

Bank which donated 4,938 food items and \$9,953 through that period, and created an internship program for the Ohio School to Work program.

No doubt: the 180th Fighter Wing and 555th AFB are outstanding in every sense of the word. Whether flying dangerous missions overseas, assisting in disaster relief at home or volunteering free time to teach a child how to read, these men and women perform beyond expectations. Their courage and commitment to the community, as well as their jobs, is unparalleled. We in the 9th Congressional District of Ohio are honored to have such a dedicated, professional and exemplary unit represent our nation here and abroad.

HONORING JOHN A. JACKSON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor John A. Jackson, a resident of Altadena, who was awarded an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship.

Mr. Jackson is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, and earned a Master's degree at the University of Southern California. He was awarded the fellowship based on his extraordinary success in inspiring students through "action" learning. Mr. Jackson is the Founder and Director of Project EARTH (Environmental Awareness Research Through Hands-on Activities), an award winning earth science and environmental education program for seventh grade students at Monterey Highlands School. Mr. Jackson also instituted a week-long earth science and environmental science field trips to the Salton Sea, Mono Lake, Yosemite National Forest, and Death Valley Park.

Mr. Jackson is serving his fellowship at the National Science Foundation's Division of Graduate Education. He is working in the GK-12 program and is addressing the lack of Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology (SMET) instruction in our schools. The GK-12 goal is to increase classroom teachers' knowledge and understanding of scientific principles, improve communication and teaching-related skills for Fellows, and link through partnerships universities to local school districts. Mr. Jackson is very dedicated to these important goals and has agreed to serve another year in the fellowship program.

John A. Jackson is a true example of the difference one person can make in lives of our young people. His ongoing commitment to life-long education is truly commendable. My district is very blessed to have an educator of his caliber and I am very proud to honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY HUTH SCHONROCK OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs.

Betty Huth Schonrock, a gracious friend of our community. Mrs. Schonrock was recently recognized with the Governor's Arts Award for her time, guidance, and financial support of the arts in Huntsville. As a direct result of Mrs. Schonrock's time and service, our quality of life has been enhanced through her commitment to the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, the Wilcoxon ice-skating complex, Randolph School, the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the Madison County Mental Health Association, the Huntsville-Madison Botanical Gardens, and the Huntsville Museum of Art.

Becky Quinn, a member of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, spoke at the awards ceremony about Mrs. Schonrock's contributions to the development of the arts in North Alabama. Her words speak volumes about the award winner, "For years Betty has taken strong leadership roles by bringing a rare combination of passion and reality to the arts. She has both the creativity to provide the vision and the organizational and fundraising skills to assure success." I also would like to share with you the comments on Betty listed in the "Celebration of the Arts" program, "The growth, strength and stability of many of these art entities are attributed to the insight, commitment and hard work of Betty Schonrock, whose efforts and influence will be felt for countless years and generations to come."

Mrs. Schonrock is not afraid to take on the tasks that no one else will volunteer for. She has spent incalculable hours in computerizing, for the first time, the Symphony ticket subscriber's list, auction acquisitions records, and auction invitation list. This kind of service is not an unusual task for Mrs. Schonrock to undertake and is very reflective of the kind of selfless dedication she gives to the arts.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has dedicated many years to serving the nation and the citizens of North Alabama. I send my congratulations to Mrs. Schonrock and her family, her husband Keith, and her children Heather and Keith as she accepts the well-deserved Governor's Arts Award. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Betty Huth Schonrock.

COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIV/AIDS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleague's attention to a tragic anniversary. It was twenty years ago today that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the first report of what is now known as HIV/AIDS. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in renewing our commitment to conquer HIV and AIDS and to support efforts to end the spread of HIV.

Today marks the beginning of the third decade with AIDS, and almost 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. Here in the United States, increased social awareness and HIV/AIDS initiatives have created a perception that the AIDS pandemic is over. However, AIDS/HIV continues to destroy American

families, neighborhoods, and communities. Women and children are especially susceptible to the disease. Between 1994 and 1998, the number of women living with AIDS nearly doubled. Moreover, there are an estimated 120,000 to 160,000 women living with HIV. It is especially alarming that seventy-eight percent of the AIDS cases in American women ages 20-24 are minorities.

