

MALT was the first land trust in the country focused on the protection of agriculture. Under MALT, ranchers are paid for the development rights to their land which they continue to own. Under the agreement, they can live on the property and farm or sell to other farmers, always keeping the land in agriculture. Ellen's energy and commitment were key in MALT's success. She served for many years as a Board Member and Chair, and today the agency, with 32,000 acres preserved, is a national model for developing partnerships to protect agricultural land.

Ellen also understood the importance of educating the public in the value of agriculture. In the early 1970s she began hosting school groups at the ranch. Soon she was welcoming adults, from politicians to budding environmentalists, including visitors from abroad. Along with a good education and a up-close look at cows, Ellen served homemade apple pie. Today visitor programs to West Marin ranches continue to play a key role in informing the public about the role of agriculture in the community.

Ellen cared not only about preserving agriculture but also improving it. Concerned about the quality of food people eat and chemical and hormone additives, Ellen was a leader in developing organic products. She worked with her son Albert, who currently operates the family dairy, to produce the first organic milk west of the Mississippi. The Straus Family Creamery is now well-known for its high quality dairy products and environmental practices.

Numerous awards are a testament to Ellen's leadership. These include the Marin Women's Hall of Fame, the White House "Points of Light," and America's highest honor from the American Farmland Trust, the 1998 Steward of the Land award.

Ellen was also active in the the Greenbelt Alliance, the Eastshore Planning, Group, the Marin Conservation League, the Marin Community Foundation Neighborhood Achievements program, the Environmental Action Committee, the Tomales Bay Advisory Committee, the Environmental Forum, and West Marin Growers.

Ellen was a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by Bill, her husband of 52 years; sister Anneke Prins Simons; her four children: Albert and his wife Jeanne Smithfield; Vivien; Miriam and her husband Alan Berkowitz; and Michael; her four grandsons Isaac, Jonah, Reuben and Eli . . . and 270 milking cows.

Mr. Speaker, Ellen Straus will be missed by so many who shared in her work and her dreams. It is fitting to recognize her visionary efforts in preserving open space in West Marin and helping to create Point Reyes National Seashore that have left a legacy that all can enjoy. Her pioneering work in organic dairying is creating a new future in agriculture. I will always remember Ellen Straus as a wonderful, warm friend and committed steward of the land.

IN MEMORY OF JULIA ABRAMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death

of Julia Abrams, widow of former Army chief of staff General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.

Mrs. Abrams was born in Drummondville, Quebec. She was married to General Abrams in the summer of 1936 after they met while she was a junior at Vassar College and he was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Mrs. Abrams founded the Arlington Ladies in the early 1970's. This group of women attended graveside interment services at Arlington National Cemetery and they also wrote notes of condolence and offered support. She was also honorary first lady of the U.S. Armor Association, a member of the executive council of the National Girl Scouts of America and a member of the National Military Families Association.

Mrs. Abrams accompanied her husband to overseas assignments and lived in Germany and Thailand. While in Thailand, she did volunteer work for Mitradab, a Thai-U.S. foundation chartered for school construction in rural Thailand.

Mr. Speaker, Julia Abrams was truly a lovely lady. She was a role model for Army wives and helped them cope with day to day military life. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to her family: her three sons, Brigadier General Creighton Williams Abrams III, USA, Retired; General John Nelson Abrams, USA, Retired; and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bruce Abrams, USA and her three daughters, Noel Bradley, Jeanne Daley and Elizabeth Doyle.

RECOGNIZING BROWARD COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MRS.
JANE KOSZORU

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Jane Koszoru, the 2003 Broward County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Koszoru was recognized by Broward County for her outstanding professionalism and her consistent drive to teach and encourage Broward's children to achieve high standards.

Jane began her career 30 years ago as a teacher at Driftwood Middle School in Hollywood, Florida. Soon after, she taught at Coral Springs High School, where she stayed for 24 years. She is currently teaching at the College Academy at Broward Community College. The College Academy is an educational program that is provided, free of charge, to certain junior and senior high school students who attend classes with college students. At graduation, many of these students can enter a university with junior status.

Mrs. Koszoru grew up in Broward County and graduated from Nova High School in Davie, Florida. For Jane, teaching is a family tradition. Both her mother and grandmother taught in one-room classrooms in Nebraska. To her certain delight, her daughter is currently majoring in Education at the University of Florida.

