

the Congregation of Saint Joseph, who dedicate their lives to serving God and their fellow parishioners.

Throughout her 96 years, Sister Leona touched the hearts and souls of many. We have suffered a great loss in her passing, but those of us who were lucky enough to have known her are better people for having shared in her special gifts. Sister Leona will never be forgotten.

THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK: HELPING TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HEMISPHERE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Inter-American Development Bank was established in 1959 with the purpose of helping to develop economic markets in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its original membership included 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries and the United States. Today, it boasts a membership of 46 countries, 28 within the region and 18 in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The Bank has committed itself to financing projects that seek to improve the lives of our neighbors within the region by promoting small business, supporting state modernization projects with the purpose of strengthening democratic systems, and complementing ongoing public sector and economic reforms which focus on energy, transportation, and communications systems.

In an era of increased trade globalization and market diversification, the Inter-American Development Bank has played an essential role in helping expand competitive trade markets for Latin American and Caribbean countries. By 1997 in fact, the Bank had approved 2,456 loans totaling \$84 billion to help these countries work towards economic integration. As part of the Free Trade of the Americas process, the Inter-American Development Bank had been a key force in implementing strategies to support sub-regional integration and provide support for the FTAA Working Groups.

IDB's programs have served to strengthen the Western Hemisphere by helping to expand trade, diversify exports, and increase competitiveness. As the Inter-American Development Bank celebrates its 40th year of service, I commend their dedication to mobilizing resources for the region and for its role as a catalyst for social and economic development within the Hemisphere.

CENTRAL NEW YORK WORLD WAR I VETS HONORED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 24, 1999 at the Syracuse, New York Veterans Administration Medical Center, two Central New York constituents of mine, both

veterans of World War I, will be honored by the French government with a presentation of the National Order of the Legion of Honor, that country's highest honor.

As Chairman of the VA/HUD Subcommittee on Appropriations, I am extremely proud to know that these American warriors will be decorated in this way for their role in winning the war on French soil. They reflect the bravery and courage of thousands of young Americans who dutifully represented our nation and freedom-loving people everywhere.

They are David Ginsburg and Eugene Lee, two men who left as teens and returned to their community in Syracuse to continue on with their lives, raise families, and cherish freedom even more—knowing that they had done their duty to country, and that they had seen the darker side of mankind, but also the rewards of valor.

In 1917, David Ginsburg, who will celebrate his 101st birthday on April 18 this year, enlisted in the National Guard 4th Ambulance Company, a unit that was part of the American Expeditionary Forces sent to Mexico to capture Pancho Villa. After returning to the U.S., the unit was sent to France while World War I raged. After the war, Mr. Ginsburg joined the Marine Corps and served for 16 years. Today he is believed to be the oldest living Marine Corps Drill Instructor. He has been an active member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 131. He returned to civilian life in Syracuse to work for more than 35 years for the Eastwood, Netherland and Seneca Dairies.

Also in 1917, Eugene Lee, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on the very day of this ceremony, enlisted in the Marine Corps. Among the first Marines sent to France, he was wounded while fighting the Germans at Belleau Wood on June 6 and 7, 1918. Following recovery, he served in Germany with the Army of Occupation. He was one of the last American troops to return home after the war. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star for Heroism. Mr. Lee returned home and worked 42 years for New York Lighting Company, which today is Niagara Mohawk.

We applaud these two individuals on the occasion of this great commemorative honor. I also want to thank the French government for making this award.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO ROGER J. DOLAN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Roger J. Dolan on the occasion of his retirement from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District and recognizing him for his many years of dedicated public service.

Roger has enjoyed a career marked with many personal and professional achievements. During his time with the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Roger was responsible for the pilot investigation of physical, chemical, and biological processes which established the design criteria for a 120 million gallon per day high purity oxygen activated sludge proc-

ess. He supervised the design of this \$85 million plant, and managed its construction.

Since becoming the general manager-chief engineer of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District in 1977, Roger Dolan has developed a nationally recognized household hazardous waste facility, and a 45 million gallon per day secondary treatment plant with sludge incineration, ultra-violet disinfection and water reclamation.

While Roger's achievements have won him the praise and respect of his colleagues and peers, these deserving benchmarks cannot overshadow his consistent commitment to environmental protection and his exemplary stewardship of our natural resources. His pursuit of technological innovation in the field of wastewater treatment and water recycling, and his promotion of scientific research into the methods of protecting the waters, fish and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay, are the hallmarks of his career for which I am most thankful.

I know I speak for all the Members of this Chamber when I wish Roger J. Dolan a very happy and healthy retirement, and when I thank him for the many contributions he has made to our community.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MANDEL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 25, the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center will present the coveted Chaver Award for exemplary community service to Mr. Charles J. Mandel. This is a richly deserved honor, and I am proud to join in paying tribute to Mr. Mandel for his tireless service to the temple and to our community.

Mr. Mandel, known as Charlie to his many friends, has certainly left his mark on the temple, both in terms of the physical facility, as well as in his service to temple community. He can frequently be seen with a screwdriver or a hammer or a tape measure in his "golden hands." But Charlie Mandel's fingerprints go far deeper. He has been affiliated with the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center since 1953. After officially joining the temple in 1955, he was appointed Gabbai, and continues in that position to this day as Senior Gabbai. He was elected to the Temple Board of Trustees in 1955, and continues to serve on the board where he has also held the posts of recording secretary and financial secretary. In recognition of his loyalty and commitment, he was granted honorary life membership to the Board of Trustees, a position held by only four other people.