Minorities account for over two thirds of the new AIDS cases reported in this country, and people of color account for more than half of AIDS cases worldwide. Children are fast becoming the innocent victims of HIV; the number of children living with HIV and AIDS is at an all-time high. Even communities that were leading in the battle against HIV/AIDS have suffered set backs in the last few years. The gay community, which was the first community mobilize and educate itself shortly following its tidal wave of infections in the early 1980s, is seeing increases in infection rates that had long lingered between 3 and 5 percent. A recent report by the CDC suggests that there is resurgence of HIV infection in the gay community, especially among African-Americans and Hispanics.

In comparison to other regions of the world, America has escaped the epidemic proportions of AIDS seen around the world. Sub-Saharan Africa has been far more severely affected by AIDS than any other part of the world. The United Nations reports that 25.3 million adults and children are infected with the HIV virus in the region, which has about 10% of the world's population but more than 70% of the worldwide total of infected people. I applaud the efforts of my colleagues who have worked tirelessly to the awareness of the members of this body of the conditions in Africa.

Since the onset of HIV/AIDS in 1981, we here in Congress, have attempted to address the issue. Not knowing of the complications and aggression of HIV/AIDS, in FY81 the Department of Health and Human Services received \$200,000 in discretionary funding for HIV/AIDS. Today, Health and Human services receives close to \$5 billion for HIV/AIDS programs, and the overall federal government spends close to \$12 billion on programs for HIV/AIDS research, education, and prevention. This funding allows agencies such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support programs for state and local prevention activities. Programs sponsored by the CDC also include: a national public information network; education programs in the nation's schools; disease monitoring; and laboratory; behavioral, epidemiologic studies designed to identify the most effective interventions to combat HIV. Federal funding has also helped in the development of drugs such as AZT and others, which allow infected individuals to enjoy a longer and healthier life. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has conducted crucial research in the development of treatments and vaccines for HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS Minority Initiative provides funding for prevention and treatment in minority communities. The Global Health Initiative supports activities around the world focused on HIV/AIDS programs. The Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund provides compassionate payments to individuals with blood clotting disorders, who contracted HIV due to contaminated blood transfusions. These programs not only effect social consciousness, but also reflect

our nation's increased dedication and commitment to eradicating HIV/AIDS.

In 1990, Congress passed the Ryan White Comprehensive Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. I am proud to say that here in this sometimes divisive body, we were able to come together and vote unanimously for the reauthorization of the Act in 2000, thereby assisting metropolitan areas and states with their health care costs and support services for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. This legislation is vital to helping those who are most affected by this disease and who often do not have the means to combat this disease. Shortly after we passed the Ryan White CARE Act, I received a letter from a former student of mine who has been living with AIDS. In her touching letter, my former student applauded our efforts here in Congress, "I am very pleased that we have seen an increase in funding for the Ryan White CARE Act to help those living with this horrible disease and all of their families too. Now, hopefully with all the funds we can care for a lot of people and try to keep them as well as possible..."

Mr. Speaker, we cannot jeopardize the well being of those living with HIV/AIDS and must ensure that funding for HIV/AIDS is retained. I commend the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. PELOSI, and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, whom I have joined in sending a letter to encourage President Bush to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) programs. The letter also encourages President Bush to support funding for disease prevention, the Ryan White CARE Act to improve health care for people with AIDS, and the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative. With rates of infection on the up swing and so concentrated, we cannot let these programs lag; the risk is too high.

It is paramount that we persevere in our efforts against HIV/AIDS. As we begin our third decade battling this disease, I maintain that we focus our energies on those who are most vulnerable to infections: women, minorities, and children. We must also redouble our efforts to educate our citizens, especially our youth, on how to protect themselves from HIV infection. In addition, we must not ignore our humanitarian duty to those suffering around the world. The strides we have made in the past two decades are numerous; and we should celebrate our victories. However, we cannot overlook the individuals who are unable to fight this disease alone. I ask my colleagues, on this the 20th anniversary of the AIDS/HIV, to remember the past and stand in solidarity to renew our nation's commitment to this global crisis.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH VELOZO

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, a remarkable individual is planning to retire next month after 34 years of dedicated serve to the hungry and the homeless in my District. Ruth Velozo, executive director of Northwest Har-

vest, a statewide food program, is stepping down at the age of 72. Ms. Velozo began working for Northwest Harvest in 1967 and became executive director in 1980. As a result of her guidance and hard work, the agency grew from an ecumenical ministry with a debt of \$35,000 to a \$20 million dollar a year charity.

