

John J. Harvey when it served the FDNY and returned to service to help fight the fires at the World Trade Center for days on end) and Jessica DuLong (Assistant Engineer, who ensured constant smooth running of the engines) lent their valuable assistance to the effort. Throughout the 4 days, they were supported by Darren Vigilant of tugboat *Bertha*, (who ferried supplies from Pier 63 Maritime) and by John Kreyve and his team at Pier 63 Maritime (who provided an unending supply of provisions).

John J. Harvey is once again docked at Pier 63 Maritime where visitors to New York can learn more about his heroic tale of a once scrap yard-destined firefighting vessel that came back to help save New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute the firefighting vessel *John J. Harvey* and her crew. May they be forever remembered for their courageous efforts on September 11, 2001.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. GEORGE
KOTCHNIK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and contributions of one of my constituents, Mr. George Kotchnik. Mr. Kotchnik retired from the city of San Gabriel's Parks and Recreation Department on December 31, 2001.

A life long resident of the San Gabriel Valley, Mr. Kotchnik is a true local hero who deserves our respect and commendation. His work with the city's Parks and Recreation Department included 32 years as director, during which he played an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Under Mr. Kotchnik's leadership, the city of San Gabriel's parks and public facilities improved significantly. One example is the Smith Park expansion. Smith Park has been expanded to twice its size, creating more green space for residents of all ages to enjoy. Smith Park's design incorporated certain architectural features that paid tribute to the Gabrielino-Tongva Indians, the original inhabitants of this region.

The Park's expansion was such a success, it garnered the California Parks and Recreation Society's 2001 Award of Excellence for park design. Mr. Kotchnik and the San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department have also won the Gold Shield Award for outstanding achievement on two occasions from the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation.

Under his leadership, the parks and recreation department renovated and expanded the city's Adult Recreation Center, collaborated with local high schools to add park facilities at school districts, and recently began development of a skate park at a San Gabriel high school.

After 40 years of service, Mr. Kotchnik retired at the end of 2001, but his contributions will not be forgotten. He has left an enduring impression on the city of San Gabriel and its residents. I am proud to recognize Mr. George

Kotchnik's accomplishments and wish him much happiness in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ADELA GONZMART

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Adela Gonzmart, the matriarch of Ybor City's famed Columbia Restaurant, who will long be remembered across the State of Florida and the nation for her compassion for others and her efforts to preserve the vibrant culture of Tampa and Ybor City.

As a child prodigy on the piano, Adela nurtured her talent and soon became a concert pianist, traveling with her husband across the world to share their music. In 1953, the Gonzmarts returned to Tampa and soon took over operation of Adela's father's restaurant, the Columbia.

The Gonzmarts turned the Columbia Restaurant into a successful enterprise and used the family business as a means to contribute to the Ybor community. Adela and her husband hosted countless charity fundraisers at the Columbia and served as patrons for the Tampa art community. Adela helped form the Tampa Symphony Orchestra, now the Florida Symphony Orchestra, and organized the Ballet Folklórico of Ybor City, a dance company inspired by Ybor's Cuban, Spanish and Italian culture.

However, Adela was best known for her enormous heart. Adela never met a stranger and anyone who stepped foot into her restaurant could not help but feel like family. She loved sharing stories of her family and their Spanish and Cuban heritage. Adela's devotion to her community, her two sons and, her eight grandchildren is an inspiration to us all.

Monsignor Lawrence Higgins, who presided over Adela's funeral, described her as "the queen of Ybor City and all the town." I can think of no better tribute. Tampa has truly lost a piece of its rich history in the passing of Adela Gonzmart.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to Adela's family. Adela was, and will continue to be, larger than life to all of us who knew her, deeply cared for her, and respected her. Thankfully, her legacy will flourish with her sons, Richard and Casey, and their families as they build upon their proud family tradition of operating the Columbia Restaurant and serving our community and State in countless ways.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of official business for my District (27th Congressional District of Texas) I was absent for rollcall votes 1-5. If I had been present for these

votes, I would have voted as indicated: Rollcall No. 1, present; rollcall 2, yea; rollcall 3, yea; rollcall 4, yea; and rollcall 5, yea.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SYDNEY
CHARLES LOCKWOOD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Mr. Sydney Charles Lockwood of the Passaic Public Schools, who was recognized on Friday, October 26, 2001 for his lifelong dedication to education.

