifth anniversary of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on March 17, 1992, and calls upon the