

World War II as a United States Navy Gun-nery Mate. After the war he earned a degree in agriculture. Throughout his life he has shared with high school and college students his knowledge of agriculture. He has been involved with the 4-H Club, Southern Illinois Agri-Business Club, King City Dinner Club, and American Legion Post 141. Ardell is actively involved at Central Christian Church where he serves in numerous ways. He and his wife, Wilma, have also raised two daughters and one son.

I want to congratulate and thank Ardell for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KENNARD CLASSICAL JUNIOR ACADEMY FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by Kennard Classical Junior Academy, in the St. Louis Public Schools District.

In April the school was named one of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by staff and students at Kennard Classical Junior Academy is top flight, considering that some 35 highly competitive public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year.

Chosen by a panel of school administrators and other educators from across the state, all applications were evaluated and winners were selected during the month of April. The 15 schools were formally honored May 7 at a forum in Jefferson City, MO, the State Capital.

To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

Established in 1991, the Gold Star Schools program is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with financial support from State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc.

In the program, elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternating years.

Mr. Speaker, there is something extra special about Kennard Classical Junior Academy. While the school sits in South St. Louis, in the neighboring 3rd Congressional District, I readily share my joy in this achievement because my daughter, Carol, is a student at Kennard and shares in her school's success as well.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you that success in education can be achieved at all levels, and sometimes where it is least expected.

As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the state of Missouri, with three in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the state achieve "Gold Star" status.

At that time we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of

students. If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decision-makers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

RECOGNITION OF REV. LEROY DUDE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Rev. Leroy Dude of Jefferson County, IL. Leroy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Leroy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. For 45 years Reverend Dude served as pastor of West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church. He performed many baptisms, weddings, and funerals; as well as mowing the lawns of others, helping to paint barn roofs, and planting trees. Leroy also has served as trustee and clerk of Shiloh Township. He and his late wife raised five children.

I want to congratulate and thank Leroy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PIERRE LACLEDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING A "GOLD STAR" AWARD

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor excellence personified by a public school in my district—Pierre Laclede Elementary School, in the St. Louis Public Schools District.

In April the school was named one of 15 elementary schools in the State of Missouri to receive the "Gold Star" award for academic excellence. I proudly enter their name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as part of a national celebration of their achievement.

The feat by staff and students at Pierre Laclede Elementary School was one of three schools in my district so honored. Some 35 public schools competed for the awards, for the 2002–2003 academic year.

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To be eligible for the award, schools had to meet academic performance criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education for the "No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools" program.

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As we celebrate 15 Gold Star schools in the State of Missouri, with three in my district alone, I also hope and plan for the day that the majority of schools in the State achieve "Gold Star" status and we can happily raise the academic bar again, for the next generation of students.

If the students of today are a barometer, then the students of the future will most assuredly defy the odds against them and take their place in the modern world as well-educated leaders and decisionmakers solving future problems.

As leaders in government, it is our responsibility to provide them the tools, the gifted teachers and the inspiration to achieve against great odds for even greater successes.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION OF THE SHIRLEY GRALLA GIRLS' ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT BE'ER HAGOLAH INSTITUTES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley Gralla, a life-long supporter of Jewish education around the world, on the dedication of the Shirley Gralla Girls' Elementary School at Be'er Hagolah Institutes in Brooklyn, NY.

As a child in the early 1920s, Shirley Gralla came to America from Eastern Europe in search of the "American Dream." As an adult, she has dedicated her life to making that dream a reality for thousands of Jewish immigrant children. With her husband Milton, Shirley helped transform Be'er Hagolah Institutes into the largest school in the United States designed to attract and educate Jewish children from the former Soviet Union. The Center, which was established in 1979, educates nearly one thousand students from kindergarten through grade 12, and has a policy of turning no child away for financial reasons. In fact, most of the student body receives a full or partial scholarship.

Shirley and Milton have endowed and named schools in Odessa, Ukraine; Kiev, Ukraine; Moscow, Russia, and Jerusalem, Israel. She has initiated a family sponsored endowment of a floor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, for the study of brain disorders. More recently, Shirley helped to create the Brandeis University "Genesis" Program, which invites Jewish teens from around the United States to participate in an enriching Judaic and academic experience at the university's campus in Waltham, Massachusetts. For these and other achievements, Shirley Gralla has been named a Fellow at Brandeis University and a Doctor of Humane Letters by Yeshiva University.

When the need for new facilities at the Be'er Hagolah Institutes became obvious ten years ago, Shirley and Milton rose to the challenge.

Together with Joseph Gruss and the Reichmann family of Toronto, they worked to fund the construction of magnificent new accommodations for the children. On May 28, 2003 Shirley Gralla's commitment to the school will be recognized when the girls' elementary school will be dedicated in her name.

I commend Shirley Gralla for her continued dedication to the field of education and her commitment to improving the lives of Jewish immigrant children. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating Shirley Gralla on the dedication of the Shirley Gralla Girls' Elementary School at Be'er Hagolah Institutes.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the silver anniversary of the Lowell National Historical Park.

Twenty-five years ago, President Jimmy Carter signed into law former Congressman Paul Tsongas' legislation to establish the Lowell Park. At the time, Lowell was a struggling community with an uncertain future. Nevertheless, Tsongas knew that as the cradle of America's Industrial Revolution, Lowell was a dynamo waiting to be harnessed.

