

Mr. Harry Maitland, Jr., 76, of Middletown, Pennsylvania, was a celebrated police reporter and editor for my hometown newspaper, the Delaware County Daily Times. Mr. Maitland's 52 years on staff at the Daily Times was the longest in the newspaper's 126-year history.

Mr. Maitland was born in Chester and was a resident of Aston, Pennsylvania until moving to Middletown 48 years ago. A 1944 graduate of Chester High School, he attended the Pennsylvania Military College, now known as Widner University.

Mr. Maitland was only a sophomore when his long run at the Daily Times began. Starting his career as a sports correspondent, he was hired full-time in 1950 where he worked in a variety of positions. During World War II, Harry served in the communications section of the Air Force during the occupation of Germany. Drawing on his experiences in the military, Harry was put in charge of interviewing and writing stories of local Vietnam War survivors. A veteran and active member of the American Legion Post 926, he always maintained a special place in his heart for veterans. Harry was the author of a column called "In the Military" for many years.

Although writing about the hardships of war was not always a pleasant aspect of his life, war did provide him the opportunity to meet his wife, Ilse. During his military service in Germany, Mr. Maitland was stationed near Wiesbaden in January 1946 when he rescued a young German woman from under a tree during a heavy rainstorm. Out of touch for seven years after the incident, Harry found her again by writing to several newspapers in Wiesbaden. He flew back to Germany and married her. A devoted husband, 40 years later he could be heard ending phone conversations with her with a kiss into the phone.

Mr. Maitland was a decorated reporter and writer. He received a first place award for local government news writing in the 1972 statewide Keystone Press contest for his story on former Special County Prosecutor Richard A. Sprague's raid on county Republican headquarters. He was also honored by the Fraternal Order of Police and the Philadelphia Citizens Crime Commission, which recognized him for outstanding police reporting. Finally, in 1985, the Delaware County Police Chiefs Association named him Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Maitland also served his community as a fireman. He was one of the first junior members of the Green Ridge Fire Co. in Aston. In 1990, I presented Mr. Maitland with a special award from the Delaware County Firemen's Association.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to recognize the life of a good and honorable man. Harry Maitland, respected and admired by his colleagues and his readers was described by one of his co-workers as a "reporter's reporter". Mr. Speaker, Delaware County is a better place thanks to the life and contributions of men like Harry Maitland.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEAN AIR COMMUNITIES PROJECT PARTNERS

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**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to The Clean Air Commu-

nities Project Partners for their commitment to implementing technologies that will ensure that the air that we breathe is cleaner.

In 1999, Clean Air Communities was created by Natural Resources Defense Council, Northeast States Clean Air Foundation, Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management, Con Edison, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to promote clean energy strategies and to reduce pollution.

On October 7, 2002, this coalition of private and public partners announced the launch of New York City's largest commercial solar electric system in Brooklyn, New York. Clean Air Communities, New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, and PowerLight joined together to fund this exciting new project which will generate and store electricity while reducing the demand on New York's power grid.

In bringing together public and private partners around projects like this, Clean Air Communities continues to demonstrate that these collaborative partnerships work: to achieve better air quality; to increase our energy security and independence; and to provide real alternatives to the communities most in need in our city.

The solar panel array will convert sunlight directly into electricity, thereby generating clean electrical power. By relying on solar energy, some of the harmful emissions that pollute the air and cause health problems will be eliminated.

I believe that it is critical that we invest our resources in developing new technologies to expand the possible uses of renewable energy. We know far too well the dangers that climate changes can pose to the global environment. By utilizing renewable energies, we can help to reverse the negative effects that decades of reliance on fossil fuels have caused. Moreover, renewable energies will help to accommodate the growing demand that the increasing world population places upon the environment.

I commend Clean Air Communities for advancing air quality, renewable energy alternatives, and environmental justice in New York and applaud their efforts in creating model initiatives such as this.

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TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE ESMEIJER

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**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Disability Employment Awareness Month to honor Jacqueline Esmeijer of Santa Rosa, California. Born 27 years ago with cerebral palsy, Jackie has demonstrated throughout her life that the condition does not define who she is or what she can do.

