

An esteemed member of the community, Mr. Marzullo served as a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration at California State University, San Bernardino, where he has lectured and led graduate seminars in Land Use Planning, Public Policy Analysis and Economic Development, and Local Development Finance. He also became a member of the Board of Directors and later the President of the Board for the Bethlehem House, a shelter and program for victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, for more than two decades, Emil Marzullo has served the people of San Bernardino County well in a variety of important capacities, and the county will benefit from his accomplishments for many generations to come. Please join me in thanking him for his dedicated public service, and wishing him well as he takes a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MCCOOL

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen; I am proud to recognize Larry Allen McCool in the Congress. His recent death was a great loss to his community, his family, his state and this nation.

Larry McCool was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi. He earned an education degree and taught history in a Jackson, MS, high school. When he wasn't teaching, he traveled around the country buying and selling unusual antiques and collectibles. Mr. McCool ended his teaching career in the early 1970s to pursue his own dreams and opened a shop in Jackson where he realized his potential in appraising antiques.

A four-time president of the Mississippi Auctioneers Association and president of the National Auctioneer's Association (NAA), Mr. McCool was a self-taught auctioneer who became one of the industry's foremost authorities on the appraisal and sale of antiques, fine arts and antebellum real estate. He continually pushed NAA to improve educational programs, increase its membership and revenues, and, most importantly, widen the charities NAA supported.

Despite his drive and dedication to auctioneering, Mr. McCool will be most remembered for his passion for charity auctions. On the day of his passing, he had planned to conduct an auction for a children's cancer fund, one of the many charities for which he raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for more than 25 years. Mr. McCool was named honorary chairman for the Hinds County chapter of the American Cancer Society, worked for the American Heart Association and volunteered his time to numerous charitable groups over the years.

On behalf of Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. McCool's family and gratitude for the countless hours he spent serving others. He leaves a legacy of accomplishment in the industry as well as inspiring memories for those who knew him.

HONORING THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to honor the efforts of the Department of Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars. In March 2003, this group launched the "Hidden Heroes" project to provide direct support to the families of deployed Missouri National Guardsmen and Reservists.

The "Hidden Heroes" program has made a real difference. In the first year of the program, families have been guests at dinners, banquets, and picnics. At the Christmas parties for the Air Force Reserve 442nd Central Postal Directory and the Army National Guard 1139th MPs, hundreds of toys were provided to the children of those serving. The Department of Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars has also provided concert and sporting event tickets to family members. The efforts have helped to lift the spirits of these families.

The "Hidden Heroes" program has also helped to provide these families with food and other household products. When National Guard and Reserve members are deployed, their family incomes often fall by fifty percent or more. The Armories across Missouri participating in this pantry program are alleviating some of the financial strain experienced by these families that have already given so much.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars have identified a need and are rallying resources to address it. I am sure my fellow Members will join me in thanking them for the service they continue to offer to this country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERVITUDE AND EMANCIPATION ARCHIVAL RESEARCH CLEARING HOUSE (SEARCH) ACT OF 2004

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearing House (SEARCH) Act of 2004, companion legislation to S. 1292 sponsored by Senator LANDRIEU. This bill would authorize the creation of a national database of servitude and emancipation records within the National Archives.

For most Americans, researching their genealogical history involves searching through municipal birth, death, and marriage records—most of which have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African Americans in the United States face a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research.

Current records of emancipation and slavery are frequently inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and inadequately preserved from decay. Instead of looking up wills, land deeds, birth and death certificates, and other traditional genealogical research documents, African Ameri-

cans must often try to identify the name of former slave owners, hoping that the owners kept records of pertinent information such as births and deaths.

Although some states and localities have undertaken efforts to collect these documents with varying degrees of success, there is no national effort to preserve these pieces of public and personal history or to make them readily and easily accessible to all Americans. While entities like Howard University and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Library have extensive African American archives, the SEARCH Act would create a centralized database for these historic records. This database would be administered by the Archivist of the United States as part of the National Archives.

Finally, the SEARCH Act would also authorize funding for States, colleges, and universities, to preserve, catalogue, as well as index servitude and emancipation records locally. It would make available up to \$5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish and maintain the national database, as well as \$5 million in grants for States and academic institutions to conserve local records of servitude and emancipation.

I believe that this legislation will be a very important step in resurrecting the rich history of African Americans and the vital role that they played in building America. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the SEARCH Act as not only a means by which their constituents can trace their lineage, but also as a means by which we can preserve historically comprehensive and accurate information for generations to come.

