

disease, the American Cancer Society recently presented him with the Excalibur Award. In addition, he was a strong supporter of Civista Medical Center in La Plata. At the first Mardi Gras Ball sponsored by the Physicians Memorial Hospital Foundation, he was crowned "King Rex." Robertson also raised money for Richard R. Clark Senior Center in La Plata, Hospice of Charles County, United Way of Charles County, Melwood, local churches and schools, and supported Newburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, Bel Alton Volunteer Fire Department, and local softball and baseball leagues.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to speak on behalf of the people of Southern Maryland, for whom Captain Billy gave so much, and thank him for all that he has done to benefit our community and our country. We remember his life and the memories he has given us. On behalf of the people of my district, thank you Captain Billy.

TRIBUTE TO REV. PHILIP RONAN BRENNAN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the Reverend Philip Ronan Brennan, a remarkable man who has rendered fifty years of service to the people of my Northern California district.

Born on August 23, 1926, in Duleek, County Meath, Ireland, Philip Brennan was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on June 18, 1950, in Dublin. His first assignment in the priesthood brought him half way around the world to the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, where he has made his home ever since. In fact, although born in Ireland, he is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. It is here that he has offered a lifetime of compassion and dedication to others.

Beginning as an associate pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Auburn, in 1950, Reverend Brennan later went on to serve as an assistant at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Truckee in 1952. In 1956, he began an eleven-year assignment as Chaplain at Folsom State Prison. In this capacity, he worked with some of those members of society who stand in the greatest need of comfort and guidance. Then, in 1967, Father Brennan advanced to the position of pastor at Corpus Christi parish in Tahoe City, California, which included the community of Squaw Valley.

In 1972, Rev. Philip Brennan returned to where he began his ministry, serving as pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Auburn. During his years in Auburn, he negotiated the purchase of a 16-acre parcel of land in North Auburn, moving St. Joseph's school from the overcrowded and landlocked downtown location to the new site. He also sparked the building of a large parish center there. Recognizing his contributions to the community, in 1988 the City of Auburn named Father Brennan as one of the 100 most influential people in the city's first 100 years of history.

After spending eight years at St. Joseph's, Father Brennan moved to the small town of Sutter Creek, serving for 12 years as pastor at

the Immaculate Conception parish. Since retirement in 1992, he has again settled in Auburn, where he continues to sit on Diocesan committees and acts as supply pastor throughout the Sacramento Diocese.

As he celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on June 18, I join with his many friends and admirers in honoring the Rev. Philip Ronan Brennan for his tireless efforts to meet the temporal and spiritual needs of those he has served so faithfully. No price can be placed on Father Brennan's contributions. His influence cannot be measured. His service cannot be gauged. His is a life well-lived, and I thank him for it.

HONORING JOSEPH PURE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, America has been very fortunate in that many of its finest citizens come from other lands, landing here to better their lives or sometimes only hoping to escape persecution. Joseph Pure is a man who did both. He was born in Bialystock, Poland 75 years ago. Like all European Jewry he came face to face with the Holocaust. He is more fortunate than the great majority because he survived. He came to America from a ravished Europe and in the course of his life here founded the very successful Woodworking Specialty Company and several other firms. But he did not forget his heritage and was extremely supportive of Jewish causes. He also became a mentor for a generation of young.

His strong character, determination, industry and luck made him a success in America and made America a better country for his coming here. He is a shining example of how people can prosper under freedom, away from the evils of totalitarianism.

Joseph Pure was married to the late Alice Pure and they had three children, Samuel, Ellen and Vivian, and a granddaughter, Nicole Negrin. I want to wish him a very happy 75th birthday. He has earned the best wishes of all of us.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
THOMAS J. ROOT ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Thomas J. Root of Norwalk, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, TJ's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience

that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

TJ brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Norwalk High School, TJ has attained an astounding grade point average of 4.329, which places him fourth in his class of one hundred fifty-three students. TJ is a member of the National Honor Society, Principal's List, and was Captain of the Academic Challenge Team. Additionally, TJ placed fifth in the state on the Ohio Test of Scholastic Achievement Pre-Calculus exam. TJ was twice presented with the Huron County American Legion Award for his academic accomplishments.

Outside the classroom, TJ has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, TJ has earned letters in Varsity Football and Wrestling. TJ was also named Captain of both the Football and Wrestling teams. TJ has also been active in the Norwalk High School Key Club and with his church youth group.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Thomas J. Root. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that TJ will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SALT RIVER
PROJECT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the profound and positive impact that Salt River Project has had on the state of Arizona for nearly 100 years. Accordingly, SRP has a deserving place in the Library of Congress' Local Legacies.

SRP is the oldest multipurpose federal reclamation project in the nation, older even than the state of Arizona. Named for the major river that supplies much of the water to the region, SRP is the Phoenix area's largest supplier of water and among the largest public power utilities in the United States.

SRP's history links people, events, and projects that have defined the progress and prosperity of Arizona. Its legacy includes the cooperative water management efforts of late nineteenth-century settlers, President Theodore Roosevelt's passage of the National Reclamation Act of 1902, and the construction of major dams throughout the state.

SRP continues to power the state of Arizona today, providing reliable and affordable electricity and water, and extraordinary community service. Its canals are an integral part of our environment and serve as a lasting reminder of SRP's importance to the future of our state.

For these and many others reasons, SRP is a fitting and valuable addition to the Library of Congress' Local Legacies.