Jackie recently completed a video, "Positively Enabled," that conveys just this message. A student at Santa Rosa Junior College, Jackie made the film as a psychology project. It shows the normal life that she leads and her many accomplishments at school including founding Tech Savvy, a club that takes students behind the scenes of Telecom Valley

companies. She also served as vice-president of the Petaluma Campus Council. She plans to produce a series focusing on how someone with a different physical or mental challenge can change preconceptions.

In Jackie's words, her life and her video make a statement that "people with disabilities accomplish much more than is often seen and deserve credit for doing so."

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has designated October National Employment Disability Awareness Month. It is with great pride that I salute Jacqueline Esmeijer during this time for showing us all that disabilities are only challenges and not the essence of a human being.

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RECOGNIZING THREE GEORGIA SCHOOLS AS STATE CHAMPIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND FITNESS AWARDS PROGRAM

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**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allatoona Elementary School of Acworth, GA, Athens Academy, of Athens, GA, and New Testament Christian Academy of Stockbridge, GA, on being named a "State Champion" by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. These schools were selected based on their high achievements in the President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards Program.

Available to all schools around the country since 1958, the President's Challenge Physical Fitness offers recognition and awards for fitness to all participating students. The State Champion award is presented each year to schools with the greatest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge. In each state, three State Champions are chosen based on total enrollment.

It is my pleasure to honor these schools today in their attempt to battle a national health crisis among our Nation's youth. Mr. Speaker, please join me in promoting health to the young people of the United States by further stressing the importance of greater physical fitness. Again, I would like to commend these schools for accepting the President's challenge and helping create a healthier nation.

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CHILDREN'S NETWORK OF SOLANO COUNTY CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to invite our colleagues to join us in recognizing the Children's Network of Solano County as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1982, the Children's Network has worked to improve the lives of children in Solano County. Once an organization that focused primarily on low-income and

foster children, the Children's Network has evolved into the leading voice for all young people in Solano County. It is the convener of California's first and among its most effective inter-agency coordinating councils dedicated to improving the lives of children.

The Children's Network works to educate people in Solano County about the needs of children and to bring together those who can help achieve the best outcomes for kids. In promoting the health, education, and well-being of all children in the county, the Children's Network conducts and disseminates research, offers training, administers grants, coordinates county agencies, advocates for policy changes at all levels of government, and works to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of county services for children and families.

The Children's Network partners with a variety of private and public organizations to improve the lives of local children. Through contracts with Solano County, the Children's Network also provides staff support—such as budget development, research, training and administrative support—for three councils appointed by the Board of Supervisors (Children's Network Council, Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the Child Care Planning Council), as well as for a network of the county's Family Resource Centers.

Accomplishments of the Children's Network include:

Developed and helped foster successful passage of a California state law permitting funding for "family preservation," which provides support and allows appropriate families to stay together in cases where children might otherwise be placed in foster care.

Provided the leadership to establish the Solano County Children's Trust Fund, which raises more than \$100,000 annually for child abuse prevention services in Solano County.

Worked to create a system of Family Resource Centers, which provide family support services in every city in the county for more than 4,000 at-risk families each year.

Advocated successfully for the county to maintain and increase the amount of money available for child care for families in the state's welfare-to-work program, who today receive more than \$8 million annually in child care subsidies.

Persuaded the County Board of Supervisors and all seven local city councils to adopt a set of Policy Principles that provide a framework for successful delivery of children's services.

Convinced the Board of Supervisors to adopt the goal of improving the lives of children as its top priority for 2001-2003.

Provided child development training and/or stipends to more than 400 early education professionals to support high quality child care in the first year of the Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) program.

Helped develop and coordinate the Integrated Family Support Initiative, a home-visiting program that allowed for nearly 1,000 visits to isolated, at-risk families in its first year, 2001.

Raised awareness of children's needs through publication of The Children's Budget and The Children's Report Card, which drew attention to state and federal funding shortfalls that affect local families and provided data for grant proposals, thereby increasing funds for local children's services.

