

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Leland Pat Durand before this body of Congress and this nation for the sacrifices he has made to his country, for the protection of freedom and democracy throughout the world. My sincere condolences go out to his former wife Harriet Durand, their two children Harry and Theresa, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mr. Durand truly was an American hero, his loss will be deeply felt and a grateful nation will be forever in his debt.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4085, legislation to increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

As we debate the validity of committing young Americans to another conflict overseas I feel it is important to support legislation honoring our commitment to care for those disabled in past service to our country.

Many of our disabled veterans find themselves unable to keep pace with the cost of living as they advance in age. This is especially true for those who must rely on prescription drugs to mitigate the effects of their service-connected disabilities. These veterans must often choose between food, shelter, and medication. I support the provisions of this bill designed to mitigate these adverse economic conditions experienced by our disabled veterans.

It is extremely important that we support those who have secured our freedom in the past. As we debate the possibility of war we most honor past obligations.

**HONORING CONGREGATION
TEPHERETH ISRAEL OF NEW
BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ON ITS
SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY,
AND RABBI HENRY OKOLICA,
FOR HIS FORTY-TWO YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
TEPHERETH ISRAEL**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 76th Anniversary of Congregation Tephareth Israel in New Britain, Connecticut, and the achievements of Rabbi Henry Okolika, who is celebrating 42 years of dedicated service to the congregation. I congratulate Rabbi Okolika, the congregation and all their friends. We are proud of their dedication and grateful for their many decades of service to our community and acknowledge with gratitude their successful refurbishment of their beloved temple, one of our city's landmarks.

It was 76 years ago that Governor John H. Trumbull laid the cornerstone at 76 Winter Street. Since that time, Tephareth Israel has been a center of rich, spiritual devotion and always encouraged and recognized service to the community. The congregation became the first in Greater Hartford to make religious education available to students regardless of their financial circumstances, and over many years provided an environment for spiritual growth that gave our city many valued leaders. Perhaps the most famous was Governor Abraham Ribicoff. Governor Ribicoff, whose father was one of the early presidents of Tephareth Israel Synagogue, became the first Jewish governor of the state of Connecticut, and served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare as well as a United States Senator.

When the sanctuary's interior was destroyed by fire in 1963, the New Britain community was moved to help rebuild it, so great was their admiration for Rabbi Okolika and Tephareth Israel. Today, 370 people are memorialized upon the walls of the Synagogue, a fitting tribute to past members and a reminder to the congregation's contribution to our community.

Since 1960, Rabbi Henry Okolika has been devoted to his faith, his congregation and to helping countless people in need. He has been a friend to innumerable individuals and an inspiration to families throughout the state. For 40 years, Rabbi Okolika hosted the television show, "Jewish Life," welcoming as his guests all religious persuasions on a wide variety of topics. The conversations reflected his thoughtful, generous character. He would conclude each broadcast with a plea to viewers to be generous in their contributions and mindful of those less fortunate. I am proud to share my hometown with Rabbi Okolika and Congregation Tephareth Israel, and honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

On October 13, 2002, the congregation and community will be celebrating their history and a dramatic renovation of their temple with a ceremony at Tephareth Israel. Past and present clergy will be honored at the celebration, including Reverend Elias Rosenbeger, Rabbi Joseph Aronson, Rabbi Jacob Weitzman, Cantor Sholom Nelson, Reverend Max Prager, Reverend Elifant Rabbi Arnold Heisler and Cantor Melvin Etra.

This special event will be more than a celebration for the congregation. It will be a remembrance by the whole community of the history of New Britain, for the founders of Tephareth Israel represent some of New Britain's most active citizens and friends of the community. Many came to America in search of relief from persecution in their native lands in Eastern Europe and Russia. These were highly learned individuals, having studied in acclaimed Talmudic schools throughout Russia, Poland and Lithuania. One such early New Britain resident was Benjamin Marholin, a grocery store owner and man of culture who was the uncle of celebrated American composer Irving Berlin. Another was Jonas Goldsmith, whose daughter Anna would become one of the organizers of the New Britain Chapter of Hadassah. Dr. Morris Dunn became a tireless advocate on behalf of Zionist causes, helping New Britain to become one of the most active centers of Zionism in the nation. All of these men and women overcame the odds through their belief in this country and their unflinching faith.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rabbi Henry Okolika and Congregation Tephareth Israel on their respective anniversaries and the renovation of their spiritual home. I ask the House to join me in wishing them the very best for the future.

