

numerous events. He also competes in the National Forensics League and the North Texas Debate Association. Additionally, Ralph volunteers his time to the National Honor Society, an organization that stresses academic achievement and local community involvement, and extracurricular programs such as Science Geek Week, an academic summer camp for local youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate Ralph for his achievement at the 2003 Veterans Day Program and for his continued academic and community involvement.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S,
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
CHURCH IN MOCANAQUA ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to St. Mary's, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania.

The church building itself is a landmark in Northeastern Pennsylvania with a gleaming gold and white steeple, partially encircled by 85-year-old pine trees. Travelers see the gold cross and towering pine trees as they cross the Susquehanna River on Route 11. But more importantly, St. Mary's Parish has a rich history.

St. Mary's, also known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help, has roots that date back to the late 19th Century when 10 Polish and three Slovak mining families petitioned the local coal company for a place to worship.

The coal company gave them an old, abandoned schoolhouse, which became the public place of worship in Mocanaqua.

I would like to recognize the contributions of the 10 founders of St. Mary's Parish: John Bizup, Joseph Bolinski, Joseph Fraj, Charles Kadtko, Frank Kadtko, John Kadtko, John Kollar, John Kowalski, John Strzelczak and Joseph Wywiorski.

I would also like to call the attention of my colleagues to a parishioner named Mrs. Mary Kowalski Stapinski, the only immediate descendant of one of the Parish's founders. Mrs. Stapinski is 97 years old now and the oldest living member of the Parish.

Father J. Signorski celebrated the first Mass in the improvised chapel in 1885. Father Signorski traveled from Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Scranton to perform the Mass.

In 1887, Bishop William O'Hara ordered the parish to become a mission church of St. Stanislaus Parish in Nanticoke. Father Beneventus Gramlewicz ministered to the spiritual needs of the people of Mocanaqua, traveling from St. Stanislaus in Nanticoke each month.

In 1890, the Church was made a mission of St. Adalbert's in Glen Lyon, and its pastor, Monsignor Andrew Zychowicz, traveled to Mocanaqua once each month to celebrate Mass at St. Mary's. As the years went on, Monsignor Zychowicz and his parishioners saw the need for a larger place of worship be-

cause the number of families there had grown so rapidly.

Parishioners began a fundraising drive for a new church in 1897. They raised \$400, and it is believed that this was the start of the annual Church picnic, which has since become a popular and beloved tradition.

The parish sought to purchase land for their fundraiser. The coal company sold parishioners a piece of land for \$1 because it wanted to keep the cheap labor pool content. The men of the parish leveled the land, cleared boulders, and dug a well. The park was named Sobieski Park and was formally dedicated in 1933.

Several years ago, the Library of Congress asked Members of Congress to submit nominations for the Local Legacies Project of the American Folklife Center. The Library asked for documentation of at least one significant cultural event or tradition that is important to each district or state, and I was more than happy to nominate St. Mary's Annual Homecoming Picnic. St. Mary's annual picnic is a celebration of ethnic heritage and diversity in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Father Stanislaus Siedlicki of Glen Lyon succeeded Monsignor Zychowicz, who was made pastor of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Scranton. Construction of a new church building began in 1904. The church was located near Mocanaqua's current underpass and near the railroad.

In a tragic accident several years later, the church burned to the ground when a spark from a passing locomotive ignited the wooden structure on fire. However, the parishioners were not deterred. They again raised money for a new church, which was dedicated in 1914 at its present site, safely out of reach from the railroad.

The Rev. Andrew Smeltz took over ministering to St. Mary's, which was still a Mission Church, in 1908. In 1910, the members of the Mission felt that they deserved a full-time pastor. Bishop Michael Hoban appointed the parish's first resident pastor, the Rev. Felix Nowak, on Dec. 10, 1910.

During this time, coal miners were fighting for better wages. Many of them had left their wives and children in Europe while they came to America to earn the sufficient money to bring their families to Mocanaqua.

The miners threatened the West End Coal Company that they would quit and return to Europe if their wages were not raised. Not only were their wages raised, but they also successfully negotiated for the coal company to arrange passage for their families to come to America.

The provision of land for a cemetery was also provided in the negotiations. The first parishioner to be laid to rest in the cemetery was Basil Petrow, who lost his life at the age of 30 while working in the coal mines.

At this time I would like to pay tribute to 10 heroic servicemen from St. Mary's Parish who lost their lives during World War II and the Korean War: Michael Giunta, Edward Kadlubowski, Joseph Kalinowski, Edward Matak, Chester Okoneski, John Orzechowski, Vincent Yamilkoski, Michael Yaszczewski, John Zak, Stanley Zakrzewski.

