

selfless volunteers of the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of the Inland Empire, who give emotional help and support to the families of hundreds of children who are fighting cancer at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

During the month of September, which is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the foundation is celebrating its 18th anniversary of working to ensure that these families do not feel isolated, frustrated, and fearful while trying to cope with the potentially devastating battle against this disease.

The Candlelighters maintain a two-bedroom house near the medical center so parents can be near their child, and provide canned food and laundry services. Among their other services, the foundation keeps a Toy Closet stocked for children who have to have special treatment at an outpatient clinic.

The highlight of the year for the Candlelighters and the children they serve is a Christmas celebration, which annually attracts 600 people and hands out more than 400 gifts for kids. A summer picnic gives these children a chance to play games and take train rides, as well.

Mr. Speaker, all of these services, and many others, are provided through donations and by volunteers. Please join me in heartfelt appreciation for these hard-working individuals during Child Cancer Awareness month.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"  
MEKALIAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William Mekalian who passed away on January 23, 1999, in Los Angeles, California at the University of Southern California Norris Cancer Center while he was being treated for an illness.

Bill was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 10, 1933 during the Chicago World's Fair. After graduating from high school, Bill enrolled at the University of Illinois. However, he later decided that service to his country was more important and decided to join the U.S. Army in the summer of 1953 during the Korean War. After serving a few proud years in the military, Bill re-enrolled in school at Wright Junior College where he was selected to participate in the Carson Pirie Scott Executive Training Program. Bill's training motivated him to pursue career opportunities in California. It was 1961 when Bill decided to move with his parents to Fresno whereupon he secured a job with the Gottshalks Department Store. It did not take young Bill long to meet Claudette Chuchian of Bakersfield. He married Claudette, and settled in Fresno where they began their family. Bill continued his work as a sales executive, which led him to consider other business ventures including the formation of Javette Truck and Tractor. Over the years, the Javette Corporation grew into one of the leading independent heavy truck sales companies in the country.

Bill is known as a kind and generous philanthropist. He was a dedicated father and carried a strong commitment to his family. Bill's proudest moment was when he witnessed his

children graduate together from the University of Southern California. Bill was an avid toy collector. In fact, his impressive train collection rate as one of the best in the world. Several publications and a number of movie sets have featured Bill's collection. Some of his collection is displayed at the historic train museum in Old Sacramento. A leading toy train magazine recently referred to Bill as an "authority on toy trains."

Bill's civic involvement included membership to the Triple X Fraternity, an active member of the Republican National Committee, and a member of the St. Paul Church Parish Council. He is survived by his wife Claudette, his twin children: Yvette Mekalian Mandel of Laguna Hills, James Mekalian of Fresno, son-in-law Larry Mandell, and his two grandsons Alec and Ari Mandell.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bill Mekalian for his accomplishments and service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Mekalian family.

HOBERT FRANKLIN WAS A TRUE  
HERO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask that we all pause for a moment to remember a man we have lost. Though he is gone, he will live on in the hearts of all who knew him and be remembered for long years by many who didn't. Hobert Franklin was, for the most part, a regular guy. He enjoyed toying with cars, riding his motorcycle, and spending time with those who were important to him. He probably wouldn't have ever thought of himself as a hero, but, he was.

Hobert Franklin was a man who acted on his instincts. Last Friday night, September 3, he was at the grocery store purchasing a money order with his wife. He looked out the window and saw a man trying to drag his wife into the parking lot. His instincts told him to walk outside to try to help. Without saying a word, he stepped between the two people. His thoughts were on protecting the woman, not his own personal safety. Unfortunately, the man pulled a gun and shot Mr. Franklin. He died in an ambulance on the way to the hospital.

When remembered by friends and family the thing that comes up over and over again is the way he was always willing to help anyone who needed him. Just minutes before the shooting he ran into a friend to whom he promised help with a truck that was acting up. His nephew said that whenever anyone needed help Hobert would just drop anything he was doing. He was a good man who gave selflessly of himself.

Hobert Franklin is someone who will be missed by all of us. Those who knew him will miss spending time with him. But, even those of us who never knew him personally feel a sense of loss. We, as a society, have lost someone who was rare to begin with. Mr. Franklin made the ultimate sacrifice to help a total stranger. Hopefully we can all learn from the example that Hobert Franklin set. And, perhaps we can all try to become a little bit more like him.