**HONORING THE TWENTY-SIX
TEACHERS FROM THE PITTS-
BURGH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
WHO COMPLETED THE RE-
SEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR AN
URBAN TEACHERS INSTITUTE**

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my most sincere congratulations to the twenty-six teachers from the Pittsburgh Public School System who completed the Research Experience for an Urban Teachers Institute (REUTI) this summer, which was hosted in part by Carnegie Mellon University. These teachers in an effort to improve the quality of education they provide to the students of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, received valuable training that they will implement in their classrooms this fall.

Their successful completion of this five-week program which instructs middle and high school teachers to become more proficient in the teaching of math, science, and engineering, clearly demonstrates their dedication to their field and to the children that they impact on a daily basis. This knowledge will improve the educational experience of students across the Pittsburgh School System and help provide them the tools they will need as they continue their education and move into careers of their own.

At a time when our Federal Government has recommitted itself to improving our nation's schools and increasing our student's proficiency in math, science, and engineering, these teachers have proven themselves to be leaders in their field. Their efforts, together with other dedicated teachers across our nation, will help our students to again be among the top scoring student in the world. I encourage them to bring these new skills to not only their students, but to their colleagues so they may work together to provide the best education possible.

The partnership that was formed between Carnegie Mellon University and the City of Pittsburgh Schools through REUTI demonstrates the importance of all levels of education working toward the common goal of providing a higher quality education to the students in our community. Through this collaborative effort, Carnegie Mellon researchers opened their laboratories and offices to provide a welcoming environment for the teachers who were able to participate fully in ongoing research activities. As a result of the cooperation from Carnegie Mellon University, these teachers were able to get a better understanding of the culture of scientific research. This experience is something that will assist these teachers in educating their students about the daily work of a scientist.

Once again, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to each of the twenty-six teachers from the Pittsburgh area who have

dedicated themselves to continuing their own education in an effort to improve the quality of the education they provide to our region's students.

RECOGNITION OF PASTOR PAUL GOLATT

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a dedicated Pastor and leader in my district as he celebrates his fifteenth Pastor's Appreciation Day on October 6th, 2002.

Pastor Paul Golatt, Jr. is the Pastor of Macedonia Church of God in Christ and the Superintendent of the North Miami District of the Church of God in Christ. He also serves his community as an employee for the United States Postal Service.

Pastor Paul Golatt, Jr. was ordained by Bishop Jacob Cohen in Fort Pierce, Florida during the Jurisdictional Holy Convocation in 1969. After many sermonettes, faithful services and training under the leadership of the late Pastor Paul Golatt Sr., he was appointed the first Assistant Pastor of the Macedonia Church of God in Christ. Upon the passing of his father and Pastor in December 1987, Paul Golatt, Jr. was appointed Pastor of Macedonia Church of God in Christ. On September 4, 1999, he was officially appointed and installed as District Superintendent of the North Miami District Church of God in Christ, by the Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop Jacob Cohen.

Pastor Paul Golatt, Jr. continues to devote his life by extending benevolence to people in need. In addition to providing churches and communities with school supplies for children, he frequently donates food, clothing and money to communities and to orphanages in Haiti. He also finds the time to conduct joint services on holidays, including Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, with neighboring churches.

Pastor Paul Golatt, Jr. is a remarkable man whose personal achievement and community service are an example to us all. He is a father, Superintendent, Mail Carrier, an Organist, Choir Director, Recording Artist, Counselor, Secretary, Singer, Jurisdictional Adjutant, caring and compassionate Shepherd, praying servant and "A Man After God's Own Heart". (Jeremiah 3:15)

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Pastor Paul Golatt, Jr. for his humanitarian efforts which have touched the lives of so many people. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this congenial man of God. His faith, courage and kindness are an inspiration to all who have been touched by him.

