

Stagger, Kenneth "Cisco" Francis and Renaldo Chinnery, who, as residents of New York, recognized the need to preserve and promote the culture of the Virgin Islands. In March of 1991, they officially established the Virgin Islands Freshwater Yankees, which was later incorporated as the Virgin Islands Freshwater Association, Inc.

Since then, the Association has grown to 75 dedicated members, who contribute to their Virgin Islands community through educational scholarships, supplying equipment to the health facilities on all three islands, helping our senior citizens and the underprivileged children, providing supplies during natural disasters or emergency occurring in the territory.

Although this organization takes their responsibilities seriously, they also find time to have fun and participate in the annual carnival activities on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

They also serve as an oasis for Virgin Islanders on the mainland by sponsoring yearly social events. They promote and offer guidance to the other Virgin Islands associations throughout the United States and continue to preserve the values that are the roots of their heritage.

For the past ten years, in commemoration of the day that the Virgin Islands were transferred from the Danish government to the United States, "Virgin Islands Transfer Day", this organization has honored numerous outstanding Virgin Islanders in the area of sports, politics, education, health and community involvement. This year, the organization and all of its past honorees was recognized at the Tenth Anniversary Transfer Day Dinner Dance held in New York on March 31, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the Virgin Islands Freshwater Association, Inc. as an outstanding model for community involvement and the preservation of their culture. I invite my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the efforts of this organization.

A TRIBUTE TO BONNIE
GARTSHORE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bonnie Gartshore, a woman of letters and history who will be honored in Monterey, California on June 9.

The living memory of Monterey and Pacific Grove, Bonnie is a mild-mannered journalist, a determined educator, an accomplished poet and a lifelong human-rights activist.

She was a feminist before the term was coined. And as a devoted Catholic, she has always displayed her conviction, piety and humanity through her life and her work.

Bonnie was introduced at a tribute dinner at Carmel Mission in 1983 as "a true peacemaker and an incorrigible advocate for the poor and beleaguered." At that dinner Bonnie, ever the teacher, called attention to the statues of Benny Bufano, pointing out that he always turned the palms of hands outward, "open to receive and also to let go." That's an

important lesson, Bonnie explained. "Something I have learned: If you are busy hanging onto things, you are going to miss a lot along the way."

Bonnie was born in Monterey 75 years ago—on Nov. 23, 1925—in the heyday of the sardine industry that was centered just a few blocks from her Filmore Street home. She called it a great place for living and learning, with few houses and a mix of people that included school principals, doctors, drunks and bums.

It was the Monterey that John Steinbeck wrote about. And it conditioned her for life. "I wasn't surprised by anything because I had seen it all growing up," she said later. As for childhood: "What I did as a young girl growing up in the New Monterey that used to be, was soak in the twin pleasures of forest and beach, develop a delight in reading and a curiosity about people and places, and absorb the values of my mother, who was a mixture of middle-class morality and liberal political views."

Her parents tried to calm her independence by sending her to Catholic school in the 1930s, hoping the nuns would straighten her out. But Bonnie ended up writing some of the services and sermons for the priests of the diocese. Bonnie is one of the few women ever asked to deliver a homily at San Carlos Cathedral. She did it, of course, preaching on her theme: "Jesus doesn't leave anyone out."

She graduated from San Carlos School in 1939 and went on to Pacific Grove High School, where she discovered a knack for writing and became editor of the school newspaper. Bonnie then went to San Jose State College as a journalism major. She edited the campus paper, the Spartan Daily, of course, and graduated with honors in 1947.

Once out of school, Bonnie went to work for the Monterey Peninsula Herald and started what has become a 53-year association as a writer and editor through three locations and four owners. She began her career in the society section, where "the girls" were assigned in those days, as the assistant editor. Her first office was in the tower of the building at Pearl and Washington Streets, which was The Herald's location in those days, Morgan's Coffee & Tea these days.

