

activist, my good friend, Ms. Rita Balian. Rita is an extraordinary person who gives significant time and personal resources to see that the rate of cancer in the Country of Armenia is significantly reduced.

Rita is the founder and current president of the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC). The Center has provided mammography screening to over 40,000 women and has been credited with saving the lives of nearly 1,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer in Armenia. Started in April 1997 and originally called the Armenian American Mammography University Center (AAMUC), Rita has worked tirelessly to expand the Center to serve an ever increasing clientele. Before Rita established the Wellness Center in Armenia, not a single mammogram had been performed in the entire country. Instead, women discovered breast through obvious pain and a woman's only treatment option was complete mastectomy.

Along with her commitment to the Wellness Center, Rita was closely involved in the rebuilding of Armenia in the aftermath of the devastating 1988 earthquake. During this time, she worked with the Mayor of Alexandria, VA to establish a sister-city program with Alexandria and the Armenian town of Gyumri. She has also worked with her husband Vartkess to promote their passion for education throughout the country.

Despite her generosity and dedication to her causes, Rita seeks no recognition for her work. However, other groups and organizations have seen fit to commend her giving spirit. Last year, she was honored by the United States Agency for International Development's "Outstanding Citizen" award for her work with the Wellness Center. Today, she is the sole recipient of the "Cancer Advocacy Award" as part of the Washington Hospital Center's Spirit of Life Awards Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join the Washington Hospital Center, USAID, and the patients of the Armenian American Wellness Center and recognize the extraordinary efforts of Rita Balian. It is with great pleasure that I speak about her accomplishments today.

#### TRIBUTE TO MYRON "MIKE" GENOVA

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a great citizen from my district. Myron "Mike" Genova of Grand Junction, Colorado recently passed away at the age of sixty-one. As his family and friends mourn Mike's passing, I would like to pay tribute to his memory here today.

Mike was born in San Jose, California in 1942, but later moved with his family to Grand Junction, where he graduated high school and attended Mesa College. Mike and his wife, Doralyn, settled in the community and raised three wonderful sons. Throughout his life, Mike was a dedicated and hard-working man, devoting thirty-seven years to his job dealing with high pressure natural gas for Public Serv-

ice/Xcel Energy. Mike was a National Hot Rod Association and NASCAR racing enthusiast. In his youth, he raced competitively, and remained a devoted race fan throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Genova had a tremendous zeal for life. He was devoted to his family and committed to his work. Everyone who knew Mike liked and respected him. He will be greatly missed, and his legacy will certainly continue to live on. I am honored to join with my colleagues in remembering the life of Mike Genova here today.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BENJAMIN H. ZIMMERMAN

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Professor Benjamin H. Zimmerman of the University of Kansas, who died on September 4th.

Ben Zimmerman was a well known community activist and human rights leader in the city of Lawrence, Kansas, throughout his career with the University of Kansas, where he served as a professor of social welfare for 13 years and was a resident for 25 years. In addition to being active in local, partisan politics, Ben Zimmerman actively supported the causes of civil rights based on race, gender and sexual orientation, child development, equality of economic opportunity, and broader public participation in the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing into the RECORD the obituary for Professor Zimmerman that was carried by the Lawrence Journal-World, as well as an article detailing a few of his many achievements supporting greater social justice in Lawrence, Kansas. All who knew him will continue to be inspired by Ben Zimmerman's devotion to serving his fellow Kansans, and many who never met him will benefit from his energetic, tireless work to expand human rights and individual opportunities for all.

[From the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World,  
Sept. 7, 2003]

BENJAMIN HYMAN ZIMMERMAN

Memorial services for Benjamin Hyman Zimmerman, 85, Lawrence, are pending and will be announced by Warren-McElwain Mortuary. Private inurnment will be in Pioneer Cemetery.

Mr. Zimmerman died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2003, in Venice, Calif.

He was born April 25, 1918, in Syracuse, N.Y., the son of Max and Esther S. (Rudevitsky) Zimmerman.

He was valedictorian of his high school class in Syracuse. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Syracuse University in 1940 and was Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and magna cum laude. After serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, he continued his education in anthropology at Columbia University and received honors as a Gilder Fellow and Social Science Research Fellow. He then did fieldwork in Brazil in anthropology, working toward a doctorate degree.

Mr. Zimmerman served on the staff advising or teaching at several universities, including City College of New York, Columbia University, University of Illinois and Yale University. He had been a research director for United Way, executive director for the Mayor's Commission for Youth Inc. and ex-

ecutive director of Crusade for Opportunity Inc., all in the Syracuse area. He also worked on national programs including the Office of Economic Opportunity Community Action Program as chief of program planning and the Day Care and Child Development Council of America.

