

the last fifty years. Their continuous efforts to uphold the standards and integrity of the Republican Party is to be commended.

I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Kent County Republican Women's Organization on their 50th anniversary and to thank them for their unmeasurable support and direction.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE MONTH—2002

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who work hard everyday to provide quality health care for the elderly, disabled and mentally ill. May is National Community Residential Care Month, and I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these men and women.

Community care providers offer medical, social, and nutritional assistance to those in need. They are committed professionals who work hard to create comfortable environments for people who are unable to care for themselves in their own homes.

More importantly, these professionals work hard to boost the self-confidence of those whose confidence is often broken as a result of their dependence on others. By caring and interacting with those in need, they have enriched the lives of those who they help.

Again, I want to congratulate all the men and women in this field of work. The United States Congress certainly appreciates the valuable service they provide. We thank you for the job you do and for the compassion that you bring to your field.

HONORING ABE SELMAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Abe Selman, Niles Village Manager from my home state of Illinois, for his outstanding years of service to the community. Mr. Selman will be retiring from his position on May 1st, 2002. Mr. Selman has been a Niles resident since 1962 and has dedicated himself to the public sector, bettering the Niles community. He served as a village trustee for 17 years and resigned in 1989 to become the Village Manager.

Mr. Selman worked nonstop to make Niles a community for all to enjoy and achieved this goal through his knowledge, experience, and most important of all, his passion for service. As Village Manager, he was a visionary. Mr. Selman was in charge of managing development of a Village-wide computer network project, starting from setting up a single computer to over 200 in the village. He was also responsible for the planning, financing, and construction of several municipal buildings that greatly improved the quality of life of many residents. His business savvy was felt through his efficient use of public funds and by reducing operating costs through improved business practices.

Mr. Selman will be missed. His contributions to the community have been felt by all. Thank you Abe, for all you have done for the community.

A BILL TO ACCELERATE THE BASIC STANDARD DEDUCTION MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF AND MODIFY THE WORK OPPOR- TUNITY TAX CREDIT AND THE WELFARE-TO-WORK TAX CREDIT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from Illinois, Mr. WELLER, in introducing our bill, the "Encouraging Work and Supporting Marriage Act of 2002" to accelerate the marriage penalty relief for low- and middle-income families and to modify and simplify the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and the Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit (WtW).

Last year's tax law eliminates the marriage penalty in the standard deduction by gradually increasing the standard deduction for married couples beginning in 2005. The proposal would accelerate this relief by increasing the standard deduction beginning in 2003. The proposal would benefit low- and middle-income families and would simplify tax filing by reducing the number of taxpayers who itemize.

After a number of improvements over the past few years, the WOTC and WtW programs are being well received in providing employment, with training, for our disadvantaged. We believe the WOTC and WtW programs have been very important in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. Such training can be costly, and the credits provide an incentive to employers to hire the disadvantaged and provide the needed training, while offsetting costs associated with the latter effort. However, the job is not over. These individuals are usually the first ones to suffer when we see economic conditions such as we have experienced the past year.

The current WOTC provides employers with a graduated tax credit of 25 percent of the first \$6,000 in wages for eligible individuals working between 120 hours and 399 hours and a 40 percent tax credit on the first \$6,000 in wages for those working over 400 hours. The WtW tax credit is targeted toward long-term welfare recipients—providing a 35 percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 in wages during the first year of employment and a 50 percent credit on the first \$10,000 for those who stay on the job a second year.

The proposal would make the following changes: (1) combine the two credits and establish WtW as a separate targeted group, (2) repeal the requirement that a qualified ex-felon be a member of an economically disadvantaged family for purposes of eligibility for the tax credit (a time-consuming requirement that discourages hiring from this group), (3) increase the age limit for qualified food stamp recipients by five years (from 18–24 to 18–29), and (4) standardize the definition of wages as "cash wages" paid by employer to a member of the targeted group.