Bonnie's first stint with The Herald lasted for 15 years. Then she left to tour England and Scotland, work for the Paso Robles Daily Press, do research in Big Sur, and work as assistant editor of The Observer, the weekly newspaper of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey. She also took a variety of jobs that included writing advertising brochures, doing publicity for the Monterey County and Santa Cruz County Fairs and writing the introduction to an aphrodisiac cookbook.

Bonnie also handled special sections for The Herald and wrote occasional stories for The Herald's Weekend Magazine until she eventually returned full time. In 1990, after establishing herself as Monterey's "historian in residence," she started a weekly history column, Looking Back, for The Herald. The Monterey History & Art Association recently published a collection of those columns as a book titled "Footprints from the Past."

Bonnie also developed a writers' workshop for the inmates at the Soledad Correctional Training Facility. She described it at the time

as "something useful I could do." Subsequently, she was hired by Hartnell College in Salinas to teach English and speech classes at the prison, an avocation that lasted for a 20-year stretch. During that time, Bonnie staged a poetry reading at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in Carmel in order to raise money to publish a book of the convicts' poems.

She has also published two books of her own poetry, "Trying to Put it Together" in 1988 and "Taking My Cue from the Walrus" in 2000.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Bonnie's devotion to religion has made her a lifelong activist for peace and social justice. "In the 1960s I came to understand that religion and activism go hand in hand," she explained.

She picketed with the United Farm Workers before it became fashionable, marched with civil rights and peace groups, helped organize a Monterey memorial of the bombing of Hiroshima, interviewed the homeless and presented programs about humanity in Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel. She organized programs for Catholic women, presented retreats and wrote liturgies for the priests of the other gender.

Bonnie has made her home in Pacific Grove for the past 45 years, where she's been active in anything literary, including the Monterey Peninsula Dickens Fellowship, The Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey and the Cherry Foundation in Carmel.

In 1989, when Bonnie was presented the Woman of the Year award from the Quota Club of Monterey-Pacific Grove, she told that audience: "I'm learning all the time. . . . There were all these people along the way, all the wonderful people I was learning from."

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues to remember one of the great tragedies of the twentieth century: the deportations and massacres of more than one and a half million Armenians in the final years of the Ottoman Empire. I extend my sincere sympathy to the survivors and their descendants for the hardships they suffered. Our hearts go out to Armenians around the world, including the Armenian-American community, as they mourn the loss of those innocent lives.

However, Armenians deserve not only our sympathy, but our support as well. Although Armenia has made great strides to become an independent and democratic state, many challenges remain. As Armenia moves towards forging a lasting peace in the region, it is critical that there be an honest accounting of all those who died and why they died.

Taking a moment here today, is the least we can do to honor the victims of that terrible time, but it is essential nonetheless. If there is to be any hope of preventing future acts of such inhumanity, the senseless acts of violence inflicted upon Armenians must be properly recognized.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE ON THE 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL MU-
TUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize an institution in northwestern Ohio. Central Mutual Insurance Company has a history as great and rich as Ohio itself.

The "Van Wert County Mutual Fire Insurance Company" was formed on April 5, 1876, the start of what was to become today's Central Insurance Companies. Twelve days later Central Mutual was incorporated and has been providing insurance for automobiles, homes, and businesses through independent agents in 15 states with regional offices in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas and Van Wert. Central Mutual's family is made up of Central Insurance Companies, the All-American Insurance Company, Central Insurex, and CMI Lloyds, located in Dallas, TX.

Soon after its founding, Central Insurance began to operate through independent agents rather than having salesmen sell directly to the public, which was revolutionary at the time. The first agency to meet the call was the Purmort Brothers Insurance Agency, also in Van Wert, which has been continually representing Central Insurance for its entire 125 years. Quickly the Central Insurance Company began to grow and by 1883, they expanded their operations outside of their home state. Since then, they have spread across the country, opening offices while still retaining the important values that guided them to success in the late 1800's.