By 1954—the year of the church's Golden Jubilee—the St. Mary's Parish had grown to include more than 400 families.

In 1976, to show their patriotism during our nation's bicentennial, the parishioners re-

moved the historic bronze church bell which had been cast in 1914 from the steeple and placed it on permanent display in the Church yard. A bronze plaque marks the site.

Pope John Paul II has given St. Mary's Parish a special Apostolic Blessing on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. The Library of Congress has also recognized the occasion with a congratulatory letter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to St. Mary's Parish in Mocanaqua. I am honored to represent a parish with such long-standing roots in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO ZONTA INTER-
NATIONAL, PASADENA CHAPTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zonta Club of Pasadena and the women who have shaped the club into the influential force that it is today in the greater Pasadena area.

Zonta International was established in 1919 in New York. Members were among the first generation of college-educated women, the first generation of North American women to vote, and a part of the growing legion of women entering the workforce. Currently, there are more than 33,000 members of Zonta Clubs in 67 countries. Their efforts are directed at increasing women's access to education and healthcare, preventing violence against women, and expanding economic self-sufficiency, as well as international service projects dedicated to world peace.

Founded in 1929, Zonta Club of Pasadena envisioned a strong network that would help women reach their rightful place in the professional world. Addressing the needs of women and children in our community, Zonta Club of Pasadena contributes volunteer time and financial support to Women at Work, Wellness Community-Foothills, Huntington Memorial Hospital, Young & Healthy, Union Station Foundation, Day One, the Pasadena Unified School District, and numerous other organizations.

In recognition of their seventy-fifth anniversary, Zonta Club of Pasadena will honor 20 women who have contributed significantly to the work of Zonta. These outstanding women are civic, educational, political and business leaders in the community, who have also provided strong leadership within the Zonta organization. The honorees are: Andrea Beal, Suzanne Burger, Beth Calleton, Priscilla Gamb, Shirley Gold, Lucy Guernsey, Ann Hight, Sue Miele, Regenia Moses, Katie Nack, Marilynn Penny, Betty-Jean Prosser, Anne Pursel, Pat Reynolds-Christianson, Lacreata Scott, Patricia Vick, Mildred Wardlow, Marge Wyatt, Harriet Zimney, and Carol Zoeller.

It is my distinct honor to ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Zonta Club of Pasadena's seventy-five years of service and support to women and children in the 29th Congressional District.

HONORING CHARLES EDWARD
JOHNSON, SR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of an extraordinary man, Charles "Chuck" Johnson of Oakland, California. Chuck was a prominent figure in the communications industry for over 40 years, and worked tirelessly in that capacity not only to promote equality and social justice, but to keep print and broadcast media affordable and accessible to all. Chuck passed away on July 27, 2004 after succumbing to cancer, and is survived by his son, Charles Johnson, Jr.

Chuck was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 21, 1938. After growing up in Missouri, he began his career in radio in 1956. He later joined the Air Force, and following his service time, returned to working full time in the entertainment industry, where he would become the first African American to reach several technological and professional milestones. In 1959, Chuck created the first Black teen dance show, and in the early 1960s, became the first African American not only to host a #1 nightly Top 40 radio show, but also to buy and sell FM radio stations. In 1966, he began producing the nationally syndicated SoulTime USA, and would move on to establish the first Black movie distribution company to promote major Black movies. In 1978, he would become the first African American to operate a 24-hour commercial lease access television station, the Soulbeat Television Network, airing music videos and community programming in Oakland. Soulbeat is presently celebrating 22 years of continuous programming, and has not only added live interactive talk shows to its programming lineup, but in 1998 became the first network ever to broadcast full-time live streaming television to the world over the internet.

In addition to the pioneering role Chuck played in the communications industry, he was an active member of the civil rights movement throughout his life. He not only served as the president of the local NAACP Chapter in Southern California in the 1960s, but as the West Coast Chapter President of the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers, was a leader in the movement to hire the first Black radio announcers in Los Angeles. Furthermore, his founding of Soulbeat in Oakland was historic not only because he was the first African American to establish such a station, but because Soulbeat was and continues to be a vehicle for the advancement of free speech and social equality.

On August 2, 2004, Chuck's friends and family gathered to honor his extraordinary life and the impact that his work had on the lives of those around him. Chuck was a truly unique individual not only because of the record of historic achievements that marked his career, but because of his commitment to using his voice to improve the lives of the people in his community and beyond. His legacy will continue far into the future, and his memory will be treasured by all who knew him. The Ninth Congressional District salutes Chuck Johnson for the contributions he made to Oakland, the East Bay, and our entire country.

