

young scholars of Lake Forest High School in Felton, Delaware who will represent my home state of Delaware in the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. They are part of a group of 1200 students from across the country who will come to Washington, D.C. from May fourth to the sixth to compete in the national finals of this program. These young scholars worked diligently and persistently to reach the national finals and through this program will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The names of the honored students are: Corinne Bartley, Codi Canasa, Jeffery Chambers, Nicole Cosey, Heather Crouse, Lena Ewing, Michael Field, Danielle Galyean, Davis Gannon, Rebecca Grevis, Darron Johnson, Katie Kindig, Andrea Lewis, Michelle Makdad, Kathryn McClister, Jennifer Petrucci, Jason Schulties, Warren Thomas Smith, Ann Marie Strobe, Leah West, Ashley Wilson and Holly Wilson.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to their teachers, Mrs. Amy Reed-Moore and Ms. Betty Wyatt-Dix, who deserve much of the credit for the success of the team.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young students about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day final competition they will participate in consists of hearings modeled after those in the United States Congress. The students made oral presentations before a panel of adult judges and testify as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee." A panel of adult judges represent various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields served on the congressional committees. These judges follow up the testimonies with a series of questions designed to test the students' depth of understanding and their ability to apply constitutional knowledge to given situations.

The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education, and has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. This program has promoted civic competence and responsibility among young students as well as awareness for contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The team from Lake Forest High School conducted much research in preparation for the national competition here in Washington, D.C. I congratulate them for their fine work that enabled them to come so far in this competition and to visit our nation's capital.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LARRY BROWN

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 16, 2002*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, to have a true community we must have a safe community. During the 1990s the rate of crime has been dropping to rates we haven't seen since the

1960s. For this we can thank the police officers of our communities who work hard and dangerous jobs so our lives will not be dangerous.

One such police officer is Larry Brown of the White Plains Police Department. He graduated from White Plains High School, where he excelled at track and field. He attended Bradley University and then worked at what is now Westchester Medical Center. After a short stint as a Corrections Officer he joined the police department twenty years ago.

Since then he has enjoyed a varied career in law enforcement working in the Detective Division, Records Division, and Warrants Division. He has done background checks and has assisted in recruitment for the Department. He currently works in the Patrol Division. He has also attended a number of training courses to better enable him to perform as a police officer. He has also received a number of citations and acknowledgments for his work.

For the past four years he has served as President of the Westchester/Rockland Guardians and represents that worthy organization at national conferences.

He is a member of the Union Baptist Church and the proud father of Komaphi, Shaahid, a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, Allana, and Christina.

For his good work and leadership in the law enforcement community, we all owe him our thanks and I am proud to be able to honor him in this small way.

#### IN HONOR OF FATHER PETER SAMMON

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 16, 2002*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of a remarkable man, Father Peter Sammon, who died peacefully on March 21, 2002 in San Francisco surrounded by loved ones. Father Sammon was an inspiration and a friend to so many people, and we are all forever grateful for his work. We will miss him terribly. The following are my remarks from his funeral on March 25th at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco:

It is with great personal sadness and official recognition of their loss that I extend my deepest sympathy to Tom Sammon and his entire family. All who loved Peter thank you for sharing him with us and for giving him so much happiness.

To Sister Kathleen and Sister Lucia I extend condolences and appreciation to you for helping Father Sammon reach his fulfillment on earth and giving him the joy of a happy death. We can all hear him say: "Here I am Lord."

It should be a source of comfort to you at this very, very sad time that so many people mourn your loss and are praying for you. So many people were blessed by knowing Father Sammon. I want to express my appreciation for being allowed to bear witness to the life of Peter Sammon.

Throughout his life Father Sammon carried on the legacy established by his namesake

the Apostle Peter whose mission was bestowed upon him by Christ himself when he said "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." Peter Sammon was our rock and in his 50 years as a priest he continued to build Christ's Church. In doing so he touched so many lives. Whether as the Archdiocesan Director of Family Life counseling young couples, as the Chaplain of Newman Center at San Francisco State, or by forming the parish ministry with Presentation Sisters Kathleen and Lucia, he built the Church to do the Lord's work.