HONORING DAVID MIHALIC

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Mihalic, a true leader in the National Park Service, as he approaches his January 3, 2003 retirement.

Dave Mihalic has served 33 years protecting and managing America's National Parks. His career with the Park Service ends at the helm of our nation's crown jewel, Yosemite National Park. As superintendent of Yosemite, Dave proved his strength and fairness in implementing a long-stalled management plan. Yosemite holds a dear place in my heart and I want to thank Dave for both his friendship and leadership in the park.

Dave was a seasoned leader even before Yosemite. He served as the assistant superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee, and superintendent of Glacier National Park in Montana, Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky and Yukon-Charley National Preserve in Alaska. Among his many management accomplishments, Dave established crucial community relationships and park partnerships, earning him two "Superintendent of the Year Awards" and a reputation as a leader who gets things done. In addition to running several of our National Parks, Dave also helped here in Washington, DC, when he worked as Chief of Policy in the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Mihalic for his vision and unending pursuit of National Park protection. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his many contributions to our National Lands and wishing him and his family continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 2002

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2002." This legislation will increase the quality instruction time a teacher can spend with their students in the classroom while also ensuring that special education students are receiving a quality education.

Due to the approaching reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, I went and toured local schools in my district of Orlando, FL last year to get a first-hand understanding of the problems that parents, teachers and administrators face implementing a successful special education program. I heard many familiar complaints being made about discipline and funding of the program, but what really took me by surprise was when a teacher took me into an office where he showcased a typical day's work of filling out all of the required forms for a special education student. I was shocked to learn that teachers spend so much of their time complying with process instead of being able to teach and assist students in the classroom.

I think I speak on behalf of most Members here, when I say that IDEA was never intended to take teachers' time away from the classroom, rather it was intended to make sure that special education students were able to receive the same classroom instruction as their general education peers. Unfortunately, over time the paperwork trail has grown as states and local districts try to ensure that they have complied with the federal law. The threat

of being sued has encouraged an overabundance of paperwork in order to document the school's compliance with the law. When did "process" overshadow the importance of actual quality instruction and results?

When a principal testifies that their IEP Teams spend an average of 83.5 hours filling out paperwork in preparation to sit down for an Individualized Education Plan, IEP, with a student's parents—something makes me wonder about the 83.5 hours taken away from classroom instruction time. IEP's are of course an important aspect of IDEA, but there can be some commonsense reforms put in place to reduce the redundancy of the process.

The "IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2002" will call for a study by the Department of Education to be furnished within 6 months of authorization to determine where the burden is stemming from, and provide suggestions to mitigate the issue. The Department will be required to issue a streamlined IEP for school districts to use as a model. It will also call for a pilot program for 10 states to enter into an agreement with the Department of Education to perform their own paperwork reduction programs to see if any reforms can stem from State innovation. The legislation will implement a pilot program to create a 3-year IEP review process. This would allow the process to occur at natural transition points for the child instead of every year, but there will always be a safeguard in place for parents to request an IEP review at any point within the 3 years to ensure that their child is receiving all of the services they deem necessary.

These commonsense reforms included in the "IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2002" will ensure that IDEA is results-driven, not process-driven. The legislation will improve the academic achievement of special education students, while also doing away with an overly prescriptive and burdensome process for teachers. It will enable teachers to save valuable classroom instruction time for exactly that—classroom instruction. I encourage my colleagues to call my office to cosponsor the "IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2002."

Thank you and I reserve the balance of my time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 2002

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join my colleague Representative RIC KELLER in introducing the IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act of 2002. This legislation will go a long way in providing school districts and administrators the relief they need from the IDEA paperwork burden, and in reducing time spent by teachers on non-instructional activities, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

One year ago, the House Education and the Workforce Committee began an aggressive series of hearings exploring major issues that would likely be addressed in the Committee's reauthorization of IDEA. Numerous witnesses at these hearings testified about the need for the Department of Education to identify and