

being of the Assyrian people. In December of 1975, it was incorporated under the State laws of California as a nonprofit education and public benefit organization. Bet-Nahrain established and inaugurated the world's first ever Assyrian radio station, KBES 89.5 FM in 1979, and KBSV TV 23, the world's first Assyrian television broadcasting station, in Ceres in 1996. Their intent is to use their technology to reach millions of people, Assyrian and non-Assyrian, with their message and information.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my best to the Bet-Nahrain and the Assyrian community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Assyrian community many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BERTHA WOODARD JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the unsung American heroes. Every day in this great Nation, there are people who work hard, raise their families and contribute to the fabric of the community. They are largely unrecognized in these ivy-covered halls and their names are unknown. Today, I would like to raise my voice to honor one of the unsung heroes of Brooklyn, NY.

Mrs. Bertha A. Woodard Johnson is the daughter of the late Sadie Woodard and Richard Wallace. She was born in Chester, SC, and reared by her mother and grandmother.

Bertha spent a life providing services for the needy, with a particular vocation of serving children and the elderly. She has worked tirelessly to improve their quality of life through active participation and personal generous donations of her time and talent. This passion to help people led her to become a caregiver and nurse for over 45 years. Before retiring in 1990, she received numerous awards and accolades for her dedicated service, including "Nurse of the Year."

Bertha has served the community through her leadership activities in her church and mentoring activities with young people. In addition to her active involvement in the community, Bertha, the wife of Charlie C. Johnson, mother of five children, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, has been a strong pillar of her family.

Mr. Speaker, Bertha Woodard Johnson has demonstrated great dedication in her life to her family, devotion to her patients and commitment to the people of Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES CARRUTHERS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to COL James Carruthers, na-

tive of Avoca, in my district, who will be honored with the W. Francis Swingle Award for service at the annual dinner of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Lackawanna County, on March 17, 2004.

Colonel Carruthers is the president of the Millersburg Military Institute in Kentucky.

Colonel Carruthers became the 14th president of the Millersburg Military Institute, known as the Military School of Kentucky, in July. Colonel Carruthers began his career as a Marine in 1968 and saw action in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion 3rd Marines.

Colonel Carruthers served as a field artillery officer, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Guard Force in London, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Long Island, NY, manpower plans and policy officer at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, and operations officer, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA.

After his extensive career in the Marines, Colonel Carruthers retired from the military and served as the human resources director for the Benton Foundry in Benton. Colonel Carruthers has also held various leadership positions with Citation Corp, which is headquartered in Alabama.

Prior to his current position, the retired colonel was vice president for enrollment at Marion Military Institute in Alabama.

Colonel Carruthers is married to the former Lanette Jenkins of Worden, IL. The couple has two children, Heather Ann Hall of Burke, VA, and Tyler, a student at Florida State University, and one grandchild, Aidan Patrick Hall.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a charitable and fraternal organization established on March 17, 1913. The Friendly Sons honors the historic ties between the United States and Ireland. Membership dues, contributions and fundraisers support the organization's scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the Friendly Sons today in congratulating Colonel Carruthers.

A TRIBUTE TO AIDA YEGHIAZARIAN, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments of our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Aida Yeghiazarian. Ms. Yeghiazarian's passion for community service, especially in the area of education, has made our community a better place in which to live.

Aida Yeghiazarian was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1955. After attending Reza Shah High School, she took accounting courses at a local college for 1 year. Although her studies in Iran were interrupted when she and her family immigrated to the United States in 1977, Aida took many courses in the United States over

the next few years, including management of commercial properties, business and real estate law, and English.

In 1979, Aida married her husband, Vahe, and they moved to Glendale. In 1980, Aida obtained her real estate license and, with her husband, bought a franchise of the Re/Max Real Estate Agency. They have two daughters, Sevan and Anie.

While maintaining a full-time career, Aida volunteered at all of her daughters' schools, including the Verdugo Gymnastics School, Flintridge Preparatory School, the Champion Gymnastics School and Van Nuys Gymnastics Olympica. Formerly active in the PTAs of Tufenkian Pre-school and Chamlian Armenian School, she still assists Chamlian School in its fund-raising efforts.

Aida Yeghiazarian has been on the Glendale Board of Realtors for over 24 years, serving on their commercial real estate advisory committee. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors and a member of the California Association of Realtors. Because of her real estate experience, Aida feels fortunate to be able to help financially struggling families with their financial planning, often by working without commission.

Ms. Yeghiazarian spearheaded the successful fund-raising campaign for the Glendale Police Memorial Fund, raising over \$35,000. She is a former president and 12-year board member of the Armenian Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists Armenian students with scholarships, teacher training, and school restoration. Aida serves on the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region, is a member of Homenetmen, and the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Aida Yeghiazarian. The entire community joins me in thanking Aida Yeghiazarian for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

HONORING ANN MARIE SUDDUTH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Marie Sudduth for 37 years of dedicated service to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ann will retire from the Fresno HUD Office on April 2 and will be honored at an event held in California.