As a former Passaic County educator, I take particular pride in exercising my ability to honor Mr. Lockwood in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth. He is more than deserving as he has a long history of caring, generosity, and commitment to his noble profession.

From the beginning of his 40-year career in education, which began as an undergraduate at Montclair State University, Sydney Lockwood has been a leader. A member of Montclair State's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the National Honor Society for Education, Sydney was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

After receiving his Master's Degree from Montclair State in 1965, Sydney moved on to Columbia University's prestigious Teacher's College to pursue his post-graduate education. Immediately playing integral roles in Columbia's pivotal research projects, Sydney Lockwood participated in the Columbia University Curriculum Life Skills Project and served as a member of Columbia University's Task Force that evaluated the failing Washington, DC school system.

The City of Passaic first saw Sydney's dedication to education and capacity for leadership while he served as an English and Social Studies teacher at Lincoln Middle School. He quickly was promoted to Head Teacher at Pulaski School No. 8 and then to Principal of Roosevelt School No. 10 from 1974 to 1995. Sydney's final post with the Passaic Public Schools was as Principal of School No. 2 from 1995 until June of 2001.

By devoting over forty years of his life, the last twenty-seven as a principal, to the children of the City of Passaic, Sydney Lockwood has done so much for so many. While his retirement has caused great sadness in the Passaic Public Schools, it also has been a time for celebration, as all those touched by Sydney have honored his career of public service.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Sydney Lockwood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Passaic Public Schools, the City of Passaic, Sydney's family and friends, all the students who have been touched by Sydney over his career both inside and outside of the classroom, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Mr. Sydney Charles Lockwood.

TIME FOR BUSH ADMINISTRATION
AND CONGRESS TO DEAL WITH
BUDGET NEEDS IN RESPONSIBLE
FASHION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last year, President Bush presented and Congress passed his tax cut predicted on Americans paying down the deficit in the next ten years. There were unrealistic assumptions about Federal spending, claiming to protect Social Security and Medicare, with a trillion dollars left over for contingencies. Today, \$4 trillion of those assumptions have disappeared. The White House has sent a budget to Congress that will never be presented for a vote because even the Republican leadership knows it would fail.

It is time for the Bush administration and Congress to step back and deal with our critical budget needs in a reasonable fashion. The tax changes that were all scheduled to expire in less than 10 years should be reassessed in light of our stated priorities. We should not dramatically increase our debt, borrow against Social Security and Medicare, and abandon priorities for senior citizens and veterans that were clear and important commitments to American voters.

There should be a careful reexamination of the proposed military budget to eliminate unnecessary weapons system that will not help us in our war on terrorism and that will not even be helpful fighting conventional wars. We should commit to reforming agricultural spending so it does not waste huge sums of taxpayers money while hurting the environment and consumers, not even benefiting most states and taxpayers.

Last year I made it clear that the budget resolution did not have a pretense of reality and that the tax cut was based on seriously flawed premises. The events of this last year have revealed with a vengeance the accuracy of these predictions. Oregonians expect their political leaders to keep their commitments to reduce our multi-trillion dollar national debt, protect Social Security and Medicare, avoid reckless and irresponsible spending, and reform existing programs to give more value while saving money. Today's vote is a political charade that does not advance any of these objectives. The fact that it is brought forward as a suspension bill with no meaningful debate underscore the fact that even the Republican leadership is not serious about it. I hope that we can stop these meaningless political exercises and get on with the hard and serious work of budgeting for this year and America's future.

PARCA—CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
OF GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PERSONS WITH DEVELOP-
MENTAL DISABILITIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to

Parca, a private, nonprofit organization serving people with developmental disabilities, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since 1952, Parca has enriched the lives of these special people while strengthening our community through its devoted services. Parca's impact on those with developmental disabilities, as well as on their friends and family, is recognized with great appreciation by many in our community.