Mr. Mandel has been active on the Religious Committee, House Committee, Bazaar Committee, and has had the unique experiences of serving on the Rabbinical Search Committees for both Rabbi Yakov Hilsenrath and Rabbi Eliot Malomet. In addition, he was Chairman of the "Special Fundraising Committee" for 40 years.

Charles Mandel was born in Jersey City, where he graduated from William L. Dickson High School in 1936. He then went on to Rutgers University and received a bachelor of science degree in ceramic engineering in 1938. He served as plant manager and ceramic engineer with the Willett Company for

42 years. Following his retirement, he is continuing in his professional capacity as a consulting engineer for New Jersey Porcelain Company and Lenape Products Company in Trenton, NJ.

Mr. Mandel is a member of the New Jersey Ceramic Association, the Highland Park Committee on Aging and the Rutgers Alumni Association. Married to the former Gussie Siegel for over 58 years, they are the proud parents of three children and four grandchildren. Dr. Matthew Mandel, an endodontist, is married to Lynn and the father of Alexander. Their daughter, Madeline Crass, a school teacher, is the mother of Scott. Robert Mandel, a businessman, married to Rayne, is the father of Levi and Benjamin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 50, I was on official Congressional business in Russia, and could not be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this vote to pass H.R. 819.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING IN ARGENTINA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, few Americans would associate Latin America with Middle East terrorism; however, the reality is that we do have Middle East terrorist activity in our very own backyard. Not long ago, I led a congressional delegation to South America, and many Members learned for the first time of Hizbollah's active presence developing funding support and other bases of operations for its international terrorist goals.

Sadly, today is the seventh anniversary of the 1992 terrorist bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That cowardly, deadly terrorist attack took 29 lives, and injured more than 200. It has been seven years since this savage and ruthless act of terror, directed against Jewish targets in Argentina, caused the murder of these innocent victims. It destroyed the diplomatic mission of the state of Israel, plunged the largest Jewish community in South America into perpetual fear, and threatened the civilized world. In fact, this horror was compounded two years later when the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires was destroyed by a terrorist car bomb.

Both of these brutal crimes have remained unsolved. After years of investigation, little substantive progress has been made in apprehending those responsible. Accordingly, I urge the Argentinean government to vigorously continue to pursue those investigations.

Relatives of the 29 victims of the Israeli Embassy bombing, including Ralph and Helen Goldman, American citizens in New York, who lost their son David Ben Rafael in the attack,

will never reclaim their loved ones, or recover from this tragic loss. Our hearts are with the Goldmans and with the other families as we memorialize their children, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, who were killed in these bombings. The entire civilized world has been brutalized. With each act of terror, freedom and liberty suffers defeat. With every act of terrorism left unsolved, democracy and justice are diminished.

The United States remains in the forefront in the war against terrorism. We implore the international community to join in this battle. We urge Argentina to uphold global standard against international terrorism and help solve these crimes which claimed the lives of so many in the Jewish community.

We pay tribute to the victims of the Israeli Embassy and AMIA bombings. They will not be forgotten. Together we can best honor their memory by solving the crimes which claimed their lives, bringing their murders to justice, and creating an environment which assures that terror will not claim any additional victims. The U.S. has provided assistance and support to the government of Argentina in that effort.

A Jewish tradition states, "Justice, justice shalt thou pursue." This is an American ideal as well as a universal humanitarian imperative.

HONORING COLORADO GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL 2A CHAMPIONS— FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Fowler High School girls basketball team on their impressive Colorado State 2A Championship. The victory, a 57-43 win over Swink High School, was a superb contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Fowler proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State 2A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Greg Fruhwirth, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel, and the community. From now on, these people can point to the 1998-1999 girls basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Girls State 2A Championship, and know something special had taken place there.

The Fowler basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games, not individuals. The combined talents of these players coalesced into a dynamic and dominant basketball force. Each team member also deserves to be proud of her own role. These individuals are the kind of people who lead by example and serve as role-models. With the increasing popularity of sports among young people, local athletes are heroes to the youth in their home towns. I admire the discipline and dedication these high schoolers have shown in successfully pursuing their dream.

The memories of this storied year will last a lifetime. I encourage all involved, but especially the Fowler players, to build on this experience by dreaming bigger dreams and achieving greater successes. I offer my best wishes to this team as they move forward from their State 2A Championship to future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MEHER CHEKERDEMIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meher Chekerdeman on receiving the Third Annual Armenian Education Foundation's Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Chekerdeman has been an outstanding educator for many years.

The Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) has a proud history of supporting educational causes. The AEF is on a journey to recognize the fine educators who have preformed above and beyond the call of duty, and have contributed immensely to the betterment and quality of life for Armenian students. The role that an educator plays is of critical importance to the future.

Meher Chekerdeman has spent 32 years with Fresno Unified School District as a teacher, counselor, vice-principal, and principal. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in Social Studies, a master of arts degree in Education from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and various credentials and certificates. Currently Meher is the Executive Director of the Fresno Consolidated Charter, Association of California School Administrators and a part time faculty member at CSUF. He has been a member, vice-chair, and chairman of various education committees and councils and has served as Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Armenian Schools under the auspices of the Western Prelacy Armenian Apostolic Church. Meher is an active member of several Armenian organizations and has received many awards and honors from organizations such as the Fresno City Council PTA, Fresno City Youth Development Program, Armenian Community Schools of Fresno and Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meher Chekerdeman on receiving the Armenian Educational Foundation's Educator of the Year Award. Meher has been an outstanding educator for many years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Meher Chekerdeman many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greek Independence Day, March 25th.

The fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the Ottoman Empire brought a halt to the important leadership role of Greeks. Their heritage