Not only has Jane had a positive influence on her daughter, but she has inspired hundreds of her students. They nicknamed her, "Mrs. Work," with good reason, considering she has a reputation for pushing her students

to the best of their ability. Jane believes that children are smarter than they are given credit for and that all they need is someone to help them along. She creates high standards in her classroom and is constantly motivating her students to challenge themselves. Most certainly they are inspired by her own dedication to her career.

Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize Jane Koszoru for her accomplishments and her dedication to the students of Broward County, Florida. We also send our congratulations to her on being named the 2003 Broward County Teacher of the Year.

A SOLDIER'S STORY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the following article from the Shelbyville Daily Union, "A Soldier's Story: Letters Between Shelbyville Men Unite Mothers."

This story first appeared on February 10th. It is a prime example of the human component of our efforts to pursue and promote freedom and liberty.

A SOLDIER'S STORY: LETTERS BETWEEN
SHELBYVILLE MEN UNITE MOTHERS

(By Sharon Mosley)

In 1990, during duty off the coast of Oman, United States Marine Staff Sergeant Keith Boehm wrote a letter to Shelbyville seventh grader Brian Alex Miller telling about his life as part of helicopter crew during the Gulf War. Miller had written to Boehm, a Shelbyville native, as part of a school assignment to write to soldiers.

"You wrote that it is boring when it rains," wrote Boehm. "Well you should try spending six months on a ship." What followed was a detailed description of Boehm's life as an electrician attached to a helicopter crew. While he told of the many mundane hours spent working on the ship, he also shared with his young reader some "pretty exciting stuff" like landing reconnaissance troops and scattering a herd of wild camels with the helicopter.

Boehm's letter became part of Miller's collection of "things"—tucked away in a drawer while Miller grew up, graduated from Shelbyville High School in 1995 and attended the University of Illinois. He is now a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying architecture. With the possibility of another war in the Gulf looming, Miller's mother, Nancy Miller of Shelbyville, found Alex's letter from Boehm and wondered what had happened to the Staff Sergeant from Shelbyville. One phone call later, she found Boehm's mother, Sharon Boehm, also of Shelbyville.

"It is funny that we've both lived here all these years and didn't know each other," Nancy Miller said. "Shelbyville's not that large." Sharon Boehm said Keith is now Warrant Officer Boehm and is still a Marine, currently based in California.

"He was going to retire but after September 11 they froze all the retirements so he's still in," said Sharon Boehm. "He's active in recruiting."

Nancy Miller said she was interested in letters from soldiers in part, because an uncle, also a Marine, was killed at Okinawa during World War II.

"From his letters we were able to get a sense of what he was going through and the

terrible conditions," she said. "He also wrote about how family letters were so important to him." Nancy thinks now there should be more opportunities to write to soldiers.

"I would love to write to those soldiers who are serving now," she said. "To let them know we're thinking of them, we're proud of them, and we support them."

Sharon Boehm said her younger son Keith entered the Marines right after high school graduation in 1980. His older brother, Kevin, was in the Navy at the time.

"I guess he just got in and decided he liked it," Sharon Boehm said. "He had been in ten years when the Gulf War came around and he stayed in afterwards."

On Friday, the two mothers met for the first time and showed each other photos of their sons. Then, Nancy Miller gave Keith Boehm's letter to his mother for safe-keeping.

"I think it was a very thoughtful letter for a soldier in the middle of a very difficult situation to write to a student," she said. "I know I'm proud of my son, and I know she (Sharon Boehm) is proud of her son."

INTRODUCING THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK MEDICARE EQUITY ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Representative LEACH and 18 other colleagues to introduce the Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2003. Senator MIKULSKI is introducing the companion bill in the Senate. This legislation changes a provision in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that omits Certified Social Workers, CSWs, from a list of clinical professionals allowed to directly bill through Medicare, Part B for mental health services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, SNFs. As a result of this omission, CSWs are the only Medicare-authorized mental health providers without this direct billing capability within the SNF setting.

Approximately 20 percent of seniors suffer from mental illness and the prevalence is higher in nursing home residents. These mental disorders interfere with the person's ability to carry out activities of daily living. They include major depression, anxiety, and severe cognitive impairment resulting from Alzheimer's disease. Furthermore, older people have the highest rate of suicide of any age group. Thus, access to mental health services for seniors in nursing homes is very important.

Unfortunately, the inability for CSWs to bill Medicare Part B in SNFs has the effect of excluding these highly skilled professionals from providing mental health services to this population. This is particularly problematic in rural and other medically underserved areas where other Medicare-authorized mental health providers such as psychiatrists and psychologists are often unavailable. The National Association of Social Workers, NASW, strongly supports this access enhancing legislation.