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COALITION FOR MISSING
ISRAELI SOLDIERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers and its dedicated staff. Since its inception seven years ago, the Coalition has been the driving force behind the international grassroots campaign to return Israel's missing soldiers to their families. The Coalition's efforts, both in the United States and abroad, have jarred the conscience of the international community on behalf of American citizen Zachary Baumel and other missing Israeli soldiers. The single-minded dedication of this organization to assisting these soldiers, who were all but forgotten by the international community, has thrust the issue once again onto the international agenda.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I want to note the successful lobbying efforts of the Coalition for legislation which I introduced in the Congress last year—H.R. 1175, "a bill to Locate and Secure the Release of Zachary Baumel, an American Citizen, and Other Israeli Soldiers Missing in Action." Some one hundred Members of the House joined as cosponsors of this legislation, and ultimately the bill passed with the unanimous support of both the House and Senate. It was signed into law by President Clinton last November. I took this action in order to raise the priority of this issue in American foreign policy and to facilitate a more concerted effort to bring closure on this matter after eighteen frustrating years.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is our closest ally in the region, and some years ago Israel played a major role in securing the release of American hostages being held in Lebanon. Now it is fitting that we repay this debt and take meaningful action on behalf of Israel's missing soldiers. Success in this endeavor can only strengthen American initiatives in the Middle East by creating an atmosphere that can make Middle East peace a reality.

On June 4th of this year, Mr. Speaker, the Coalition is sponsoring "An Evening of Conscience" Dinner in Jerusalem. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Coalition great success at this upcoming event and recognize the leadership and staff of the Coalition for the remarkable work that has been done by Coalition Chairman Daniel Eisen, and the Coalition staff members: Brigitte Silverberg, Reya Eisen, Daniel Ehrlich, Daniel Grisarou, Gittel Davis, Gedalya Gower, and the Coalition's Washington representatives Alyza D. Lewin and Vicki Iseman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, and Ron Arad will soon be home with their families and that the dedicated staff of the Coalition will be able to find other uses for their many talents.

HONORING THE GRAND TRAVERSE
BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIP-
PEWA INDIANS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Michigan resident, and as Co-Chair of the House Congressional Native American Caucus, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to speak on the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. On May 27, the Band will celebrate 20 years of reaffirmed federal recognition.

The Grand Traverse Band has a rich and long history. The Tribe entered into treaties with the United States in 1836 and 1855. These treaties specified land for the Band, but a misinterpretation caused the Band's recognition to be terminated, and it was left without federal assistance. Determined to rectify this error, the Tribe applied for federal recognition under the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, and was denied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It tried again, unsuccessfully in 1943. Such disappointment would have deterred many people, but the members of the Grand Traverse Band were steadfast, and tried once again in 1978, and on May 27, 1980, the Tribe's federal recognition was finally reaffirmed.

In these twenty years, the Grand Traverse Band has served as a strong example of tribal self-determination. It has developed a strong socioeconomic system. It established a solid infrastructure, and provides many governmental services to its members. The Tribe is the county's largest employer and is among the largest employers within a six-county area. Northwest Michigan is a better place because of the Grand Traverse Band.

Last year, the Tribe was honored by Harvard University for providing an outstanding example of tribal governance. The Harvard Project on American Indian and Economic Development noted the Tribe's innovation in crafting a formula for distributing its share of the Michigan Indian Land Claim Settlement Award. I would also like to acknowledge George Bennett, Chairman of the Tribe, and my friend of more than 30 years, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians have enriched many lives with its history and heritage. I consider myself a better person for working alongside the Tribe on many issues and concerns. After a long fight to achieve federal recognition, the Band has much to celebrate with this milestone. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me in congratulating the Grand Traverse Band on 20 years of reaffirmed recognition of their retained sovereignty, and wishing it continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. DENNIS
GILLETTE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Dennis Gillette, who is retiring next month

as Executive Assistant to the President for Special Projects at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA.

It is his second retirement from his second successful career. In his spare time he has managed to hold elective office—he is currently Mayor of the City of Thousand Oaks—and support so many non-profit organizations that it would be impossible to list them all. He also holds a California Teaching Credential and has taught at numerous academies, universities and colleges.

Dennis began his CLU career in 1988, coming on board as Vice President for University Development. He also served as Vice President for Administrative Services/Treasurer prior to his current position. In this post, he is responsible for overseeing several major construction and design projects.

His first career was with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Sheriff. During his 25 years of the Department, he also served on the original Thousand Oaks Police Department and was Chief of Police for the cities of Camarillo and Thousand Oaks.

Not surprisingly, Dennis Gillette has been awarded numerous honors over the years, including being named "Man of the Year" by the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce in 1987, and the Conejo Valley Historical Society's "Don Triunfo" in 1992. He has received commendations from Optimist International and the Optimist clubs in Thousand Oaks and Camarillo. The cities of Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Ventura have honored his commitment to community.

Dennis' wife, Terry, is an English teacher for the Conejo Valley Unified School District. They have two daughters, Kristine and Lisa. In 1983, the Gillettes were named the Conejo Valley Family of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in wishing Dennis and his family the best on the occasion and his second retirement, and Godspeed for whatever new endeavors he may decide to undertake.

HONORING PARKCHESTER CHORUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we have something to sing about: The Parkchester Chorus is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. This wonderful group performed its first spring concert in 1940. It was founded by residents of the Parkchester housing complex and is the oldest choral group in the Bronx. Over the years the group has expanded from out of the Parkchester community and now draws its members from as far as New Jersey and Connecticut. But it still reflects its roots in the Bronx as a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, non-sectarian choral group.

The Parkchester Chorus is a vital part of the cultural life of the Bronx. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chorus and its members for their valuable contributions to our lives and their gift of music to our parents, to us and to future generations. I offer them three musical cheers.