In today's extremely competitive market, customer service is the key to success. Central Mutual epitomizes that commitment. An insurance policy is simply a promise to pay for covered losses that occur to a policyholder's assets. For the last 125 years, their primary commitment to policyholders has been to ensure that adequate funds are available to fulfill these promises.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize this company for all of its contributions to Ohio, including its Fire Museum, which preserves a vital piece of American history. In addition, I want to wish all of the Central Mutual Insurance Company family the best. You are an example for Ohio and the country.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BETTY TIMES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Times. Betty Times was a truly unique individual whose record of dedicated community service is an inspiration. Her leadership has meant so much to the many agencies she supported as well as the individuals whose lives she touched.

Her work included the Marin City-USA Project, Sausalito School Board, Marin General Hospital Board, Marin Education Fund, the Marin City Community Development Cor-

poration, the National Women's Political Caucus, and many others. She became the first African-American to head a county department when she was named to direct the newly formed Citizens Service Office in 1978. She has been honored by the Marin Women's Hall of Fame, the county Human Rights Commission (the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award), and the Marin County Grass Roots Leadership Network.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Betty Times for her strength, good humor, wit, and integrity as well as her leadership. The Marin community will be the poorer for her loss.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMENIAN
COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Armenian Community School of Fresno on celebrating their 24th year of existence at their annual banquet.

The Armenian Community School of Fresno was opened with 24 students on September 12, 1977. This was the first community-wide Armenian day school in Fresno. Through generous donations from the Hovannissian and Sahatdjian Families, as well as other individuals and organizations, the school was able to move from the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Sunday School room to its present location on September 8, 1980.

The essence of the Armenian Community School is to emphasize serious study, to educate on social responsibility, and to lay the foundation for strong, healthy, moral, ethical, and spiritual values.

The student body has grown to over 120 students. Many features have been added to the education program such as the Fresno County Science Fair, Outdoor Education Camps, a solid Physical Education program, and a Student Council. The students receive a bilingual curriculum, which helps them become model Armenian-American citizens with a strong appreciation and knowledge of their heritage and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Armenian Community School of Fresno on the occasion of their 24th year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Armenian Community School of Fresno many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE STINE,
FORMER MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF TROY, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2001, the City of Troy, Michigan will pay tribute at a dinner in honor of their former Mayor, Jeanne Stine. She recently left that post she had held since 1992.

During Mayor Stine's tenure, the City of Troy witnessed remarkable growth and prosperity, whether measured by the total market

value of its property, the growth in employment, or most vitally, the quality of life for Troy's citizens. The ground was recently broken for construction of a community center, including a new gymnasium, conference center, computer room, exercise facilities, and a senior citizen dining room. The annual Troy Daze festival prospered under her tutelage. There, I have spent many happy hours with Mayor Stine at the festival, watching her as she pridefully spoke to the annual ceremonies swearing in new citizens and touring the many booths of a wide variety of Troy's public service groups.

Beginning with her first service to Troy's citizens when elected to the City Council in 1976, Jeanne Stine has worked tirelessly for her community. She serves as the Immediate Past President of the Michigan Association of Mayors and Vice President of the Michigan Municipal League. She also serves on the Board of Directors of a number of organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, Arab American Chaldean Council and the Troy Community Coalition.

Mayor Stine received her BS and RA from Wayne State University. She worked as an educator and school counselor in the neighboring community of Clawson for 33 years.

Troy is a far more enjoyable, hospitable and cohesive community today because of Jeanne Stine. No matter was too small for her attention, and I was privileged to participate with her in some of her incessant efforts to better life for Troy's citizens, whether improving the post office, modernization of its highways, or the encouragement of the uniquely successful Troy Community Coalition and its anti-drug program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend, Jeanne Stine, for her years of public service and in wishing her good health and happiness in the years ahead.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the Armenian-American community to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of world history.

First of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan and the gentleman from New Jersey for their leadership as co-chairmen of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

Today marks the 86th year of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian people were subjected to deportation, expropriation, torture, massacre, starvation, and abduction. April 24, 1915 is recognized the world over as the day the Ottoman Turks rounded and killed hundreds of Armenian leaders in Constantinople. Thousands more were murdered in public. This began an eight year long campaign that claimed the lives of over 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children—half of the world's Armenian population at the time. Moreover, 500,000 Armenians were forcibly driven out of their homeland to seek refuge in other nations.