Today, the Lowell Park receives nearly three-quarters of a million visitors a year and its revitalized and reused mills are home to high technology companies, a state university, and housing for all income levels.

The Lowell Park has told the story of our Nation's industrial history using world class museum exhibits and innovative programs and events such as canal boat tours; a recreated weave room and interactive exhibits at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum; the Mill Girls and Immigrants exhibit; the annual Lowell Folk Festival, the largest free folk festival in the nation, now in its 17th year; and numerous other heritage-based special events.

Furthermore, as a pioneer in the National Park System (NPS), Lowell has been a model for telling America's industrial history across the Nation, in such places as Dayton, OH, where stories are being told about the history of aviation; in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan about copper mining; in the Monongehela Valley of Pennsylvania about the steel industry; and in Scranton, PA, about railroading.

At the local level, the Lowell Park's contribution to the area's economic development has been immeasurable, and nationally, it is a treasure of America's rich industrial heritage.

The Lowell Park staff has been highly innovative, winning state and national recognition and awards. Here are just a few examples of their achievements:

Partnering with the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Education, the Lowell Park boasts one of the most successful educational programs in the Park Service, with over 65,000 participating school children per year. The National Parks Foundation and the NPS have awarded their Partnership Award to this innovative heritage education program.

Working closely with the city, the park has guided the rehabilitation of nearly 350 historic

buildings in the park's Preservation District, improving the downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. These efforts have been repeatedly recognized, most recently with a National Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a statewide award for "Visionary Leadership in Community Preservation."

Most of the five and a half miles of canals—a National Engineering Landmark—are now accessible to the public via walkways and interpretive signage. The Park's Canalway Program has won a national "Excellence on the Waterfront Award" from the Waterfront Center in Washington, DC.

Its community programming through the Mogan Cultural Center reaches out to underserved populations and over three dozen ethnic communities, earlier generations of whom worked in textile mills.

The community has built upon the presence of the Lowell National Historical Park by attracting museums, sports facilities, an arts community and major festivals to the Preservation District, making Lowell truly a "Destination City." The National Trust for Historic Preservation designated Lowell one of its first "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" in 2000.

New projects are underway in three major mill complexes—Lawrence, Boott and Dutton Yarn—that are generating 400 new market rate apartments and condominiums because Lowell is now a place to which people want to move. Over a dozen other historic buildings in the national park's Preservation District are also in the process of rehabilitation at this time, signaling that the marketplace has responded to the Federal investment.

Congratulations to the Lowell National Historical Park for reaching this auspicious milestone. Its 25th anniversary is as much a celebration of Lowell's rebirth, as it is a stark reminder of the inherent value of preserving our history for future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF FORMER SPEAKER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MATTHEW J. RYAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker I rise today in support of H. Res. 178, a resolution honoring the life and work of Matthew J. Ryan, the former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The basic facts of Speaker Ryan's career in the Pennsylvania House were that he served for over 40 years and that he was the longest serving Speaker in the chamber's history. But as is often the case, the simple facts do little to explain the man or his impact on the lives of his fellow Pennsylvanians—including my own.

Speaker Ryan was an almost legendary figure in Pennsylvania politics. He was a powerful man, to be sure. But more to the point, he was a man who had the trust and confidence of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He was universally respected for his non-partisan style of presiding over the Pennsylvania House, his parliamentary skill and his

formidable debating abilities. And, not least among his qualities, he was a tireless booster of Pennsylvania and her citizens.

I came to know Speaker Ryan when I served under him for two terms in the Pennsylvania House in the early 1990s. Speaker Ryan earned the devotion of freshmen classes session after session because he was accessible, he was genuinely interested in helping new members learn the ropes, and because he was committed to helping all members do their best to better the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Like many of my colleagues in the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, I am personally indebted to Speaker Ryan for his mentorship, his leadership and, above all, his friendship. I shall miss him greatly.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RUTH GALANTER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a close friend, a remarkable public servant and courageous advocate for the people of California—the Honorable Ruth Galanter. Ruth is retiring from the Los Angeles City Council after 16 years of service, where her insights, legislative acumen, and keen intellect will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, there is no magic formula for determining what makes a good public servant, but in Ruth Galanter all the ingredients for success were there. Ruth brought her intelligence, wit, and political skills to bear on behalf of her constituents, her community and countless important causes. And all the people of Los Angeles benefited from her ability to get things done.

It has been my great pleasure to work with Ruth on many of these causes. Just last month, Ruth and I participated in a ceremony with the Army Corps of Engineers commemorating the installation of tidal gates along the Ballona Creek in my district. The gates will help preserve scarce wetlands, restore critical habitat, and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community for years to come.

The project, more than 10 years in the making, is a perfect illustration of a top-notch public servant at the peak of her powers. Ruth Galanter's ability to focus on a particular outcome; to build and nurture diverse coalitions; to bring together all levels of government in support of a common goal; her fundamental and unwavering commitment to a healthy environment—these are the gifts that she unselfishly shared with the community.

Over the years, Ruth's work resulted in the preservation of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and the El Segundo Dunes, and she spearheaded efforts to clean up Santa Monica Bay and conserve the Ballona wetlands. She led the effort to renovate Venice Beach and preserve the Venice Pier.

She has promoted smart growth and sustainable development, advocated for a regional airport system and high-speed rail, and tirelessly promoted water conservation and recycling.

While this chapter of Ruth Galanter's public service may be coming to a close, she leaves