HONORING LINDA WHITE-EPPS
FOR HER LIFETIME OF OUT-
STANDING SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and great admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman whose endless energy and dedication touched the lives of all who knew her and many who did not. It has been one year since Linda White-Epps was taken from her family, friends, and community after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. A tireless advocate and inspiring soul, Linda's message of strength and support continues through the organization she founded, Sister's Journey.

After losing an aunt as well as another significant person in her life to cancer and being diagnosed with breast cancer herself, Linda made it her life's purpose to ensure that no woman be "alone" in the battle with breast cancer. Linda always held a strong belief in the importance of sharing her story with others—to hide it was to allow the disease to win. She began Sister's Journey, a support group for women of color surviving breast cancer. She went on to create an annual calendar with each month highlighting the story of a survivor. The calendar serves a tangible and visible source of encouragement—sending a message of hope to other woman striving for survivorship.

I had many opportunities to work with Linda over the years and I was always in awe of her constant energy and unwavering commitment to her cause. She strongly believed in the need for awareness, education, and outreach to those diagnosed with breast cancer and their loved ones. Linda brought the battle to the community and to Washington. The American Cancer Society was just one of the many organizations for which Linda volunteered her time. In fact, she served as a lobbyist for the organization in Washington, highlighting the concerns of Connecticut and making sure legislators knew just how vital increased funding for research and education are—not only to those fighting breast cancer, but for those who had survived as well. Linda was also responsible for organizing the first Relay for Life event in Hamden, Connecticut—now an annual event that serves as one of the largest fundraisers for the American Cancer Society.

Linda's accomplishments and advocacy did not go unrecognized. Throughout her life she was honored with a myriad of awards and acknowledgments. Perhaps the most prestigious of these many accolades was when Linda was recognized with the "Points of Light Award" in 2002. Bestowed by the President of the United States, this special honor celebrates the success of volunteers and highlights the impact that individuals have on their communities. For Linda, this was a most fitting tribute. Her efforts have left an indelible mark on our community and one cannot say enough about the difference she has made in the lives of others.

This year marks the 6th Anniversary of the "Pink Tea", an annual "Celebration of Survivorship," where the Sister's Journey Calendar has traditionally been unveiled. This year's event will indeed be special as members remember Linda's efforts and honor her memory

by continuing her work. I am proud to join her mother, Phyllis White; her children, Dawn and George; her grandchildren, Dominique and Donovan; family, friends, and colleagues in honoring Linda White-Epps for her outstanding service and invaluable contributions to our community. Linda's legacy will continue to inspire and support those most in need.

HONORING JOHN BURTON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, with great respect, admiration, and affection, I am honored to salute John Burton for 40 years of fighting for human rights and social justice for the American people. John has been my mentor, my ally, and my dear friend for many years and throughout my time in Congress. Although term limits have now led John to continue his fight in new arenas, his leadership as President pro tempore of the California State Senate will long be recognized as a powerful force in the fight against poverty and in the fight for fairness for all.

The Burton name has occupied a revered place in California politics for decades, and John has served with great integrity in the Congress and in the California State Legislature. The vast landscape of John Burton's leadership includes legislative successes to protect our workers, to provide health care to all, to ensure equal rights for minorities, to preserve our environment, and to improve education. That landscape has been shaped by his intellect, his conviction, his humor, his sensitivity, and his ability to capture hearts, even those of his opponents.

One of John's first acts upon returning to the state legislature was to introduce a bill outlawing poverty. This was typical Burton style—deep caring mixed with a brash reminder of our Nation's core value to care for those in greatest need. John displayed this fundamental commitment to justice recently when he spoke at a Building and Construction Trades Convention and stated, "It is up to you and me and others like us to make sure that when people are asking for a job, that job has decent wages, decent working conditions, and decent benefits and that workers get their fair share of the wealth of this Nation. It's the just thing to do, it's due you, and we're going to help you fight to get what is your due."

Sadly, John's political career has been marked by tragedy—the loss of his brother, Congressman Philip Burton, at the early age of 56 and the assassination of one of his dearest friends, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone at age 49. On the murder of Mayor Moscone, John wrote: "Those senseless events brought me face to face with grief, making me realize that friends are precious and life is all too short. We should remember to take time from our own activities to spend more time with those we care about, rather than so totally immerse ourselves in our jobs and businesses that we are always too busy to relate to people."

John's life has also been marked by great fulfillment—not only in his illustrious political career, but also in his family life. John's daughter, Kimiko Burton Cruz, is the light of