CENTRAL AMERICA: INDEPENDENCE, PEACE AND PROGRESS

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, five of the nations of Central America will celebrate their respective independence days. As Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, I want to congratulate the nations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on the occasion of this day and to call to the attention of the Members of the House the great progress which the region as a whole has made toward peace, stability and democracy.

The historic signing of the Guatemala Peace Accords two years ago ushered in a period in which for the first time in almost forty years, the entire central American region has been at peace. Even more significant is the fact that democracy has taken firm root as evidenced by the fact that every current government in the region has been elected in what have been determined to be free and fair elections by both domestic and international observers. Recently, the people of El Salvador celebrated their continued commitment to strengthening their democracy when they went to the polls in their Presidential elections and selected Francisco Flores to lead the nation into the new millennium. In November, the people of Guatemala will also have the chance to demonstrate their commitment to the democratic process when they will go to the polls in the first Presidential election since the end of the civil war and the signing of the peace accords.

The economies of these nations which were served a severe setback last Fall when Hurricane Mitch devastated the region, seem to be making a solid comeback as growth, albeit slow, is being achieved through a combination of liberalization, modernization and privatization. The peoples of the entire region should be commended for their resiliency in the wake of such a total tragedy. Further, it would appear that in general, an awareness and respect for human rights is on the increase. Nowhere has this been more obvious than in Honduras and especially in Guatemala where that nation has opened itself to a comprehensive review and scrutiny of its past human rights record. Significant U.S. financial commitment to this process as well as to programs we are funding in Nicaragua and El Salvador are clearly helping make these efforts successful. And finally, the militaries of several of these nations seem to have accepted their new roles in a democracy and under civilian leadership. This has been the case in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua and was especially true during the post-Hurricane Mitch rebuilding effort.

This is not to say that there are not problems. Drug use and crime seem to be on the increase everywhere and nagging problems of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and infant mortality persist. But on the whole, Central America has moved beyond the crisis period of the past fifteen years and has given us great cause for optimism.

Mr. Speaker, while I speak of the important progress Central America is making in the support of democracy, I would be remiss if I failed to mention Panama as well. As the

House knows, Presidential elections were recently held in Panama and, like its other neighbors, free, fair and transparent elections were also the rule of the day. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Panama as well for their commitment to the democratic process and to congratulate President Moscoso on her election as the first female President of Panama. We want to wish her well and offer our Subcommittee's help in any way to continue a strong U.S.-Panama relationship into the new millennium.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the celebration of their independence, I want to congratulate each of these nations for the progress they are making and to express my hope that they continue on this impressive path. All of the nations and people of Central America should be proud of what they have accomplished to date. We encourage them to continue down this path and we continue to offer our strong encouragement and assistance.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE L. CUMMINGS  
AND MARY CONSTANTINO

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge the outstanding contributions Claire L. Cummings and Mary Constantino have made to the second congressional district of Massachusetts, to our state, our nation, and the Democratic party. In particular I would like to recognize their longstanding service on the Milford, Massachusetts Democratic Committee.

The Milford Democratic Committee assists the Democratic party and their candidates in reaching the citizens of Milford with the message of the Democratic party. Both Claire and Mary have worked hard to extend the message of the Democratic party into the Town of Milford.

Claire L. Cummings has been an active member of the Milford Democratic Committee for thirty five years. Prior to being a member of the Democratic Committee Claire was actively involved in her community, attending and participating in Milford Town Meetings. She was also the first woman in Milford to run for the office of selectman. It was at this time the Milford Democratic Committee asked Claire to become a member of the committee. Claire L. Cummings has made it a point to attend every Democratic state convention, and particularly remembers the National Presidential Convention of Lyndon B. Johnson. Outside of politics she was involved in other community service groups such as: the Democratic Women on Wheels and the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Mary Constantino began her political career at the early age of eighteen. Mary has worked hard for the Milford Democratic Committee, going door to door asking for votes. She has also been influential in persuading many to join the Democratic party. In all of her thirty five years of membership she has never missed a Democratic convention held in Milford, Massachusetts. Mary is also involved in her community in many other ways. She has been a member of the Grandparents for Lit-

eracy group, and was honored by the Jaycees for her work with children. She was named Woman of the Year by the American Heart Association, in honor of her eighteen years of service. Mary Constantino is an asset to the town of Milford and the state of Massachusetts.