The present-law WOTC rules for calculating the credit would be retained for the eight categories currently eligible for the work opportunity tax credit. In the case of long-term family assistance recipients, i.e. the ninth targeted group, the credit would equal 40 percent (25 percent for employment of less than 400 hours) of qualified first-year wages. Therefore the maximum credit would be \$4,000 (40 percent of \$10,000) with respect to long-term family assistance recipients. In the second year, the maximum credit would be 40 percent of the first \$10,000 of qualified second-year wages for the long-term family assistance recipients. The net effect of the change would increase the WtW credit by frontloading the benefits, thus increasing an employer's incentive to hire long-term Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. All of the provisions would be effective for wages paid or incurred for qualified individuals who begin work for an employer after December 31, 2002.

We believe these changes will bring tax relief to low- and middle-income families by accelerating the elimination of the marriage penalty, as well as strengthening the WOTC program, which has become a major factor in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. We urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. VENY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James E. Veny for his exemplary service to the community. Jim Veny was born and raised in White Plains, New York, and attended White Plains High School.

In the summer of 1963, Jim joined the U.S. Navy and was selected to be a part of the Navy's Nuclear Power Submarine Program. During his tour, Jim attended various naval schools, traveled around the world, and was a featured soloist of the U.S. Navy's Naval Choir at Great Lakes, Illinois. Jim served one year in the Vietnam War, concluding a seven-year career in the Navy.

After the Navy, Jim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire. In 1975, he completed his formal academic studies by receiving a Masters in Business Administration degree from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

Fortunately for those of us in the Bay Area, Jim moved to San Jose in July of 1980, working for FMC (Food Machinery Corporation, which is now United Defense). In 1983, he was appointed Community Relations Manager at United Defense, focusing the department on four areas of need in the community—the arts, diversity, social service, and education. Jim quickly learned that to do community work and to make an impact he had to get personally involved.

Jim has served on the boards of the following organizations: the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley, and the African American Community Service Agency. Over the years, Jim's greatest commitment has been to the education of young people, and he has been recognized by organizations in San Jose

for this commitment. Most recently, he has been the recipient of the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators 2001 LaVerne Owens Community Service Award, the City of San Jose 2000 Excellence in Education Award, and the 1998 KNTV 'Spirit of Excellence Award' for community service.

Working with students in the community is more than a job for Jim—it is a way of life. Under Jim's guidance, United Defense adopted San Jose High Academy in 1983, and over time created a summer high school internship program. This unique program allows students to learn about the corporate environment, while gaining valuable work experience and earning money.

Clearly, Jim Veny has shown a lifetime of commitment towards making the community a better place, and his experience with San Jose High Academy has shown that individual involvement can make a difference for the better. We in San Jose are thankful for Jim's commitment to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA
MCGRATH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara McGrath as she completes her fellowship in my office this week and returns to her permanent position at the U.S. Department Defense's National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

Barb joined my office last May and quickly became an integral part of my staff. As a full time Legislative Fellow, Barb handled several key issues that are important to my constituents—tax relief for working families, the preservation of Social Security for our senior citizens and the viability of our community's small businesses just to name a few.

She worked tirelessly to research the background for my bill H.R. 3015, The Working Families Tax Rebate, which would provide an immediate \$300 payroll tax refund to families that didn't qualify for one under President Bush's plan. If passed, this law would have benefited the 29 million workers who paid payroll taxes but did not earn enough to receive an income tax rebate last year.

Barb also coordinated the multiple newsletters we have sent to my district's senior citizens, informing them about Congressional efforts to guarantee the security of Social Security adjust the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment and provide an affordable prescription drug benefit under Medicare. And she was instrumental in helping arrange a small business fair for my community.

Her knowledge of defense issues was also especially important in the days following the tragic events of Sept. 11. In fact, Barb made such a contribution to my staff that we negotiated with NFMA to extend her fellowship, which was scheduled to end in December, through early May.

But Barb has been more than a dedicated staff member. She has also become a key contributor to the camaraderie in my office. The unique perspective she brought to her fellowship enabled everyone in my office to approach their jobs from a different angle. And

with her witty and insightful comments about everything from personal issues to professional ones, she was quickly dubbed the office favorite. I know she will be dearly missed, and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

BARBARA JORDAN IMMIGRATION
REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3231 and encourage my colleagues to vote for this important bipartisan measure to reform our Nation's immigration system.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, created in 1933 to consolidate immigration, border control, and naturalization functions in various departments, has been plagued for years by bureaucratic inefficiency, wasteful practices, and an unclear mission. At first, Congress responded to the problem by increasing funding for the agency, quadrupling its budget from \$1.4 billion to \$5.6 billion between fiscal years 1992 and 2002. Despite the infusion of resources, the INS reported an increase in its backlog of visa and immigration-related applications.

Though a commission chaired by former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan recommended in 1997 that the INS be dismantled, Congress still did not take the drastic action necessary to fix the problems of an agency that had become for many Americans the stereotype of Federal bureaucracy. However, when the INS sent student visa confirmations for two of the September 11 terrorists—six months after their attacks on America—the subsequent public outrage expedited much-needed reform. I commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CONYERS for their cooperation in crafting a common-sense bipartisan measure that will address many of the INS's existing problems. The separation of the INS into the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Bureau of Immigration Enforcement will prevent the type of mission conflict that plagues the current agency. I also approve of the creation of an Associate Attorney General to oversee the functions of these two bureaus and to emphasize the importance of immigration matters within the Justice Department.

However, I would be remiss if I did not express the concerns of some of my constituents, who fear that splitting a bureaucracy into two only creates two bureaucracies. I have to laugh as I am reminded of the perils of Hercules as he tried to slay Hydra, the nine-headed snake, which grew two heads for every one that was chopped off. Instead, we must strike at the heart of our current problem, and I believe that H.R. 3231 will effectively accomplish this goal. I will be carefully monitoring the implementation of INS reform to see that the new bureaus are efficient, responsive and focused in their mission.

RECOGNIZING EDDIE AND MARY
EMMA CHERRY FOR SIXTY-TWO
YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessee couple who prove that love is still very much alive.

Next month, Eddie and Mary Emma Cherry will celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the day they committed themselves to one another.

Eddie, originally from Dover in Stewart County, and Mary Emma, originally from Danville in Houston County, met through a mutual friend in 1938. The pair met up again the following year when they both enrolled at Austin Peay State College—now named Austin Peay State University—in Clarksville, Tennessee.

After becoming reacquainted, the two decided they wanted to spend their lives together, and they wedded June 1, 1940. Since then, the Cherrys have added to their family two sons, Charles and Don, a daughter, Ann, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Over the years, Eddie and Mary Emma have undertaken numerous successful business ventures in West Tennessee but eventually returned to Dover. Eddie spent many years raising cattle and hogs and growing corn and hay. Mary Emma worked for years as a teacher and administrator at Dover Elementary School.

The two are retired now and spend their days together.

Mrs. Cherry has said of their marriage, "Love is the basis of all of it. I never thought of not loving him." Mr. Cherry has added jokingly that his secret is in learning to agree with his wife. The couple says that now, as they celebrate more than six decades of union, their children should be planning a big party to celebrate their 70th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask that you and our colleagues join me in applauding the marriage of my friends Eddie and Mary Emma Cherry and in wishing them many more years of happiness with their family and many friends who admire them greatly.

TRIBUTE TO THE McBAIN HIGH
SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS BASKET-
BALL TEAM 2002 MICHIGAN
CLASS C BASKETBALL CHAM-
PIONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the McBain High School Varsity Basketball Team, who recently won the 2002 Michigan Class C state title. In their heart-stopping championship game played at the Breslin Center, located in Lansing, Michigan, the McBain Ramblers defeated Kalamazoo Christian 57–48.

Led by Head Coach Bruce Koopman and assistant coaches Jerry Boven and Justin Eubank, members of the 2002 Ramblers include: Kevin Boven (3), Andy Bronkema (5),