Clinical social workers are highly trained mental health professionals who have participated in the Medicare program since 1987. They constitute the single largest group of mental health providers in the nation. Until BBA'97, clinical social workers were able to bill Medicare directly for providing mental

health services to SNF residents, just like clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. Their current exclusion from this provider list is not defensible.

The ultimate victims of the current regulations are the vulnerable seniors who need mental health care. Mental health treatment works. Alzheimer's patients and their families can benefit enormously from psycho-education and counseling around how to cope and manage behavior problems. Research trials have repeatedly demonstrated that psychotherapy, either alone or in combination with medication, can be effective in treating depression and debilitating anxiety. Clinical social workers provide these important services and do so at a fraction of the cost of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists.

In summary, our legislation changes a billing mechanism that again makes it viable for CSWs to provide mental health services in skilled nursing facilities. As a result, our legislation helps to ensure ease of access to needed mental health services to the many Medicare beneficiaries who reside in skilled nursing facilities. The Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act is a small technical change to existing law, but it would have the effect of improving the lives of Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes who are suffering from mental illness. We urge our colleagues to work with us to enact this important legislation this year.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS R. GOLDEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas R. Golden who died at home in Freestone, CA, on November 3, at the age of 81. Mr. Golden and his partner Jim Kidder had lived in Freestone since 1970, turning the old Freestone Hotel into a center for culture and politics in Western Sonoma County.

Tom Golden was well-known as a patron of the arts, and in this capacity was the friend and collaborator of artists Christo and Jean-Claude whose Running Fence snaked through Sonoma and Marin Counties in 1976, a 24-mile curtain that ran from Cotati to the Pacific Ocean. Tom met the artists during one of the county hearings on the controversial project and immediately became an advocate and supporter. He continued his association for the next 28 years, traveling around the world to help on other Christo projects. During this time, Tom collected works by the couple that became the largest private collection in the world and have now been donated to the Sonoma County Museum.

Tom was born in Indiana and moved to California in the 1930s. He spent time as a Trappist monk, in the Merchant Marine, and as a buyer for a grocery store chain before becoming a real estate broker. He and Jim renovated San Francisco properties before moving to Sonoma County where Tom pressured officials to adopt strict historic preservation laws and served on the Sonoma County Historic Landmark Commission.

He is survived by Kidder, his partner of over 50 years, as well as by his sister Joan

Sonsini, his brother Jim Golden, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Golden was known for the warmth and liveliness he brought to his friendships, his commitment to the culture of his community, and his world-wide collaborations with Christo and Jean-Claude. Many considered him the unofficial mayor of Freestone. It is fitting to honor him today for a life that meant so much to the art world in general and to Sonoma County in particular.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great sadness at the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, its astronauts, and the symbol of global harmony that the *Columbia* and America's globalized space program represents.

On February 1, 2003, the people of the United States, India, the State of Israel and, in fact, all of the people of our world community lost seven heroic patriots.

A patriot is defined as a person who loves, supports and defends his or her country. And these 7 were patriots, but in a different sense; they were global patriots.

Space is, as the old adage goes, the last great frontier. It is a place claimed by no one and everyone. It is a place where people are not labeled by their race, gender or ethnic origin. Rather, it is a place where all are one—simply human beings working together to advance science, peace and unity of mankind.

Their seven global patriots were representing their own country patriotically while also representing the love, support and defense of all of the people and nations of our world. Space is where two former adversaries, the United States and Russia, now work together to build an international space station to advance our shared goals of peace and understanding; where astronauts from all of over the world, of all languages, cultures, and backgrounds, travel to for the purpose of working, sharing, learning and teaching themselves, each other and all of us back on the planet Earth.

They are the global patriots who are dedicated to each other and everyone, flying under their respective national flags yet united by the cloth of freedom and peace. That is why the loss of the *Columbia* is a loss not only to those who lost a relative, a friend, or a national, but also to everyone.

While our space program must be put on hiatus temporarily so that NASA can work with all relevant parties to solve the problems that created this sad situation, we cannot—and should not—stop this exploration of our world and of our better selves. We must as a nation and as a global community continue the path laid down by people like Commander Rick D. Husband, Pilot William C. McCool, Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson, Mission Specialists David M. Brown, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, and Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Colonel Ilan Ramon.