economy. Small businesses account for the majority of all new jobs being created daily, and provide opportunities for millions of people to earn a living and provide financial stability for their families. Through Frank, Sr. and Frank, Jr.'s teamwork and guidance, Union Park Automotive Group, Inc. has distinguished itself as a leader amongst small businesses in Delaware by offering a valuable service and maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction.

Through out my years in public service I have consistently counted Delaware's small businesses to be amongst the very best in the Country, and recognition of Union Park Automotive Group, Inc. by the Delaware SBDC Network, in my mind, confirms this belief.

Frank, Sr. and Frank Jr.'s accomplishments and innovative leadership in the small business community have placed Union Park Automotive Group, Inc. in a position to rise above and meet the challenges of the future; I commend them on their receipt of this award and wish them continued success.

HONORING LEON BERMAN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leon Berman, a loving husband and father, a devoted community leader, and a great Floridian. Born in Paris in 1910 to his Jewish parents who escaped Russia, the family soon left France for the United States.

This difficult journey at so young an age marked the beginning of a remarkable life for Leon Berman, one that embodied service to the community and pride for his country. Berman will be best remembered for his unparalleled passion for life. Mr. Berman's daughter, Hollywood Mayor Mara Giulianti said, ''He never wanted to die. He loved life until the very last second.''

A Hollywood resident since the mid-1970s, Berman along with his wife Bertha helped many important causes in South Florida, and Berman is responsible for mobilizing numerous in the community to become involved in local politics. Berman founded the Hills Democratic Club, and was a key member of the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee.

As father to Mayor Mara Giulianti, Berman was her biggest supporter and most ardent campaigner, believing that his tireless work on the campaign trail could mean the difference between her election or defeat. As a highly regarded political activist in the area, Leon Berman was known to support and assist many Democratic and judicial candidates in South Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to stand here today and honor this individual. Berman's devotion to his wife Bertha of 67 years, his commitment to family, and his involvement in the local community truly serve as an example to us all.

Mr. Berman is survived by his wife Bertha, his daughter Mara of Hollywood and daughter Arlene Berman of New York City. Mr. Berman also had two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED A. EDMOND, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend of the Sixth District of New Jersey. Mr. Alfred A. Edmond, Jr. is the Senior Vice President and Editor in Chief of ''Black Enterprise'' Magazine—a premier source of business, investment, entrepreneurship, careers and financial management information for African Americans, as well as other racial and ethnic groups. I am pleased that he is the guest speaker at the Communications-Electronics Command and Fort Monmouth, New Jersey's annual Black History Month Luncheon on February 5, 2003. This year's Black History Month theme is ''The Souls of Black Folk—100th Anniversary'' in commemoration of the publication of the book by the noted author, newspaper and publications editor, historian and professor Dr. W.E.B. Dubois.

Mr. Edmond, a native of Long Branch, New Jersey, who currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, will be honored today for his accomplishments as a business and financial editor and leader. As Senior Vice President and Editor in Chief, Mr. Edmond oversees the research, planning, development and publication of information on entrepreneurship, leadership, careers, professional development and financial management to 4.1 million readers monthly. A talented and highly motivated individual, Mr. Edmond also provides motivational and self-development ''words of wisdom'' to the magazines' readers. An award-winning reporter and editor, Mr. Edmond was selected for three consecutive years (1998–2000) by TJFR Business News Reporter as one of the 100 Most Influential Financial Journalists in the country.

Mr. Edmond attended Long Branch High School where he was inducted into its Distinguished Alumni Academic Hall of Fame in 1996. He graduated in 1983 from Rutgers College at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick with a degree in studio art and a minor in economics. Mr. Edmond led a Steering Committee in establishing the Rutgers University African American Alumni Alliance in 1990. He also served as an adjunct professor in the journalism department at Rutgers University.

Ms. Nancey Jackson-Johnson, a native of Newark, New Jersey who now resides in Freehold, New Jersey will perform as guest soloist and be recognized at this luncheon for her talent and accomplishments. In 1997, Ms. Jackson-Johnson recorded her debut album entitled ''Free, Yes I'm Free.'' With the success of her debut album she released her sophomore project entitled ''Relationship'' in 1999. She was also a 1999 Stella Award Nominee for Contemporary Female Artist of the Year. Ms. Nancey Jackson-Johnson was the guest soloist at the Communications-Electronics Command and Fort Monmouth's Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Observance in January of 2003 and received rave reviews.

On this day we celebrate and honor the distinguished Mr. Alfred A. Edmond for his extensive accomplishments as a business editor and leader. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending him in his dedication to his magazine and its readers.

REMARKS ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PNTR TO ARMENIA

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide permanent normal trade relations to our ally Armenia. I hope colleagues will join me in passing this bill at the earliest opportunity.

Since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia has made great strides in developing a stable democratic and open society. This includes an adherence to the fundamental principle free emigration. I am pleased that Armenia has been found to be in full compliance with the Jackson-Vanik requirements regarding free emigration under title IV of the Trade Act of 1974. The time has now come for Armenia to be graduated from this annual review.

In 2002, despite the dual blockades by Turkey and Azerbaijan, Armenia was ranked 44th on the Heritage Foundation and Wall Street Journal's Index of Economic Freedom. According to this study, Armenia remains the most economically free country in the region, including all countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Armenia is poised to play a pivotal role as a commercial hub and has established a positive legal, regulatory and tax climate for foreign investment, reflecting the country's commitment to open and free trade.

Armenia's strategic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, democratic stability, entrepreneurial spirit and western value system make Armenia an increasingly important partner for the United States in the Caucasus region. Total United States-Armenia bilateral trade for 2002 amounted to more than $134,200,000.

An indication of the progress Armenia has made is its success in pursuing membership in the World Trade Organization. On December 10, 2002, the World Trade Organization's General Assembly unanimously voted to approve Armenia's full accession to the Organization.

Armenia's accession to the WTO is a momentous event for this proud country that has worked hard to enact free-market reforms within a stable democratic framework. However, the full benefits of accession will not be realized unless Permanent Normal Trade Relations is granted to Armenia. Passing this bill will result in tangible benefits for Armenia and the United States and an even stronger relationship between our two countries.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill into law.