

to me; she did an awful lot and was a significant person in this town, and shared my Republican vision."

"It wasn't only her GOP cohorts who were expressing sadness about Ms. Stanko's passing. Former Democratic Town Committee Chairman Anne Shaw remembered her work as one of those 'instrumental' in the creation of the Senior Center (founded by Ms. Harrington and Caroline Murray). 'What a loss,' remarked Ms. Shaw. 'I saw her last week and she was really happy and giggly. I haven't seen her looking so well in a long time. I always enjoyed working with her and I think she was a role model for all of us.'"

"Town Tax Collector and longtime friend of Ms. Stanko's, Robert Locke, said, 'I've lost a good friend and a wonderful gal who was a tireless and dedicated volunteer. I said to my wife, 'They must need some head volunteers up there!'"

"Etta Marquardt Stanko was born on December 29, 1924 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late Guy Marquardt and the late Bertha Bloh. Ms. Stanko attended the University of Pennsylvania and worked as an auditor for the Pennsylvania Railroad in the 1940's and 50's before assisting in the family business, Stanko Associates."

"Ms. Stanko had volunteered at the Darien Community Association (DCA) since 1961 and served two consecutive terms as president of the DCA from 1977 to 1981. She has also served as Treasurer, Finance Chairman, Thrift Shop volunteer and board member. Among her many accomplishments at the DCA were creating a merit scholarship award for Darien public school graduates, launching a planning and development committee and began glucose screening and a health fair in cooperation with the Darien Lion's Club, opened what became the Darien Nature Center at Cherry Lawn Park and helped promote alcohol education and abuse programs at Darien High School."

"She has also spent decades in service to the Salvation Army, of which she was chairman of the service unit at the time of her death, and with Family Children's Agency. She also spent six years on the board of directors for Darien United Way and eight years on the board of the Darien Senior Center. She was a member of the Connecticut Commission on Aging and was on the board of directors for the American Red Cross where she had volunteered for 14 years."

"Ms. Stanko was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Stanko. She is survived by one son, Joseph C. Stanko, Jr. of Alexandria, Virginia; one daughter, Alyse Stanko Pleiter of Villa Park Illinois; and two grandchildren."

"'She was very proud of her children,' said Ms. Harrington. 'Her son is a lawyer and her daughter is a budding writer. And she had wonderful grandchildren she doted on. She recently traveled to Spain and Portugal and had a good time. She did a lot of nice things in the last part of her life.'"

On a more personal note, I would like to add that Ms. Stanko was also on the board of directors of the Bank of Darien, was an active member of St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Darien, and was a wonderful past volunteer for my campaigns for Congress, although this year she supported a challenger for the Republican nomination.

Etta Stanko was a great lady who had a powerful impact on her family, friends, and

those she served in her extensive volunteer endeavors. We all miss her dearly.

#### SUPPORTING THE DEMOCRATIC SUBSTITUTE TO THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Appropriations process, the Republicans have attempted to portray Democrats and Democratic priorities in the areas of health, education, and other important federal initiatives as fiscally irresponsible. However, priorities such as health research, school construction, and teacher training are underfunded in the appropriations bills because the Republicans insisted on including massive tax cuts for the wealthy in the budget resolution. Which is the more accurate definition of fiscal responsibility—massive tax cuts that do not benefit most Americans or targeted tax cuts that leave room for health and education for all Americans?

Today's debate raises that same question. The Republican Marriage Reconciliation Act will cost an astounding \$182 billion over the next ten years, consuming nearly one-fourth of the on-budget surplus. Democrats have a sensible alternative that costs almost half as much as the Republican bill, while still providing marriage penalty tax relief to a majority of Americans.

The fact is that most married couples are subject to tax at the 15% marginal rate. The only marriage penalty faced by most of these couples is due to the fact that the standard deduction for a joint return is less than twice the standard deduction for single taxpayers. The Democratic substitute would eliminate this marriage penalty by increasing the standard deduction for joint returns so that it is equal to twice the standard allowed to single taxpayers.

In addition, low-income married couples also face a marriage penalty in the earned income tax credit. The Democratic substitute would reduce those penalties by increasing the income level at which the EITC begins to phase out by \$2,000 in 2001 and by \$2,500 in 2002 and thereafter.