He joined Kansas University as an associate professor in 1972 in the school of social welfare, where he worked until he became associate professor emeritus in 1984.

A resident of Lawrence for more than 25 years, Mr. Zimmerman was chairman of the Discrimination Hearing Board and faculty adviser for Gay Services of Kansas. He also helped found the Day Care Coalition of Lawrence and Douglas County, Lawrence Alliance, Freedom Coalition, Douglas County AIDS Project, Simply Equal and Lawrence-Topeka P-FLAG. He also served on the boards of the NAACP, Freedom Coalition and League of Women Voters and co-chaired a committee that monitored the changes in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Survivors include a daughter, Anne Zimmerman, Sherman Oaks, Calif., and his partner, David Scheuer, Lawrence.

The family suggests memorials be held until an organization is chosen.

E-mail condolences may be sent at [www.warrenmcelwain.com](http://www.warrenmcelwain.com), subject: Zimmerman.

[From the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World,  
Sept. 7, 2003]

LONGTIME ACTIVIST DIES AT 85

(By Tim Carpenter)

Ben Zimmerman lived to the age of 85, but never lost the passion of youth when it came to community activism.

"He was quite amazing," said Lynne Green, who, with Zimmerman, co-chaired a campaign to amend the city of Lawrence's discrimination policy. "He had the fire in his belly and the energy of a very young committed activist. He was never an old man."

Zimmerman, a former associate professor of social welfare at Kansas University and longtime Lawrence resident, died Thursday in Venice, Calif.

His fingerprints are on a long list of organizations and projects designed to bring fairness to the lives of unprotected people, said Ann Weick, dean of social welfare at KU.

"He contributed so much to this community in terms of issues of justice and equality," Green said. "He was an eloquent advocate for vulnerable groups and was really a leader in our faculty during the time he was there in focusing attention of the community on pressing issues of the day."

In Lawrence, Zimmerman helped found the Day Care Coalition of Lawrence and Douglas County, Lawrence Alliance, Freedom Coalition, Douglas County AIDS Project, Simply Equal and Lawrence-Topeka P-FLAG.

He was on the boards of the NAACP, Freedom Coalition and League of Women Voters.

Zimmerman was active in social welfare activities in Syracuse, N.Y., before joining the KU faculty in 1972.

It was Zimmerman's role in the mid-1990s campaign to add the words "sexual orientation" to the city's anti-discrimination ordinance that sticks in the memories of many people in Lawrence. He was co-chair with Green of Simply Equal, a coalition of more than 1,000 people that pressed for the change.

In 1995 the City Commission agreed, making Lawrence the first city in Kansas to protect homosexuals from discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodations.

At that time, Zimmerman proclaimed: "Lawrence will not tolerate bigotry."

Mike Silverman, chair of the Freedom Coalition, said Zimmerman was a terrific leader.

"He was the public face of the Freedom Coalition for a good deal of time," Silverman said.

More recently, Zimmerman worked to help convince the Lawrence school board to add "gender identity" to a list of classes for which district employees have protection from discrimination.

#### MORE EXPLANATIONS NEEDED FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I continue to have serious concerns about the activities of the Justice Department under the current Administration.

So, I agree completely with an editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News regarding the recent directive by the Attorney General instructing U.S. Attorneys to limit use of plea bargains and to pursue the most serious possible charges in most cases.

As the editorial notes, "if there is a problem with overly lenient sentences and go-easy prosecutors, the Justice Department has yet to prove it. Ashcroft might be trying to fix a system that isn't broken. The order also could have the dangerous effect of diminishing the discretion of federal judges and prosecutors, a critical point now that more and more offenses that were once purely state law are now federal crimes."

The editorial concludes by saying "Congress should insist that Ashcroft more thoroughly explain why this order is necessary." On that point, I fully concur, and urge the Judiciary Committee to seek such an explanation without delay.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 24, 2003]

#### WHAT PROBLEM IS ASHCROFT SOLVING?

Attorney General John Ashcroft is becoming a prolific writer of memos to the 94 U.S. attorneys.

His latest instructs them to pursue the toughest possible charges and seek the severest sentences possible. And he also ordered them to limit the use of plea bargains. The goal, he said, was to bring uniformity and consistency to federal criminal prosecutions.

By itself, the order is not unreasonable. It reflects the Bush administration's stand on law enforcement, and it returns to a similar order the department issued in 1989 during the administration of Bush senior. The order was relaxed during the Clinton administration. And Ashcroft's order has reasonable exceptions on plea bargaining, for example, to reward cooperation and clear overcrowded dockets.

But if there is a problem with overly lenient sentences and go-easy prosecutors, the Justice Department has yet to prove it. Ashcroft might be trying to fix a system that isn't broken.

The order also could have the dangerous effect of diminishing the discretion of federal judges and prosecutors, a critical point now that more and more offenses that were once purely state law are now federal crimes.

Ashcroft also has told the U.S. attorneys to report judges who impose lighter sentences than called for by federal sentencing guidelines. Yet seeking the toughest charges

with the maximum sentences could also increase the federal judiciary's already backlogged workload. With little possibility of a plea bargain, more defendants now have an incentive to go to trial and then continue the fight through the appeals process.

Congress should insist that Ashcroft more thoroughly explain why this order is necessary.

#### 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAGH REPUBLIC'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic's independence from the Soviet Union.

In 1991, the world underwent dramatic changes as communism was finally overthrown in the Soviet Union and millions of people got their first tastes of democracy. The autumn of that historic year saw many of the former Soviet Republics declare their independence and begin the process of self-governance.

Armenia has made amazing progress in rebuilding a society and a nation in the face of dramatic obstacles. The United States must continue to support Armenia's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and a market economy, and I am proud to stand with Armenia in so doing. While we should look forward to the future, we must never forget the struggles of the Armenian people throughout their history.

I look forward to the strengthening of the diplomatic and economic ties between the United States and Armenia so that the people of both nations can forge an alliance that will never be broken. I offer my sincerest congratulations to Armenia on the anniversary of its independence.

#### TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SAVAGE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Dorothy Savage of Ordway, Colorado has tirelessly worked to promote literacy and the importance of education in Colorado. She is a valued citizen, and I am honored to share her story here today.

A former teacher, Dorothy knows the importance of educating our children. Dorothy volunteers her time to teach elementary school children the joy of reading. She also encourages other seniors to volunteer to tutor children. At 93 years young, Dorothy was recently crowned the Colorado State Fair Silver Queen for 2003, a recognition honoring her courageous outlook on life and youthful spirit. Dorothy has dedicated her reign to promoting literacy among children.

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Savage has selflessly taken the attention that has been given to her

and focused it on a cause that is near to her heart. She has announced that she will dedicate her reign, and the attention that comes with it, to promoting literacy. For years, Dorothy has attempted to share the joy and wonder of reading and writing with the children of her local community. For her enthusiasm and tireless work, I am honored to join with my colleagues in thanking Dorothy Savage. I wish her the best of luck in the future.

#### HONORING ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL PARISH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2003*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the St. Peter's Cathedral Parish in Scranton, Pennsylvania as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary on Sunday, September 28, 2003.

Reverend Monsignor Joseph Quinn announced that a yearlong celebration of events will culminate this Sunday, the anniversary date of the dedication of the Cathedral, with a grand celebration of liturgy in St. Peter's Cathedral.

St. Peter's Cathedral and its parishioners have a storied history. In 1841, the Catholic faith was formally brought to Scranton by James Sullivan, a missionary priest who celebrated the first Mass in a house on Shanty Hill, located in what is now the South Side of the city. Within the next seven years the first Catholic Church had been built in that section and dedicated by Bishop John Kenrick of Baltimore.

In 1853, a small wood frame church was constructed on the corner of Franklin Avenue and Spruce Street in what would become downtown Scranton, to accommodate the growing number of Catholics in the Scranton area. It was named St. Vincent de Paul Church, and later renamed St. Peter's Cathedral. Before its completion, Rev. Moses Whitty became the first pastor of what was to eventually become known as St. Peter's Cathedral. With the establishment of the Diocese of Scranton in 1868, this parish began a history of faith that continues today.

With the rapidly growing number of newly arrived immigrants, it was soon necessary for Father Whitty to search for a site to construct a new church. Three lots in the 300 block of Wyoming Avenue were purchased for the sum of approximately \$2,000, a large sum for its day, at the present site of the Cathedral. In 1865 ground was broken at the corner of Linden Street and Wyoming Avenue for the new church. Some deemed it to be "in the woods" as it was far removed from the primary commercial area of the community then located in the Bellevue and Hyde Park areas of the city.

On March 10, 1867, Bishop James Wood of Philadelphia blessed the new church. The establishment of the new Diocese of Scranton and the installation of its first Bishop followed quickly in 1868 with the consecration of the Most Reverend William O'Hara. A native of Ireland and the former pastor of Saint Patrick's Church in Philadelphia, Bishop O'Hara was to remain as the first head of the new diocese until his death three decades later on February 3, 1899.