Mr. Speaker, in 1952, people with developmental disabilities and their families were often unable to find programs and support to help meet their special needs. Flo Nelsen organized a group of concerned parents and established Parca to provide support for individuals and families with developmental disabilities such as Down's Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other neurological disorders. Flo Nelsen believed that every developmentally disabled person had the right to resources and support to help them reach their highest potential and become actively and productively involved in the community. Families and individuals with developmental disabilities can turn to Parca for advocacy, information, counseling, support, and, most important, fun.

Over the past fifty years, Parca has expanded to provide a variety of services and programs for different age levels, and it has expanded into Marin County, Silicon Valley, and the East Bay. Parca's Recreational Experience for All Children (REACH) program provides child care services for children with or without developmental disabilities, giving children an opportunity to appreciate and learn from one another. The recreational activities of REACH help children appreciate their differences and identify their similarities. Another great benefit of this program is the child to staff ratio is 6 to 1, and in some cases, 3 to 1, depending on the needs of the children. The result is a better learning experience because individualized attention is geared toward their pace of learning. Parca provides numerous recreational and social opportunities for families and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, one of Parca's important and unique contributions is the Raji House—a unique program that allows out-of-home weekend service for children and teens with developmental disabilities. As you know, Mr. Speaker, one of the many difficult challenges of raising such a child is getting a break, and this service provides parents with a respite care service. At the same time, it gives the children a chance to learn and grow as they spend a weekend in a rich home environment with the opportunity to go on fun, exciting, and educational field trips. Both parents and children have the opportunity to become rejuvenated through Raji House.

Parca also offers an adult service program that trains adults with the skills needed for self-reliance and independence. Among many of Parca's accomplishments is a collaboration with housing developers to provide affordable housing to individuals and their families, furthering Parca's efforts to promote independence. Independent Living Skills Counselors live on-site with residents to ensure their safety, and counselors help them learn the basic skills needed to live on their own, including balancing a checkbook, cooking meals, doing laundry, and planning grocery lists. These skills are something many take for granted,

but for those with developmental disabilities these skills are the key to greater freedom and independence and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Sarah Hurlbut, a young woman who is currently a resident in Parca's Page Mill Court Apartments in Palo Alto, has made extraordinary progress since she moved into the apartments in 1998. With the help of Parca she has been able to live on her own for the first time. Sarah is no longer a shy young woman—through Parca's help she has become more assertive and is becoming a leader among her peers. As Sarah's experience has demonstrated, this program has been critical in our effort to help those with developmental disabilities become an integral part of our community.

Parca's excellent family and counseling services provide families with information regarding individualized education, program planning, and counseling on a variety of issues. The "Speaker Series" provides information to those interested in learning about important issues such as child care, education, independent living, and wills. Parca's People First chapter teaches adults with developmental disabilities on how to advocate for themselves. The group has also organized trips to our state capital in Sacramento and to our national capital here in Washington, DC, to provide families and individuals with developmental disabilities an opportunity to advocate their positions on issues directly affecting their community.

On February 9, 2002, Mr. Speaker, Parca will be holding its "Hearts of Gold Anniversary Celebration" to mark 50 years of golden opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. As Parca celebrates this historic milestone, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending the entire Parca family for the time, effort, and invaluable contributions that have been made to help individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their highest potential. We celebrate the vision and the success of Parca and wish continued future success.

ESTABLISHING FIXED INTEREST
RATES FOR STUDENT AND PAR-
ENT BORROWERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to support S. 1762, to establish fixed interest rates for student loans and to loans and to extend current law with respect to Federal support for lenders.

The passage of S. 1762 will establish fixed interest rates for students and correct a problem in the Higher Education Act that, if not acted upon, would threaten to end the participation of private lenders who fund the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). The continued availability of low-cost, federally guaranteed loans under FFELP is crucial to ensuring that our nation's students and parents are able to pay for college and other higher education opportunities.

As a member of the 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction