

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of one individual—Arnold S. Kohen—who has made a difference in working for peace and justice in East Timor. He is not often recognized but Arnold has worked behind the scenes for over 20 years raising the issue of East Timor within the U.S. Congress and throughout the world. He wrote a book documenting the epic struggles of Bishop Belo. Arnold's work has made a contribution to this historic day and is a model for me on how one individual can truly make a difference in the world. I also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of the East Timor Action Network.

The work in East Timor is not yet finished. However, yesterday was a day in which we all can rejoice because an oppressed people have now been set free.

RECOGNIZING SHENENDEHOWA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the student body of Shenendehowa High School of Clifton Park, New York and to new graduates. These are not your run-of-the-mill graduates, however. These are graduates who gave up their normal time for leaving high school so that they could defend our Nation from evil. Their heroic acts helped preserve the free world and ensured the continual existence of our way of life.

Today's student body, unselfish in their motives, feels that these men deserve lasting recognition. Therefore, they are placing the names of the following people indelibly in the hearts of their fellow citizens by asking me to present them to you in this venue.

Alfred Bristol, Army, of DeWitt Clinton, N.Y.; Mario Gaetano, Sr., Army Air Force, of Mechanicville, N.Y.; Orlie Kent, Army, of Wolcott, N.Y.; George Kohrmann, Navy, Bronx, N.Y.; George Lynch, Navy, Piermont, N.Y.; Kenneth Melia, Navy, Jamaica, N.Y.; Potito Sforza, Army, Bronx, N.Y.; Anthony Streppone, Navy, Bronx, N.Y.; and John Tremblay, Army, Troy, N.Y.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in not just congratulating these men on the honor of their graduation, but in thanking them for their sacrifice and efforts. Also, Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the students of Shenendehowa High School for their spirited and unselfish act in behalf of these men.

CHEROKEE LIVING MAGAZINE

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in congratulating Jeff and Amber Mette on the 2d anniversary of Cherokee Living Magazine. The inaugural issue was launched in May 2000, and is published bi-monthly.

Cherokee Living prides itself on being a true "quality of life magazine" for the Cherokee

County community, including Woodstock, Towne Lake, Canton and Waleska. It highlights living and working in Cherokee County and is packed with information on health and wellness, interviews with local individuals, upcoming events, and many other items of interest to residents and visitors. Its list of contributing writers is a showcase of Cherokee's best writers.

Distributed to residents, offices and monthly to newcomers to the area, the Mette's commitment keeping Cherokee residents informed is deeply appreciated. As a Cherokee resident, I am pleased to join in celebrating their 2nd anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO THE INLAND EMPIRE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to the Inland Empire Harley Owners Group as they prepare to promote West Coast Thunder, a large police escorted parade of motorcyclists to the Riverside National Cemetery to honor our military veterans on Memorial Day. In my congressional district of Riverside, California, we are fortunate to have numerous community service organizations that not only unselfishly give their time and talents to the community but find their own lives enriched in return. The Inland Empire Harley Owners Group epitomizes this and more.

The efforts of the West Coast Thunder committee with thousands of parade participants over the years, has brought great recognition, unparalleled resources and multitudes of volunteers to Riverside's Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony. This event provides a compelling way for people to pay their respects as well as raise funds for the Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee. The visual impact of thousands of motorcycles, led by a full flag-bearing honor-guard, proudly gives those interred at the Riverside National Cemetery the recognition it richly deserves.

The Riverside National Cemetery is currently the second largest resting place for our veterans, with over 150,000 men and women from our armed services standing silent vigil with us today. Within a short time it is expected to be the largest cemetery in the National Cemetery system and within 50 years will have more than 1.4 million honored veterans.

The months of work preceding this event lead to a large gathering of veterans, family and friends desiring to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. Their tireless efforts and dedication to honoring our brave veterans is evident as thousands participate in the Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Inland Empire Harley Owners Group for their dedication and service to our Nations veterans.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly great American community, the town of Milton, New Hampshire, which will celebrate its 200th Anniversary on June 11, 2002.

Located in Strafford County in eastern New Hampshire, Milton epitomizes the magnificent beauty that dominates the New Hampshire landscape, and Milton's nearly 4,000 residents are quick to boast about the pristine waters of its three ponds and the Salmon Falls River, which is overlooked by scenic Teneriffe Mountain. Milton is also home to one of New England's more unique museums, the New Hampshire Farm Museum, whose historic structures, open spaces, and vast collection of farm tools showcase New Hampshire's rural and agricultural roots.

Originally a part of Rochester, New Hampshire, Milton became incorporated as a new town on June 11, 1802. Milton's town founders held the first formal Town Meeting at the Lieutenant Elijah Horne house on August 30, 1802. Today, Milton continues to adhere to the proud New England tradition of the Town Meeting, where neighbors gather to debate and vote on issues that impact their daily lives.

I congratulate the Town of Milton on its 200th Anniversary, and I extend my best wishes to all the citizens of Milton in celebration of this wonderful milestone.

JOSEPH LIMPRECTH, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, we have received the news that United States Ambassador to Albania, Joseph Limprecht, died suddenly of a heart attack on Sunday, May 19, 2002, while hiking with his wife and colleagues in northern Albania.

Although I did not have the opportunity to meet Ambassador Limprecht, I did correspond with him on an issue of mutual concern—the trafficking of Albanian women and children into sexual slavery in Europe.

With porous borders and more than its share of criminals, Albania is used by traffickers as a key transit point to Italy. As a source country, young Albanian women are lured into the hands of traffickers and even kidnapped from their home towns or villages. The Ambassador was well aware of this tragedy and pressed for greater law enforcement to stop trafficking networks as well as greater assistance to the victims. Indeed, in keeping with the point of my correspondence with him, the Ambassador made sure U.S. assistance would go to a shelter for repatriated Albanian trafficking victims similar to one created for women found in Albania and waiting to be repatriated to their country of origin.

Beyond that, the Ambassador worked hard in the three years he spent in Albania in helping the country recover from its many ills, in

particular the civil strife which tore the country apart in 1997. Given Albania's vulnerability to militant Islamic infiltration, I am sure that the war on terrorism was in the forefront of his duties in recent months.

Ambassador Limprecht was a member of the Senior Foreign Service, having served with the U.S. Foreign Service since 1975, with postings in Germany, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as well as in Washington. In the 1980s, he served in the office which handled what was then the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and now the OSCE, and worked with the staff of the Helsinki Commission which I had just joined and now serve as Co-Chairman.

My deepest condolences go to the Ambassador's wife, Nancy, their daughters Alma and Eleanor, friends and colleagues.

HONORING LOPEZ FOODS ON THEIR 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John C. Lopez and Lopez Food, Inc. in celebrating their 10th Anniversary of service to their customers and community.

Lopez Foods a "state of the art" meat processing plant, supplies all-beef hamburger patties, pork breakfast sausage and Canadian-style bacon to McDonald's and Walmart, Inc. The business was originally a subsidiary of Wilson Foods. John C. Lopez purchased the company in 1992, and in 1995 changed the name to Lopez Foods, Inc. That chance marked a new era in the company's relationship with its customers and community.

Lopez, a 19 year veteran of the McDonald's System, used his experience to make the company more compatible with the McDonald's operation and management philosophies. With this approach, Lopez Foods became a top supplier to the world's restaurant leaders. The Lopez Foods mission is to establish the highest industry standards in food and employee safety, quality production, environmental protection and customer service. These great attributes have not only made Lopez Foods a successful company, but a place that the community can feel proud of.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that John C. Lopez and Lopez Foods, Inc. have done much not only to establish high industry standards on food production, but also his employee safety and customer service. For all of his hard work and dedication, I join in celebrating with family, friends, and the community 10 years of success for Lopez Foods, Inc.

John, I wish you the best of luck, and much continued success to you and your family.

RICHARD AND LINDA SUE
BLAKELY: PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special friends, Richard and

Linda Sue Blakely of Caro, Michigan, as they celebrate their retirement after many years of serving their community in their jobs and in their volunteer efforts. Richard, who spent 30 years as a deputy with the Tuscola County Sheriffs Department, and Linda Sue, who most recently worked as a special education para-professional with the Caro school system, have set a high standard of community involvement for others to emulate.

Richard met Linda Sue in the fall of 1959 at a USO dance in Oklahoma and they married on April 20, 1960. Ever since, Richard and Linda Sue have been committed to each other, their family, their church and their community. In particular, their work on behalf of young people deserves special mention.

While a student at Saginaw Valley State University, Richard developed and completed his own curriculum in the study of child and family services. He later used the knowledge to work with Tuscola County's Juvenile Diversion Program and Safetyville Program. In 1988, Richard graduated with the first DARE training class established for law enforcement officers in Michigan and he now teaches DARE on a part-time basis for the Tuscola County Sheriffs Department.

Linda Sue's commitment to children took a different path after the couple's youngest son acquired learning challenges as a result of traumatic brain injuries suffered as an infant. The experience of raising a child with such challenges prompted Linda Sue to take jobs devoted to educating and advocating for parents with children facing mental and physical challenges. She also has coached volleyball and cheerleading.

The Blakely marriage has been blessed with four remarkable children, Michael, David, Mary and Joshua. While Richard and Linda Sue never lost sight of their family responsibilities, their faith also led them to embrace their Christian duty to others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Richard and Linda Sue Blakely on their retirements and in honoring them for the fullness of their work and volunteer efforts. I am confident they will continue to find many ways to put their God-given talents to good use to benefit others.

ELDERLY HOUSING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative FRANK, I will be introducing the Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act of 2002. The bill is supported by twenty organizations which are members of the Elderly Housing Coalition.

The Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act is designed to build on the progress we made last Congress in expanding affordable housing opportunities for senior citizens, providing supportive services for frail elderly, and helping seniors age in place and maintain their dignity while doing so.

As our federally assisted housing stock ages, many projects owned by non-profits lack the resources for critically needed repairs and modernization. Without access to capital, and

with no federal program designed to provide funds for repair of such projects, we face the prospect of significant numbers of low-income seniors living in federally assisted housing that will continue to deteriorate in physical terms.

Last Congress, we succeeded in enacting legislation to authorize grants to non-profit owned elderly housing projects to make such needed repairs. This was authorized under newly created Section 202b of the housing code, which also authorized grants for conversion of federally assisted elderly housing to assisted living. Unfortunately, Congress has only funded the assisted living portion of this program. Therefore, Section 2 of the legislation being introduced today authorizes \$200 million a year for each of the next five years under the portion of Section 202b which provides for repair grants for non-profit federally assisted elderly housing. Funds would be provided under a competition based on need.

Section 3 of the bill addresses the need for affordable assisted living, by authorizing capital grants to public housing authorities to convert elderly housing units to assisted living. Assisted living provides a broad range of supportive services designed to help seniors with activities of daily living. Provision of these services allow seniors who would otherwise have to move into a nursing home to age in place and maintain their independence of living.

As noted, Congress already provides grants to convert federally assisted elderly housing units to assisted living. It makes just as much sense to make grants to public housing authorities for the same purpose. For larger housing authorities which convert a housing development to assisted living, there is the added benefit that seniors who live in other housing developments and reach the point where they no longer live on their own can move into the assisted living units.

Another important way that we can promote aging in place in our federally assisted and public housing units is through grants to hire and maintain services coordinators. Service coordinators link seniors with community services which are needed to meet their particular needs and maintain independent living. Congress already provides funding for service coordinators for public and assisted housing, but funding levels are inadequate. Section 4 of the bill would authorize funding to renew all expiring service coordinator grants, as well as authorize \$50 million to hire additional service providers in public and assisted housing.

Finally, Section 5 of the bill would create a new pilot program to build "mixed-income" elderly housing units under the Section 202 elderly housing program. This would leverage existing federal funding for subsidized units with private funding for market-based apartments. It would also create economies of scale that make it easier to pay for supportive services, as well as expand socialization opportunities for the seniors who live in these units.

As our population ages and as the problem of housing and health care affordability becomes more acute for our nation's low-income seniors, our policies need to keep pace with these needs. The Elderly Housing Quality Improvement Act is an important component of this effort, and I urge its enactment.