Last year, Northwest Harvest collected and distributed 16.5 million pounds of food to the poor and the hungry. Northwest Harvest has four distribution centers in the state through which food is donated to 283 hunger programs.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Velozo grew up during the Great Depression. She learned the devastation of poverty and hunger. Through America's prosperous upswings and economic downturns, she never abandoned her determination to help those who are left out. She has dedicated her life not only to feeding people, but to furthering her core values: maintaining the dignity of the poor, and an unwavering belief in the basic generosity of people.

Ms. Velozo has said that in a perfect world, she would step down because there is no longer a need for Northwest Harvest's services. But sadly, more than 30,000 people ask for food at the main branch in Seattle each month, and Washington State ranks eighth amongst the states in those who suffer from hunger. The need would be much larger, however, had it not been for Ruth Velozo and her work. I hope you will join me, Mr. Speaker, in thanking her for her energy, for her leadership, and for her commitment.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI GERALD RAISKIN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Rabbi Gerald Raiskin, who is celebrating 50 years in the Rabbinate and 45 years as Rabbi of Peninsula Temple Sholom.

Rabbi Raiskin's life of service began in New York's lower East Side where he attended Seward Park High School, Hereziah Hebrew High School and Brooklyn College. His exemplary dedication to duty was evident from the early age of 18, when Gerald Raiskin answered his country's call and enlisted in the United States Army. He soon earned the rank of Private First Class and served with distinction in the 80th Infantry Division of the United States Army. Gerald Raiskin was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and two Battle Stars for heroic combat duty, which included the capture of Hitler's Austrian birthplace and engagement in hostilities at the outskirts of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where the young soldier observed the bodies of inmates who were killed in the nearby woods as he marched towards the camp. When the war in Europe ended, Rabbi Raiskin's outstanding academic record afforded him the opportunity to attend the University of Geneva, where he studied art and political science before returning home to Brooklyn.

Gerald Raiskin's path to the rabbinate began in earnest with his commitment to Reform Judaism and enrollment in the Jewish Institute of Religion's Rabbinical School in 1948.

He was both an illustrious and industrious student who served as a student rabbi in several congregations while writing a thesis and preparing for written and oral examinations for the Master of Hebrew Literature Degree. On weekends, then student rabbi Raiskin tended both a reluctant furnace and a willing new congregation in East Hartford, Connecticut. On the High Holy Days he was assigned to conduct Conservative services in Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, a bungalow community where Rabbi Raiskin served as rabbi, cantor, torah reader and blew the shofar. In addition, he organized a religious school in Merrick, Long Island, and taught Hebrew to children in Trenton, New Jersey and was awarded two academic prizes before his ordination in June, 1951.

Mr. Speaker, after his ordination Rabbi Raiskin traveled to the new state of Israel, where he lived in Jerusalem and continued his religious studies at the Hebrew University. When heavy rains in December of 1951 devastated the encampments of immigrants from North Africa and Romania, Rabbi Raiskin was sent to Afula, where he aided and eased the suffering by providing clothing that had been sent by Jewish organizations from the United States.

Rabbi Raiskin returned from Israel in 1952 to work for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) as the Director of the Chicago Federation of Temple Youth. He also served as the Director of the Union's Institute which was the first camp owned by the UAHC in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin (now known as the Olin-Sang-Ruby Camp). In 1953, just in time for High Holy Days, Rabbi Raiskin joined the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue where he started a senior citizens group, increased attendance at the young adult groups, and strengthened the religious school.

The yearning for a congregation of his own was answered in 1956 when Rabbi Raiskin received an early morning telephone call asking him to consider becoming the spiritual leader of the Peninsula Temple Sholom. On August 1, 1956 Peninsula Temple Sholom's first rabbi arrived in San Mateo to begin 45 years of humanitarian work that has extended well beyond the walls of the temple.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Gerald Raiskin today is recognized as one of the great leaders of San Mateo County. He built the congregation of Peninsula Temple Sholom from very humble beginnings to a congregation of over 700 families, while constantly working to advance civil rights at home and abroad. In March of 1965 Rabbi Raiskin participated in the Civil Rights March to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rabbi Raiskin was arrested on several occasions for protesting in front of the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union. He risked his own safety to bring humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies and books on Judaica to refugees in Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow. Here at home, Rabbi Raiskin has been integral to interfaith efforts that have greatly benefitted the 12th Congressional District which I am privileged to serve.

Rabbi Raiskin has aptly been described as "a role model, a true community leader, an incredible teacher and an all around mensch." He is a loving husband to Helen, a devoted father to Sherman, Rhonda, Judith and Jordana and a doting grandfather to Marni, Jamie, Dana, Marcy, Jeremy and Eli. His spiritual