Ann was recruited by HUD for clerical work at the D.C. office from her high school in the coal mining mountains of West Virginia. From 1967 to 1978, she served as a Secretary/Stenographer in the Single Family Division of HUD. Ann then became the Personal Assistant to the Director for Property Disposition and supervised all clerical staff. In 1980, she was promoted to Mortgage Service Specialist, where she served until 1986. In just 6 years she was appointed Chief of the Insured Servicing Branch and was responsible for national oversight of the policy procedures governing the service of approximately 6 million FHA-insured mortgages. In 1994, Ms. Sudduth was

selected as Director of Single Family Property Disposition Division. Ann has also served as senior Community Builder of Field Office Director for the Fresno Office, whose jurisdiction includes the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

Ms. Sudduth has received numerous awards for her work including the Federal Housing Commissioner's Award. She has supervised the expansion of the Continuum of Care throughout the region, building the capacity of faith and community-based organizations to carry out housing and community development programs. Ann has distinguished herself by improving upon her abilities to serve by continuing educational opportunities and through her hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Marie Sudduth upon her retirement from public service. Although her career in public service has ended, her contributions will be felt for generations to come. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ann a fulfilling retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN AND
TERRI KEVELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Stephen and Terri Kevelson, who are being honored by the esteemed Young Israel of Avenue J on the occasion of the synagogue's 25th Annual Dinner.

The Young Israel of Avenue J has provided great leadership for both the 10th Congressional District and for all New Yorkers. I stand today to acknowledge two people on whose backs the foundation and ideology of this great institution has persevered. Our city and our nation need demonstrations of kindness, strength, and commitment to the success of our local communities, and the Kevelsons have provided us with just that.

The Kevelsons have a unique understanding of both the spiritual and communal needs of the residents of the 10th Congressional District, and have used that knowledge in ways that provide us not only the functional benefits of their work, but also a shining example of what community dedication truly means. From their work in forwarding the Flatbush Mikva, to their involvement with Chaim Berlin and the Young Israel movement the Kevelson's has constantly and consistently served our community above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the halls of Congress examples of individuals and organizations who have selflessly devoted their existence to the betterment of those around them. I congratulate both the Young Israel of Avenue J and Stephen and Terri Kevelson on this joyous occasion, and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
FRANK FULLER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Frank Fuller, native of Avoca, in my district, who will be honored as the "Man of the Year" at the annual dinner of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Lackawanna County, on March 17, 2004.

Lieutenant Fuller is a Navy veteran who recently completed the highlighted assignment of his career as director of Presidential food services at the White House, serving under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Lieutenant Fuller was responsible for executive dining services in the West Wing, Oval Office, Cabinet Room and senior staff dining rooms. He also directed worldwide food service security for the president.

Prior to his White House assignment, Lieutenant Fuller established the Mid-Atlantic Regional Food Service Office in Norfolk, VA. He directed the consolidation and operation of eight dining facilities and was responsible for 600 staff members who served 12,000 meals daily.

Lieutenant Fuller served as the food service director on a variety of naval ships and shore stations and led his teams to win the Navy's most prestigious awards for culinary service.

Lieutenant Fuller is married to the former Mary Teresa Poillon of Lancaster. They have two sons, Patrick and Brendan, and they reside in Alexandria, VA.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a charitable and fraternal organization established on March 17, 1913. The Friendly Sons honors the historic ties between the United States and Ireland. Membership dues, contributions and fundraisers support the organization's scholarship program.

Northeastern Pennsylvania is proud of the service of one of its own.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Friendly Sons today in congratulating Lieutenant Fuller.

A TRIBUTE TO ROMELIA
KIRKALDY, 29TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments of our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Romelia Kirkaldy. Ms. Kirkaldy's commitment to comforting others and advocating for those in need has made our community a better place in which to live.

Romelia Kirkaldy was born in Colon, Republic of Panama. She married a military service-

man and lived in Panama for many years. She has four children, Ricardo, Luis, William, and Terrence; and 11 grandchildren.

In 1966, Romelia immigrated to Chicago and worked as a nurse's assistant for 25 years with the Illinois Masonic Center in the neonatal/newborn nursery. She gave thousands of newborn babies comfort during their first hours in the world.

Upon her retirement in 1990, Ms. Kirkaldy moved to Pasadena, California. She began her community service career by volunteering for the Truancy Department of Pasadena, where she checked up on children who were absent from school. For many years, Romelia also participated with Family Friends, where she mentored disabled children and their families.

Over 14 years ago, Romelia became active with the Pasadena Senior Center as a senior lay advocate where she assisted senior citizens with information and referrals and helped to organize group outings and tours. Romelia considers this effort to be one of the most important efforts in her life and continues to volunteer at the center, staffing the front desk and telephones.

In 1992, Romelia was appointed to the Accessibility and Disability Commission for the City of Pasadena and served for 6 years, serving as chair for one term. For the last 7 years, she has been staffing the information kiosk at Pasadena City Hall and has been a volunteer for the annual Latino History Parade in Pasadena. As a lay Eucharistic minister at St. Phillip the Apostle Church, Romelia ministers to the sick and infirm. In addition to her many volunteer activities, Romelia works at the Altadena Traffic School in Altadena, California.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Romelia Kirkaldy. The entire community joins me in thanking Romelia Kirkaldy for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISE SCOTT
MCNEIL AND JAMES MCNEIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Louise and James McNeil in recognition of their 75th wedding anniversary, celebrated December 27, 2003.

Louise and James McNeil, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, were married on December 5, 1928. They have been blessed with 12 children, 1 adopted son, 48 grandchildren, 76 great grandchildren, and 29 great-great grandchildren.

James still works for his real estate business, McNeil & Sons Real Estate Investments, managing several rental properties that he owns. He started the company in 1960.

He started working as a sharecropper and, in 1942, he had saved enough money to buy his first farm, a 25-acre tract. Later that year, James bought another 62 acres with a house on it. He now owns a 160-acre farm. Additionally, Louise has always been heralded as an inspiration for her family.