This was pioneering work, a priest working with the sisters to form a parish ministry and training leadership among the laity; this was groundbreaking. Peter Sammon was a pioneer who broke new ground but never left the ground broken.

He made the church the center of movements. Early on, he and Saint Teresa's Parish took up the cause of the Farm Workers and then the Salvadoran refugees. Four years and one day before his death, his friend and comrade in arms Jimmy Herman passed away. They were partners in many pursuits. We will all long remember their work together to turn back the ships carrying Salvadoran coffee, their refusal to unload the coffee. Fred Ross just reminded me this morning as we were crying of the sight of Father Sammon and Jimmy Herman on the docks refusing to unload the coffee from El Salvador.

We take pride, but we must remember, those actions took courage.

Father Sammon was our leader; he not only preached justice, he lived it. Injustice had an impact on Father Sammon that was palpable and he acted upon it. Whether in his leadership in the Sanctuary movement or working for immigrant rights or working for a living wage, Father Sammon always lived justice.

Father Sammon considered himself lucky to be the son of Irish immigrants. It was through his understanding of the courage and determination of his parents, who came to America as teenagers, met here and raised their wonderful family, that he understood the magnificent contribution that Immigrants make to our country.

Where some saw people in need, Father Sammon saw newcomers who constantly invigorate America with their courage, their hopes and their dreams. He saw their commitment to family values, to work and community. And he saw a spark of divinity worthy of respect in every one of them.

Peter brought to his struggles the vision, the knowledge, a plan of action and the ability to attract supporters to his causes. He was a true leader and a great politician. All who were blessed to know him learned from him—not only what to do but how to do it. I certainly did and I know I speak for others who were so blessed. Father Sammon challenged the conscience of our society. We look at his work with pride but must remember that it took tremendous courage.

The Bible tells us that to minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship, to ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us all. By that measure Father Sammon's entire life is an act of worship.

In his life Father Sammon worked on the side of the angels. Now he is with them. Thanks be to God.

IN HONOR OF GENEVIEVE  
KRUEGER, RECIPIENT OF THE  
2002 MCGROARTY POETRY AWARD

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 16, 2002*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Genevieve Krueger, who will receive the 2002 McGroarty Poetry Award at the Shouting Coyote Poetry Festival on April 20, 2002 at Verdugo Hills High School in Sunland Tujunga, in California's 27th Congressional District. Each year, this award is given to an individual who demonstrates extraordinary community service and tireless efforts toward the advancement of the literary arts.

Twenty-four years ago, Ms. Krueger began an out-of-print book search business. She knew that her love of reading and literature would serve her customers well as she searched the country for great works of art no longer in print. In doing so, she set herself out as a devotee of the process of good writing and the need to share that writing with the world. She is also an avid book collector, with a personal collection of more than 15,000 volumes, and volunteers her time with the Friends of the Library.

In 1984, she befriended a group enrolled in a poetry workshop at the McGroarty Arts Center in Sunland Tujunga, California. The class disbanded after several sessions, and, recognizing the need for writer collaboration, Ms. Krueger invited the group to her home. What began as a workshop became a weekly writers group and for sixteen years now, writers have been welcome at Ms. Krueger's home to share their thoughts and their work.

The group named themselves the Chuparosa Writers after the private home, Rancho Chupa Rosa, of California Poet Laureate, Congressman, dramatist, Los Angeles Times columnist, and historian John Steven McGroarty (1862–1944) and his wife Ida. Today, the private home is the McGroarty Arts Center and the annual McGroarty Poetry Award honors the legacy of John Steven McGroarty, a legacy that lives on in the work of the Chuparosa Writers and of Genevieve Krueger.

The Chuparosa Writers meet each Wednesday to share their work and foster the works of an ever-changing group of writers and poetry lovers. They have helped sponsor poetry contests for elementary schools, performed numerous poetry readings as individuals and as a group, taught poetry classes to schoolchildren, assisted in creating the Poet Laureate position for Sunland Tujunga and supported countless community endeavors.

Ms. Krueger eloquently states the purpose of the group: "We meet to share new discoveries, and work-in-progress. Through our meetings we stimulate new ideas and growth, and we hope to spread the message that writing is an important and enriching activity." For her commitment to bringing the arts to a wider audience, to the literary tradition of the foothills and to new discoveries, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Genevieve Krueger upon receiving the 2002 McGroarty Poetry Award.