Organized an annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference that has provided high-caliber

training to approximately 900 government officials, parents, service providers and community members for each of the last four years.

Current activities of the Children's Network include:

Researching and publishing The Children's Budget, a series examining how government funding for children is allocated and spent in Solano County, and The Children's Report Card, a compilation of data about the county's successes, challenges, and progress in serving children.

Involving parents and community members in forums to discuss what can be done to improve the lives of children.

Established a strong child advocacy and fund-raising presence in Solano County as the action arm of the first children's inter-agency coordinating councils in the state.

Seeking creative budget strategies in partnership with county agencies to achieve better, more efficient, and more effective investments in services for children and families.

Encouraging officials at the local and state levels to consider the needs of children in policy decisions.

Administering the county's program to provide stipends and child development training for child care professionals.

Coordinating a home-visiting program present in all Family Resource Centers to provide family support countywide.

Mr. Speaker, we know we speak for all the members of the House of Representatives when we congratulate the Children's Network for twenty years of effective advocacy on behalf of children in Solano County.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE TIBBITS OPERA HOUSE OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN

##### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Tibbits Opera House, in Coldwater, MI, which celebrated its 120th anniversary on September 21, 2002. Having opened in 1882, the Tibbits is one of Michigan's oldest theaters. Built for a cost of \$25,000, the Tibbits was one of the finest opera houses of its day.

Through the years, the Tibbits has provided the residents of Michigan's seventh district with a wide range of entertainment offerings: hosting operas, plays, wrestling matches, silent pictures and movies. Famous acts like John Phillip Sousa and his band, Guy Lombardo, the Glen Miller Orchestra and Buffalo Bill and his Cowboys all performed on its stage.

Fellow Representatives, I am happy to report that after all this time, the Tibbits is still going strong, thanks to the Tibbits Opera House Foundation and Arts Council, which purchased the theater in 1963. Every year, thousands of people flock to the Tibbits to see plays like Camelot, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, A Connecticut Yankee, and A Grand Night for Singing. In addition, the Tibbits offers programs for children, professional touring musicians, and art exhibitions, and also plays host to a variety of community activities.

The Tibbits is a community landmark and an important piece of our country's rich theatrical

heritage. It is a testament to the residents of Coldwater that it has been preserved for 120 years, and continues to thrive.

#### THE RETIREMENT OF CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN GILMAN

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect and admiration that I bid my good friend, esteemed colleague, and fellow New Yorker, Congressman BENJAMIN GILMAN, farewell as he retires after 30 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Congressman GILMAN has been devoted to public service and helping others his entire life.

From the time he lost family members in the Holocaust, and witnessed persecution by Nazi Germany as a young soldier in World War II, Congressman GILMAN has been unwavering in his commitment to human rights.

He fought for human rights before the fight became popular.

Congressman GILMAN was first recognized for his human rights work in 1978, thanks to his successful efforts to free several prisoners in East Germany, Mozambique, Cuba, and several other nations.

But he didn't stop there.

Two years later he fought for the release of 30 U.S. citizens from the political imprisonment by the Cuban Government.

It is these courageous feats, among countless others, that contributed to the tremendous leadership he provided to the International Relations Committee.

As a ranking minority member on the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, Congressman GILMAN earned a reputation as a leader and a fighter for safe and equitable workplaces for civil service and postal service employees.

Now the senior Republican on the Government Reform Committee, on which we serve together, I have had the honor of working with him on issues that are not only important to our state, but to the country.

Last year, I proudly worked with the Congressman to fund an environmental study on the potential causes of high breast cancer rates in our state.

Whether it was in Hudson Valley or one of many countries around the world, Congressman GILMAN has never hesitated to help those in need.

Although he may be unsure where his path will now take him, I have no doubt that his determined spirit and renowned kindness will continue to be appreciated by many.

Even though the Congressman and I have always stood on opposite sides of the aisle—we have rarely stood on opposite sides of an issue, most importantly matters that affect New York—and I am proud to have served with him.

Beloved by both Republicans and Democrats, "Gentle Ben"—you will be sorely missed by your constituents, by fellow New Yorkers, and by fellow Americans.