

Democratic Party. George's dedication to service and his commitment to family and to fatherhood is a shining example of the life we should all aspire to.

His daughter, Vanessa Eichler, said of him "He was the perfect father. Everyone knows him for what he did for labor and the Democratic Party, but he taught us to enjoy life." I believe that through his actions George taught us all a little bit about life and the need to help one another.

George Eichler's involvement in the labor movement saw its beginnings in 1949, when George went to work as a bottle washer at the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio, Texas. Soon after beginning his work there, George joined the International Association of Brewery Workers, and quickly moved up the union leadership ranks to become the Associate Business Agent in 1960. In 1967, the International Association of Brewery Workers joined the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and George continued his leadership efforts, holding various local, State, and national level positions within the Teamsters organization throughout his career.

It was through his work as a labor leader that George also became well-known for his charitable contributions, selflessly dedicating his time and service to charitable organizations like Goodwill Industries and the United Way. From 1965 through 1974, George continued his commitment to service as Chair of the San Antonio AFL-CIO Council Pines Housing Trust, a program whose outstanding efforts in housing the handicapped was recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These local elderly and handicapped independent living programs are recognized as precursors to national handicapped housing initiatives.

George's work over the years also benefitted the local Democratic Party and countless Democratic candidates, as he campaigned tirelessly during each campaign year. He also served as Democratic Precinct Chair, and as such attended many State and National Democratic Conventions.

I am proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and learn from George Eichler. I know his family will receive some comfort in the knowledge that George's memory will endure among all those he touched throughout his life.

HONORING BERNINGER VINEYARDS ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th anniversary of Beringer Vineyards, located in St. Helena, Napa Valley, California.

Beringer Vineyards was founded in 1876, when Jacob Beringer and his brother, Frederick purchased a twenty-eight acre vineyard for \$14,500. One hundred and twenty-five years later, the winery is worth in excess of \$1.5 billion and is the oldest continuously operating winery in Napa Valley.

Beringer was not only a pioneer in the California wine industry, it is also a significant factor in the Napa Valley's emergence as one of

the world's premier wine-growing regions. Today, Beringer Vineyards continues its extraordinary tradition of viticulture innovation and winemaking expertise to consistently produce the highest quality wines.

Mr. Speaker, Beringer Vineyards not only produces outstanding wines, but its generosity in the community is unsurpassed. Beringer supports numerous important charities, including civic organizations and youth groups throughout Napa Valley and the State of California. This year, the majority of its donations are being made to Napa Valley Health Charities, which provides critically needed health care services to low-income persons.

To commemorate this important occasion, Winemaster Ed Sbragia, who is celebrating his 25th year as Winemaster at Beringer, has produced a very special 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from the original "Home Vineyard." As evidence of Beringer's continued tradition of excellence, Mr. Sbragia is the world's only winemaker to have both a red and a white wine named as Wine Spectator magazine's "#1 Wine of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, Beringer was where I worked as a young man and I am particularly proud of this tremendous organization. At this time, it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate Beringer Vineyards for its many successes and contributions to our Napa Valley community for the past 125 years.

RECOGNIZING HEAR O' ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, in light of the tragedy that struck our nation September 11, 2001, I believe it's fitting to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O' Israel International Inc., which is currently sponsoring its National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month. This month long event is being conducted in conjunction with their ongoing campaign, "Listen to the Cries of the Children." Hear O' Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the physically challenged, the elderly, neglected children, and battered women across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month has been endorsed by Houston Mayor Lee Brown and every member of the City Council, which further demonstrates the high regard for Hear O' Israel in our community.

Hear O' Israel International Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational organization works to increase public awareness of those that are less fortunate. "Listen to the Cries of the Children" is designed to strengthen unity amongst families and further public awareness of the negative consequences that drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children.

National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month is a campaign to call attention to the plight of children who do not have access to adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. As a symbol of compassion for suffering children, Hear O' Israel International Inc., en-

courages supporters to adopt a family or an individual in need as a gesture of support in resounding the alarm for those who have been forgotten and many times rejected by our communities.

Again, I would like to recognize Hear O' Israel International Inc., for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend my personal best wishes for a successful and rewarding campaign.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BOOKER T. SEARS, JR., D.D.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Booker T. Sears, a remarkable spiritual counselor and community leader, on his 16th anniversary as Pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York.

Reverend Sears was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, as the eldest of four children born to the late Dr. and Mrs. Booker T. Sears Sr. Nurtured by a large family, Reverend Sears went on to pursue higher education in his hometown. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Benedict College and his Doctorate of Divinity degree from the Columbia Bible Institute. Reverend Sears spent 23 years pasturing congregations in South Carolina before bringing his gifts and compassion to the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, since his arrival to New York's religious community 16 years ago, Reverend Sears has left an undeniable mark. He is the Second Vice President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity, an active member of the United Missionary Baptist Association, the Empire Missionary Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., the Ministers Prayer Alliance, along with a number of other esteemed religious organizations and community organizations.

The man I am honoring today has been an example of leadership for his congregation and many community members. Worshippers at Goodwill Baptist Church describe Reverend Sears as not only their religious guide, but as their friend, confidant, and teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Booker T. Sears Jr., D.D. for his 16 years of dedicated service to the Goodwill Baptist Church congregation and South Bronx community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWARK BETH ISRAEL ON ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey as staff and supporters celebrate 100 years of service to our community. Newark

Beth Israel experienced its humble beginning a century ago, when a small group of women known as the Daughters of Israel raised \$4,000 to open Beth Israel Hospital on the corner of Kinney and High Streets in Newark.

The Beth quickly outgrew its original quarters and moved to its present location in 1928. In the ensuing decades Newark Beth Israel grew and changed in order to adapt to the community's needs, and was the site of numerous medical breakthroughs. During a Founders Day celebration which officially marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the hospital's original charter, employees and physicians were joined by Paul A. Mertz, Executive Director; Robert Marks, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; and Lester M. Bornstein, former President of The Beth in signing replicas of the original charter. Victor Parsonnet, M.D., signed a replica of the original charter next to the name of his grandfather, Victor Parsonnet, M.D. Dr. Parsonnet's two grandfathers (the other is Max Danzis, M.D. were among the founders of Newark Beth Israel Hospital in 1901. Lester Bornstein, former President of Newark Beth Israel who served the medical center for 36 years, also signed the charter. The charter is being displayed in the lobby during the Centennial events.

Throughout this year, there will be numerous events scheduled to celebrate the Centennial, including monthly historical displays; a parade in conjunction with the center's Annual Fall Health Fair; a commemorative quilt with the theme "A Century of Caring"; in-hospital theme days, held once a month to celebrate each decade of the 20th century; group outings and contests for employees and physicians; and an Alumni Day to welcome back retired and former employees of the Medical Center. The Centennial celebration will also include several major events: Visionaries in Medicine Science: A Series of Symposia Celebrating the Centennial of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center presenting on the topics "Healthcare and Cultural Diversity," "Cardio-vascular Disorders," "Dentistry," "Pediatrics," "Nursing," "Renal Medicine" and "Genetics and Molecular Biology."

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of the important role that The Beth has played in our community throughout the decades, there will be a Centennial Gala at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Saturday, October 6, 2001. Let us join in offering our congratulations and best wishes for continued success to the entire Newark Beth Israel community—the medical and nursing staffs, the ancillary services and administration, the Auxiliary and of course, the many dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent.

TRIBUTE TO AURELIO VALDEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Aurelio Valdez for over a decade's worth of hard work and community service. For 27 years, Aurelio Valdez strove to improve the lives of an often overlooked segment of our American society, the mentally handicapped.

As the Superintendent of the Corpus Christi State School, Mr. Valdez labored to reconnect the Texas citizenry with the lives of the mentally impaired residents of the school. For 12 years, Mr. Valdez worked as the Superintendent of the Corpus Christi State School, and during that time, he helped to provide normalized living conditions for the school's three hundred eighty-seven resident students.

By helping to change people's perceptions of those suffering from mental illness, Aurelio became not only a respected educator and healer, but an architect of a unified Corpus Christi community.

Aurelio joined the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in 1974, and has received constant praise for his contributions to the improvements in care for those suffering from mental retardation and mental disease. He is noted around the State School as an innovator and a leader. Ray is one of those special people who sees what he is doing less as a job, and more as a labor of love.

A hero in the shadows, Aurelio urged his employees to step into the limelight and take credit for the work he encouraged from them. This life-long caregiver retires not only with the respect and admiration of his colleagues, but with a vow that he will continue to assist the mentally challenged in reaching their goals.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with such a dedicated servant of the people on a number of health and education issues. With his retirement, Corpus Christi and the rest of Texas lose a leader, an inspiring educator, and a shining example of American patriotism.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a great and generous man, Aurelio Valdez, as he retires from a lifetime of dedicated service to the Coastal Bend, to Texas and to the United States.

THE AMARONE FAMILY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, is my great honor to rise today to pay tribute to a truly amazing family of my hometown neighborhood: the Amarones of New Haven, Connecticut. Now over two hundred strong, the Amarones have long been a legend in the Wooster Square neighborhood and have held the distinction of having the largest family in New Haven since 1938.

Their story begins in 1911 when twenty-one year old Josephine arrived in the United States and met Andrew Amarone on Wooster Street. It was there that they were married and there that they made their home. It was also where their seventeen children were born and where two of their children died. Twenty-two years separates oldest son John from their youngest son Nicolo and one can only imagine the schedule Josephine and Andrew kept. Raising seventeen children through the hardest of economic times, I am still amazed at all they were able to accomplish living on the wages Andrew received as a polisher at Sargent's, an architectural hardware factory where many immigrants were employed—averaging between fourteen and twenty five dollars a week.

Throughout this last century, the Amarones have lost a number of their loved ones like Benny who was killed at Iwo Jima for which he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Many others will be remembered this weekend when New Haven will be host to an Amarone family reunion where over one hundred and twenty family members from across the United States are expected to attend.

The Amarones are an incredible family with a rich history and a reflection of times past. Generations to come will continue in their strong traditions and will be a bright beacon for the future. In a time when family values are under close scrutiny, it is families like the Amarones that we look to for inspiration. It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Amarone family as they gather to celebrate their first family reunion and to extend my very best wishes to them all.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE VETERANS OF NEW YORK'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on September 17, as the smoke still rose above the site of a terrorist attack on America, I convened a meeting of veterans throughout New York's Second Congressional District. I wanted to hear from them, firsthand, how our Nation should respond at this fateful moment in our history.

I asked for their opinions because these are the men and women who have already seen battle. They have already responded to America's call. They have already paid a price for freedom . . . and many saw their comrades pay an eternal price.

Mr. Speaker, this group of veterans was unified on two essential points which I share with my colleagues in Congress today.

First, the American people, the Congress, and the administration must provide our armed forces with the sustained support they will need to ensure that no terrorist has the capability of inflicting damage on America ever again. Not at any time. Not in any place. Never again. That means pursuing justice until we clean every cave, every tunnel, and every training base where terrorists threaten our country.

Second, we must understand our obligation to our armed forces as we send them into battle . . . and after they return home. There's been a lot of talk about postponing America's domestic agenda. And I agree that we must be focused on our national and economic security. But as we send American troops into conflict, now is not the time to cut veterans benefits. Now is not the time to reduce services at our veterans hospitals. Now is not the time to cut health security or income security for our veterans. We must send a strong message to our armed forces that when they take care of America in battle, America will take care of them in peace. The maxim of battle is "leave no soldier behind." When the battle is over, let us leave no veteran behind.

Mr. Speaker, no group of people can provide more valuable insight about the struggle to come than those who have bravely served