The Republicans portray themselves as the party of tax cuts and Democrats as the opponents of tax relief, but the reality has always been quite different. The reality of the bill being debated today is that the bulk of the tax cuts they propose are not marriage penalty relief, but rather a widening of tax brackets that benefit higher income taxpayers. As a result, half of the tax cuts in the Republican bill go to those who do not currently pay any marriage penalty.

What Democrats have emphasized, today and always, is the importance of fairness in providing tax relief—fairness that ensures family security and protects our nation's priorities. The Democratic substitute would benefit the vast majority of married couples, and provide greater tax relief for low-income taxpayers than would the Republican bill. We should provide fiscally responsible tax relief to those Americans who need it most. I urge my col-

leagues to vote no on the Marriage Penalty Reconciliation Act and yes on the Democratic substitute.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PANAMAX OF SAN RAFAEL

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Panamax of San Rafael. Panamax, the country's foremost designer and manufacturer of power protection equipment, is deserving of special Congressional recognition. What started out as a one room, single employee operation has become a multi-million dollar enterprise that provides employment opportunities to over one hundred individuals. Panamax has been a strong supporter of small business and has a record of hiring employees from the 6th Congressional District.

Panamax has earned a reputation for innovation and service to producers and users of a wide variety of high-tech equipment. The company has developed an important niche in the area of devices that provide protection from power surges and spikes. It also provides a complete guarantee on every unit produced.

Panamax has strongly supported international trade and has substantially expanded its trade with Canada, Latin America and the Pacific Rim countries. It continues to be an innovator and leader in the power protection field in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to congratulate Panamax as they mark two decades of service. I am very proud to be representing such a fine company in Congress. I extend my best wishes to Henry Moody, and the Panamax family, for continued success in the years to come.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF AEROSPACE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DAY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I advise my colleagues that the Aerospace Electronic Commerce Working Group, sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association, is meeting on July 19, 2000, in Oakland, California, where they are collaborating and reaching consensus about electronic commerce standards and implementation conventions. The purpose is to simplify eBusiness implementation for small- and medium-size suppliers who must comply with both government and commercial requirements for electronic commerce capabilities.

Without collaboration among supply chain leaders at the top of virtual enterprise trading teams, suppliers face complexities that compound implementation and compliance costs. The Aerospace initiative began several years

ago with consultants from Oakland leading facilitation on behalf of the Department of Defense Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office, managed by the Oakland Electronic Commerce Resource Center Program.

This is an ongoing requirement as business rules, business process scenarios, and enabling technologies change constantly.

Having the ability to conduct electronic commerce is a requirement for any business that is serving government customers. It is also a requirement for members of defense and other agency supply chains. The effort by supply chain leaders to make it possible for all suppliers to participate is to be commended.

I am proud that our community can catalyze progress on behalf of suppliers, many of which are minority, small disadvantaged businesses. Electronic commerce and eBusiness can increase access by small- and medium-sized businesses to new and expanding market opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
KATY GEISSERT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Torrance Mayor, Katy Geissert. Katy, along with Toyota Motor Sales USA, will be honored tomorrow night at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation's 50th anniversary gala.

Katy is a pioneer in South Bay politics. In 1974, Katy became the first woman elected to the Torrance City Council. After serving three terms, she became the first woman elected Mayor of the City of Torrance. Katy paved the way for women to hold public office in Torrance. A resident of Torrance for nearly a half century, Katy has been actively involved in the local community.

Her contributions to the Torrance community are numerous. Katy was the Founding President of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, past chairman of the Torrance Salvation Army Advisory Board, consultant to the South Bay/Harbor Volunteer Bureau, and charter board member of the Torrance League of Women Voters.

I commend Katy for her tireless work on behalf of the South Bay. The community she represented is a better place to live because of her service. Congratulations on this much deserved honor.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMAS  
THORNTON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I had an opportunity to participate in a day of celebration and remembrance of the great contribution to agriculture and the economy in general made by the late John Thomas Thornton, Jr., of the community of Parrott, Georgia. If you are not familiar with the name, you are not alone. Even in the area of southwest

Georgia where he lived and farmed most of his life, many people are not fully aware of his contribution, which impacts our lives even today.

J.T. Thornton invented the peanut shaker, a harvesting device that came into common use in the 1940's. His invention revolutionized the peanut industry. By making the harvesting process faster and more efficient, the peanut shaker contributed greatly to the economic growth of our area of Georgia and, in fact, to the country at large.

