

County Committee, Delegate to the New Jersey Democratic Convention in 1983, Co-Chair of volunteers in Northeast New Jersey for Jim Florio's 1990 Gubernatorial campaign, and a volunteer for the National Governors Association 84th Annual Meeting in Princeton, New Jersey.

As an involved resident of Maplewood, she is always ready to participate in activities and contribute to the public good. Numerous groups including, the John J. Giblin Association, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and the Maplewood Senior Club II have honored her. The latter group named her Senior of the Year.

Mary has been married since 1946 to Nicholas F. Romano, who is retired from the Newark Board of Education. She has lived in Maplewood since 1961. Her two children are Nicholas Francis Romano, Jr. and Mary Michele Fox. She has three grandchildren, Christina Marie Romano, Joseph Timothy Fox and the twins Jessica Lynn Romano and Anthony Romano.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mary's family, friends, the Democratic Party, the Township of Maplewood, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Mary Romano.

ESTABLISH A CENTER IN THE DIAMOND VALLEY RESERVOIR

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce legislation that will assist in establishing an interpretive and cultural center in the vicinity of the Diamond Valley Reservoir in southern California. This center will preserve, protect and make available the extraordinary discoveries that were uncovered during the construction of the Diamond Valley Reservoir to all citizens of the United States.

During the past five years, the construction of the Diamond Valley Reservoir outside of Hemet, California has been the largest, private, earth moving construction project in the United States. The Reservoir is now the largest man made lake in southern California. It covers 4,500 acres, is 4.5 miles long and 2 miles wide and is 160–250 feet deep. The cost of \$1.8 billion for construction was totally borne by the residents of southern California. The reservoir will provide a desperately needed emergency supply of water for the city of Los Angeles and the surrounding area.

During the construction and excavation of this massive project, extraordinary paleontology and archeology discoveries were uncovered. Unearthed were 365 prehistoric sites, pictographs, petroglyphs, stone tools, bone tools, and arrow heads. In addition, a preserved mastodon skeleton, a mammoth skeleton and a 7 foot tusk and bones from extinct animals previously unknown to have resided in the area including the giant Long-Horned Bison and an enormous North American Lion were discovered. In addition, the construction of the Diamond Valley Reservoir unearthed the largest known accumulation of late Ice Age fossils known in California. The scientific importance of this collection may now rival

California's other famed site, the La Brea Tar Pits.

It is my honor to introduce legislation which will be the first step in preserving this world class collection of archaeological, paleontological and late Ice Age fossils for future generations.

RECOGNITION OF THE OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS PARTNERSHIP WITH OSHA

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an historic partnership between the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The agreement provides incentives for contractors to voluntarily improve their safety performance under the high-standard guidelines set by the partnership while OSHA will recognize those contractors with exemplary safety programs. This cooperation signifies that the participants are committed to ensuring the highest standards of workplace safety.

I want to recognize the local Ohio leadership of ABC in forging this partnership which is beneficial to workers, contractors, and OSHA. Additionally, I would like to recognize the OSHA Area Director, William Murphy from Cincinnati, Ohio, for his hard work in making this alliance possible.

The Associated Builders and Contractors and OSHA have always shared a common goal: saving lives and protecting the well-being of local workers. Now they have a partnership which provides a model for cooperation between the public and private sectors. This new level of cooperation will allow both groups to more effectively meet their goals and maintain the levels of safety which make American workers the best in the world.

I am pleased to recognize and commend this partnership and I am hopeful that it will set the stage for future cooperation in other industries.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MENESEE (CHUCK) D. BLACKWELL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Chuck Blackwell, a former Lexington, Missouri, resident and graduate of Wentworth Military Academy. He was 84.

Chuck, a son of the late Horace F. and Berrien Menefee Blackwell, was born on February 17, 1916. He attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri, and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1936. While in college, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Then, he attended the University of Michigan Law School, where he was

elected to the Order of the Coif and a member of Phi Delta Phi law fraternity. Upon graduation in 1939, he joined a law firm then called McCune, Caldwell & Downing.

Chuck left the law firm in 1942 to serve his country during World War II. He rose from the rank of second lieutenant to major while assigned to the Fourteenth Armored Division, Army of the United States, from 1942 until 1946. A war hero, his military service was recognized with a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, a Purple Heart and three battle stars.