Both Claire L. Cummings and Mary Constantino are assets to the Milford Democratic Committee, their state, and our nation. I am pleased to recognize the contributions of both of these women to the second congressional district of Massachusetts.

IN HONOR OF ANNUNCIATION PARISH  
COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATION  
OF 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Annunciation Parish Community as it celebrates its 75th year of dedicated service to the West Cleveland community.

The Annunciation Parish Community, through its "willingness to bear Jesus to the world," has served as a center for the religious expression and the spiritual growth of the West 130th and Bennington communities.

Through the rite of Baptism as well as conversions, Annunciation has brought many members of the community into the Catholic faith. Throughout the years, Annunciation has served as a center of spiritual and religious growth within the community through the rites of Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, Annunciation unites Catholic members of the community through marriage, offers spiritual pardons through confession, as well as memorializes the deceased through Christian burial.

Annunciation has also educated generations of young men, women and children who have passed through the residential school over the last seventy years. In addition to teaching children the fundamental academic disciplines, Annunciation has taught the importance of service to the community. Currently, Annunciation is involved in helping to bring the Belaire-Puritas Development Corporation and the Meals-On-Wheels to the area, providing their end of the month Neighborhood Meal, and monthly Food Collection and Hunger Collection, both of which are very supportive of the West Park Community Cupboard.

It is evident that the Annunciation Parish Community has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the West Cleveland community.

HONORING SISTER BRIGID  
DRISCOLL

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Brigid Driscoll for a lifetime of service and commitment to education. Sister Brigid has pledged her life's work to furthering

educational opportunity, especially for young women. She began her career at Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York as a mathematics professor, and later became Academic Dean and Director of Continuing Education. In June, she retired from her twenty year post as President of Marymount College.

I was moved to recognize the great accomplishments of Sister Brigid because she has been an important force in my life. Marymount College is my alma mater. Sister Brigid served as an advisor in my residence hall, Gailhac Hall, where her wisdom and guidance were often sought by myself and the other young women in the hall. Sister Brigid was the kind of leader who tested the will of the young women like myself. Back in those days, we all thought we knew everything. As we pushed the edge of the envelope, Sister Brigid pushed us right back. Sister Brigid was very familiar with some of the antics college women are inclined to participate in. One memorable evening, after a fire started in the lounge of Gailhac Hall, some of us went to alert Sister Brigid, however, it was the night before April Fools Day and she laughed it off, telling us to just "put it out." After a few more minutes, when she began to smell the smoke herself, she burst out of her room, complete with her elaborate habit, and helped us carry the burning couch out to the patio. Clearly, Sister Brigid was developing her crisis management skills as she led the young women of Gailhac Hall.

She challenged us, while still allowing us to think for ourselves and determine our own path. She inspired those around her to work harder and strive to reach our fullest potential. Through her example, she instilled in us the virtues of public service. Sister Brigid demonstrated to us a lifetime commitment to furthering the ideals one holds dear and that, indeed, a woman is capable of achieving anything.

As the leader of Marymount College, a liberal arts college for women, she sought to provide a rich educational environment where women are encouraged to lead and learn. As an ardent proponent of state and financial federal assistance, and the Director of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the New York State Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, she has worked tirelessly to promote the benefits of private institutions of higher learning, and to increase access for young people of all backgrounds.

Private colleges and universities have been the choice of Sister Brigid's own educational foundation. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Marymount Manhattan College, a Master's degree from Catholic University, and a PhD in Mathematics from City University of New York. This year, in recognition of her distinguished service to the school, Marymount College bestowed on her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Sister Brigid is truly an educational visionary. In 1975, she founded the Weekend College at Marymount College. It was the first full Bachelor's Degree program in the area for working adults. She recognized that her community needed higher education that was accessible and convenient for working men and women. Because of her, hundreds of adults have earned their college degrees, and have accomplished what may have been a distant goal at one time. Many people see problems,