Mr. Thornton spent some 40 years developing and perfecting his invention. It was a magnificent achievement. The history of this achievement was beautifully presented in an essay written by a student from Parrott, Bonnie West, who won high honors when she entered the paper in the National History Day competition. Her accomplishment helped revive community interest in Mr. Thornton's invention, which he called the "Victory Peanut Harvester."

The people of Parrott, including members of the Thornton family, are establishing a museum on the invention of the peanut shaker, and sponsored the day of celebration that included a parade and a number of other events. It was an exciting and enjoyable day, and it helped bring wider recognition of what this native southwest Georgian achieved.

Although farmers did not have any more spare time back then than they do today, J.T. Thornton somehow found the time to apply his practical knowledge of farming, and his extraordinary grasp of engineering and mechanics, to overcome all of the difficulties he must have encountered until he produced something that raised the quality of life for countless Americans. This is a story we are proud of in southwest Georgia, and that can inspire other Americans, especially our young people. Mr. Speaker, it is, therefore, a story I want to share with our colleagues in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO "ACE"  
ALAGNA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, recently, the city of Newark experienced the sad loss of a wonderful community leader whom I was proud to call a friend, Mr. Armando "Ace" Alagna. Publisher of the popular newspaper *The Italian Tribune*, Mr. Alagna distinguished himself through his many humanitarian contributions, not only in our community, but around the globe. Proud of his Italian heritage, he was instrumental in the naming of the Columbus Day holiday, and he transformed the Columbus Day Parade in Newark into one of the largest and most successful in the entire nation. I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the memory of this great patriot and humanitarian and in extending our sympathy to the Alagna family. I submit the beautiful eulogy delivered by his daughter, Marion Fortunato, be included in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

EULOGY, ARMANDO "ACE" ALAGNA

We gather here today . . . in this beautiful church . . . among friends and family to say goodbye to my father, Ace Alagna. There

were few places he cherished more than this. His father helped build it decades ago and he was forever devoted to St. Lucy's and the Blessed Mother. He would swell with pride to see all of you here today, paying last respects, and remembering the life you shared with him in a setting so dear to his heart.

Since my father passed away last week, nearly everyone who has known him has taken a moment to share with me, and the rest of the family, memories they had of him—favors he had done, photos he had taken, laughs they had shared. Seemingly everyone held a cherished memory of him in their heart. Suddenly, I realized how much I shared my father with all of you. He wasn't just a father to me and my sisters; he wasn't just a husband to our mother. He was someone to whom many of you turned. I know how much it meant to him to be able to help in time of trouble and how much he enjoyed celebrating prosperity. The cards, phone calls, prayers, and your presence here today shows my family how much he meant to all of you and we thank you for helping ease the pain of this difficult time.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Ace Alagna's "works" will indeed follow him to his Eternal home and those he left behind will remember his "labours." The people of Italy for whom he organized a one million dollar relief effort—building shelters for the homeless and a children's home, bringing hope to a land ravaged by despair—will remember his labours. The people of Poland—for whom he arranged the delivery of surplus medicinal supplies during a time of terrible disease—will remember his labours. Most importantly, the people of Italian heritage in America—on whose behalf he fought for most of his life—will remember his labours.

Countless families will long treasure the photos he took of their loved ones—weddings and communions, births and baptisms—if the occasion was special, the Italian American community knew who to call: "One Shot Ace." Then, after years spent photographing United States presidents as a member of the White House Press Corps, he bought a struggling weekly newspaper, the *Italian Tribune*, and turned it into the voice of the Italian American people. If an issue concerned the Italian American community, you can be sure Ace had an opinion. More often than not, his ideas met with great success and helped earn for our community the respect and recognition we deserve as major contributors to the American mosaic.

Ethnic pride is a concept most people consider in their spare time. For some, it is a chance to associate with a few friends. For others, it is a hobby to be dusted off a couple of times each year for a few parades and festivals. A few make a genuine effort to make a real contribution. But it takes someone like my father—someone willing to dedicate his life full time to the cause to make a significant difference.

He played a large role in the naming of Columbus Day as a national holiday. He revived the Newark Columbus Day Parade and served as its Executive Director for nearly thirty years. He brought A-list celebrities, huge crowds and millions of dollars of revenue to a city directly in need of an economic and social boost.

All along, my family had a front row seat as we watched this amazing man succeed where others had failed. We watched with awe as he presented awards to American heroes such as Ronald Reagan, Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, and Frank Sinatra. We watched with pride as he was thanked for his efforts. Keys to cities all around the world.