In 1948, Chuck rejoined the law firm, known for many years as Blackwell, Sanders, Matheny, Weary & Lombardi, where he served as a managing partner. Professional affiliations developed during his 57 year law career included the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Missouri Bar and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City. He also served on many corporate boards.

Chuck was also involved in many civic and charitable activities in his community. He was a University Trustee of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art from 1957 to 1991. Additionally, Chuck was a member of the Board of Governors of the American Royal Association, Vice President and Director of the Charles R. and Minnie Cook Foundation, board member of the Jacob L. and Ella C. Loose Foundation and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Trustee of the Loretta M. Cowden Foundation and the Midwest Research Institute, and Director of the Starlight Theatre Association. Furthermore, Chuck was an avid hunter and fisherman and loyal Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals and Missouri Tigers fan.

Chuck married the late Mary Lou Harris Blackwell of Kansas City on April 25, 1942. They were married for 56 years and had one son, the late Stephen M. Blackwell.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck Blackwell was my good friend and a great American. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MORRIS ABRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Morris B. Abram, an outstanding leader of the American Jewish community and an activist in the civil rights movement whose accomplishments helped shape our country and typified the ideal of public service. His death last month at the age of 81 was a loss to all of us who counted this great American as a friend and mentor on the ways to promote civil rights at home and human rights abroad.

He served as the president of Brandeis University and was asked by five presidents to take a lead role in a number of commissions and panels that promoted equal educational and housing opportunities for all Americans, and protection of our seniors against corruption in the nursing home industry and greater respect for human rights around the world.

Having served on the staff of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, he

learned first-hand about the Holocaust and dedicated himself to the Jewish community, serving as national president of the American Jewish Committee from 1963 through 1968, Chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry from 1983 through 1988, and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations from 1986 through 1989.

President Bush designated him as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, and he remained in this city after completing his ambassadorial term to head up Human Rights Watch which highlights the successes and shortcomings of the United Nations. In his capacity as chairman of this group he testified before the International Relations Committee in July of last year on promoting equal treatment of Israel in the United Nations.

Earlier this year on a committee trip on UN issues in Geneva, I was privileged to have dinner with him and his wife, the former Bruna Molina, where I sought his counsel on how we can ensure the all UN members, including Israel, have the right to sit on all UN bodies including the UN Security Council, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this Great American who battled injustice and discrimination wherever and whenever he found it.

TRIBUTE TO JIM "LABBY"
LABAGNARA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to a remarkable person from my district, Jim "Labby" LaBagnara of Paterson, New Jersey, who was feted on March 30, 2000 because of his many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that we gather here in his honor, for he epitomizes a strong spirit of caring and generosity.

Jim "Labby" LaBagnara was born, raised and still lives in Paterson. He attended Eastside High School and earned five varsity letters in baseball and soccer as a student.

In addition to playing for Eastside, he played baseball for the Emblems, American Legion Post 77, Public Service Electric & Gas, Fair Lawn A.C., Little Falls A.C., Glen Rock A.C. amongst other baseball teams in Northern New Jersey.

"Labby" had a try out with the St. Louis Browns Major League Baseball Team. In addition, he was also offered baseball scholarships to Duke University, the University of North Carolina and Manhattan College. He pursued a career in baseball and was under contract with two Minor League teams.

His life took an interesting turn when he was offered a job at Wright Aeronautical under the condition that he played baseball and soccer for them. While working at Wright, he learned to be a Machinist and to fly. He furthered his education and received an Aircraft and Engine Mechanic's License. He later became the Chief Pilot of Lincoln Park's Aero Flying Service, where he stayed until the bombing of Pearl Harbor, signaling the beginning of World War II. He then joined the Naval Air Force, and served with honor.

After the war he pursued the fields of flying and sports. He is the Founder and President

of Precision Gears and Products, Aero Flying Service, Eastern Gear, Inc., which he sold to Baker-Hughes Company. After selling the company, he went on to work for Baker-Hughes for another 24 years. These years instilled in him the skills necessary for him to become a stellar role model in the community.

During this time he taught nearly 1,000 student pilots. He currently holds an Instructor's License as well as a Commercial Pilot's License for small and multiengined aircraft with instrument rating. He has flown land planes, seaplanes and helicopters.