BLACK LUNG BENEFITS  
SURVIVORS EQUITY ACT

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 16, 2002*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation aimed at providing equity in the treatment of benefits for eligible survivors of recipients of black lung benefits. Joining me in introducing this measure is the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Education and Workforce, GEORGE MILLER of California, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, JOHN MURTHA.

By way of background, in 1981 the Black Lung Benefits Act was amended in several respects at the urging of the Reagan Administration. The driving motivation for this legislation at the time was to shore up the finances of the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund through which benefit payments are made to beneficiaries where mine employment terminated prior to 1970, or where no mine operator can be assigned liability.

After the enactment of this legislation, administrative actions and a number of extremely harmful court decisions made it extremely difficult, if not almost impossible, for those suffering from the crippling disease of black lung to qualify for benefits. However, today, a large number of the problems claimants faced have been remedied by a Clinton Administration rulemaking that was finalized on December 20, 2000.

Yet, two provisions of the 1981 Act in particular continue to be most troublesome, and largely impact, in a very adverse way, surviving widows of coal miners who die as a result of black lung disease.

As it now stands, due to the 1981 amendments, there is a dual and inequitable standard governing how benefits are handled for surviving spouses of deceased beneficiaries. In the event a beneficiary died prior to January 1, 1982—the effective date of the 1981 Act—benefits continued uninterrupted to the surviving spouse. However, if the beneficiary dies after January 1, 1982, the surviving spouse must file a new claim in order to try to continue receiving the benefits and must prove that the miner died as a result of black lung disease despite the fact that the miner was already deemed eligible to receive benefits prior to death. This is illogical, unfair and outlandish.

In addition, as a result of the 1981 law, there is also a dual and inequitable standard governing the basis by which a miner or his widow is entitled to benefits under the Act. For pre-1981 Act claimants, a rebuttable presumption of the existence of black lung disease is established if the miner worked for 15 years or more in underground coal mines and if over evidence, such as an X-ray, demonstrates the existence of a total disability respiratory or pulmonary impairment. This rebuttable presumption, however, does not apply to post-1981 Act claimants.

The legislation I am introducing today removes the requirement that a surviving spouse must refile a claim in order to continue receiving benefits. It also applies the rebuttable presumption of black lung disease for pre-1981 Act claimants to those filed after the effective date of that statute.

This is a fair and just proposal, and one which should have been enacted years ago. In fact, I have introduced various black lung bills since 1988. During the early 1990s the House of Representatives on two occasions passed reform legislation. Much of what was contained in these comprehensive reform bills was finally addressed by the Clinton-era rulemaking. However, the subject matter of the bill I am introducing today demands action by the Congress. I urge the leadership of this body to consider this matter, and to allow this bill to be acted upon this year.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES E.  
ROBINSON

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 16, 2002*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the future of our country is indeed our children and a man being honored tonight, James E. Robinson, is someone who believes that helping them is the highest calling. James Robinson is a founder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Adults Club. In that capacity for the past 11 years he has worked with and inspired more than 500 young people.

Mr. Robinson also served as the Head Coach for baseball and junior varsity basketball at the Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford while also serving as Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach there. He has also worked with the young people Mercy College while serving as Assistant Men's Basketball Coach.

But his community service is not limited to coaching our youth. He has served on numerous committees including the United Way Youth Advisory Council, the Westchester Community College Advisory Council, the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Committee, and the African American Men of Westchester where he is chair of the Youth Committee.

Mr. Robinson is also co-founder and President of Fathers and Children Together (FACT), an organization of more than 70 fathers from nine different locales in Westchester.

He lives in Greenburgh with his wife, Yolanda, and their three children, Nicole, 8, and twins Jasmine and James, Jr. 6. He is someone whose gifts will keep giving to the community for many generations. For every child he helps will certainly go on to help others of their own generation and the next. We can truly say that he has made his community a better place, and for this we are all grateful.

TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH BY ALBERT CAREY CASWELL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 16, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of the late Reverend Martin Luther