"Labby" is married to Alma LaBagnara and together they have three children including, Elissa, Susan and Dr. James LaBagnara, Jr. He continually touches the lives of others. For example he has sponsored and coached baseball for 47 years. As a player his batting avg. was .340. As a coach, he is seen as both a father figure and mentor to his players.

His benevolence is unequaled in sports. He is always willing to give his time and financial support. He sponsored the Precision Gears Baseball Team, which played in the American Legion Baseball League. In 1961, he joined with the All Wags A.C., Inc. to manage the Pasquariello-Bradle Post 187 "All Wags" Team, which brought numerous State and regional championships to the Paterson based group for over 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Labby's family, friends, All Wags A.C., Inc., the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Jim "Labby" LaBagnara.

LONGTIME SCOUT LEADERS
HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on April 12th, 2000, the Chicagoland Forest District will be sponsoring the 10th Annual Good Scout Benefit at Palermo's Fine Italian Cuisine & Banquets in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Every year at this event, longtime contributors to scouting are honored with the Good Scout Award. Youth scouting is a vital effort in Southwest Chicagoland, providing tomorrow's leaders with important values through outdoor recreation and community service. This year's recipients are Bill Hawkinson and Bob Wilcox. It now gives me great honor to recognize these scout leaders from the 3rd Congressional District for their vital service to our community.

William "Bill" Hawkinson is a lifetime resident of South-side Chicago. Shortly after graduating from Purdue University, he moved to Oak Lawn in 1968. In 1975, Bill would become the Finance Chairman of District 06 for two years, helping to greatly expand the profile of local scouting. In his first year as Finance Chair, Bill was honored for his outstanding service with the Arrowhead award. Two years later, he would become District Chairman for a full year.

Today, Bill remains deeply committed to the community and local scouting. Besides running two successful automotive dealerships, he actively volunteers for medical, educational and religious organizations in Chicagoland.

Mr. Hawkinson still lives in Oak Lawn with his wife, Rickie, both proud parents of Jeff (26), April (21), and Erica (15).

Robert "Bob" Wilcox has been actively involved in local scouting for 62 years. Bob's lengthy resume includes service as Committee Chairman for St. Rita Troop 600, Commissioner Staff in the Iroquois and Forest District, and Vice-Chairman in the Iroquois District. For 12 years, Bob served as Scoutmaster for Troop 600, administering over 60 scouts. Over the years, Bob Wilcox received numerous scouting awards. In 1973, he received the distinguished St. George Award by Cardinal John Cody at Holy Name Cathedral.

Bob's family clearly reflects his commitment to scouting. His son Robert is an Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 33 of La Grange, Illinois. Bob's daughter Jeanny is an Assistant Leader in Girl Scout Troop 170. All four of Bob's grandchildren are also involved in scouting.

Fortunately, Bob's many talents have not been limited to scouting. In addition to his previously described proficiencies, Mr. Wilcox is a highly-respected retired 44-year optician and co-owner of Mahoney-Wilcox Opticians on North Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

Again, it gives me great honor to recognize these scout leaders today. Mr. Speaker, I hope Bill Hawkinson and Bob Wilcox will continue to use their strength and leadership to set a positive example to the citizens of the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois.

A TRIBUTE TO LISA SPECHT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. WAXMAN and I, rise today to pay tribute to Lisa Specht who will be honored by the American Jewish Committee as the recipient of the prestigious Learned Hand Award, named in memory of Judge Learned Hand and presented annually to a leader of the legal profession who has been "a voice of understanding and goodwill."

We have known Lisa for many years and have greatly enjoyed our friendship with this charming and accomplished woman.

She is an individual of many talents. In her distinguished career, she has been a television commentator and panelist, a community activist, a feminist and of course, a top-notch lawyer. The Los Angeles Business Journal lists her as one of Los Angeles County's most prominent attorneys and California Law Business has named her as one of California's top 100 Attorneys.

As a senior partner at the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, Lisa specializes in representing the firm's clients before governmental entities. Her considerable political acumen makes her a powerful force on their behalf. In addition, she serves as a strategic policy and business advisor to many corporate presidents and CEOs.

A champion of women's rights, Lisa was a co-founder of the Women's Political Committee over twenty-five years ago and has