IN MEMORY OF ELIEZER SCHWARTZ

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Eliezer Schwartz, and in anticipation of the Elie Schwartz Memorial Baldwin Classic Basketball game being held in his honor on Sunday, April 11.

I never had the opportunity to meet Elie, but the number of relatives, friends, and community members who will attend the basketball game represent a testament to the special young man he was. The son of Rabbi Gershon Schwartz and Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Elie was raised with a strong, unequivocal connection to the Jewish community. From his involvement in United Synagogue Youth, to his dedication to Israel, to his education at Brandeis University, Elie was a favorite among both his peers and adults.

Ten years ago, Elie was the driving force behind the Baldwin Classic, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament that became an annual event. It is quite appropriate that this year's game, the first since Elie's passing in November, be held in his honor, and the proceeds benefit the newly established Eliezer Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund of the METNY Region of USY.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions Elie made to our community in his short lifetime will not be forgotten. I know this year's Baldwin Classic

will be a very special day, and I applaud those working hard to keep Elie's ideals and goals instilled in their minds and hearts.

IN HONOR OF TOM ADAMS' FORTY
YEARS OF TEACHING AT ST.
MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a teaching legend at St. Mark's School of Texas. I am proud to represent St. Mark's in Congress. I am very familiar with the high excellence of education that St. Mark's provides to young men as my oldest son currently attends St. Mark's, and one of my staffers is also an alumnus of the school.

St. Mark's would not be nearly as successful an institution if it weren't for the scholarly teaching of Thomas S. Adams. Tom Adams is celebrating his 40th year of teaching at St. Mark's, and I honor him for his four decades of service to the school and the countless young men that have benefited from his teaching and insight.

Tom Adams currently serves as the Cecil and Ida Green Master Teaching Chair in History. He has held this position since 1980, and he has served as the Senior Master of the faculty from 1997–2002. Tom currently teaches U.S. History, Art History, and Modern World History.

In addition to his distinguished teaching in the classroom, Tom has coached the St. Mark's baseball team to twelve Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC) Championships. In addition to his success with the baseball team, Coach Adams led the St. Mark's basketball team to six SPC Championships.

Tom Adams was appointed to the St. Mark's faculty on July 1, 1961 after receiving his B.A. from Princeton University and his M.A. from Harvard University. Adams is a lasting icon at St. Mark's, and I admire him for continuing to teach even after reaching his 40-year milestone. I wish Tom Adams, and the St. Mark's community all the best.

LEGISLATION TO MAKE BONUS DE-
PRECIATION A PERMANENT
PART OF OUR TAX CODE

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressmen NEAL, UPTON, ENGLISH, TIAHRT and I have introduced legislation to make bonus depreciation a permanent part of our tax code. I appreciate the opportunity to make a statement on this important legislation.

As you know, the issue of bonus depreciation has been an important one over the past 2 years. On March 9, 2002, President Bush signed the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 into law. This law allows businesses to accelerate the depreciation of equipment they purchase between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2004. All equipment with a depreciable life of 20 years and

under qualifies for the bonus depreciation treatment. Originally they were entitled to get a bonus of 30 percent in the first year. Before this law, a \$1000 computer would be depreciated equally over 5 years. \$200 each year. With this change, businesses get \$175 in the first year, plus a 30 percent bonus. So, they depreciate \$475 in the first year and the remaining \$520 over the next 4 years (\$175 each year for 4 years).

H.R. 2, the 2003 tax cut law, included a provision to increase bonus depreciation to 50 percent through December 31, 2004. This provision became law in June 2003. This has helped stimulate the economy and create new jobs for Americans that are out of work.

Just today, the U.S. Department of Labor released statistics that prove that bonus depreciation and other tax cuts are working. Bonus depreciation is helping to bring jobs back to the U.S. economy and put American workers back to work. The Labor Department announcement indicates that the U.S. economy created 308,000 new jobs in March, this is the fastest monthly job growth since April 2000. The latest data show that more than 500,000 new jobs have been created in the first three months of 2004.

In another example, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association recently told me that in the first 5 months after enactment of the bonus depreciation provision sales of general aviation airplanes increased 45 percent.

Mr. Speaker, bonus depreciation and the other tax cuts are working. Our economy is rebounding. We need to make bonus depreciation and the other tax cuts permanent in our tax code. When making business decisions, companies need to know for sure that they can rely on these tax provisions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

COMMENDING SEAN BUTLER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievement of an outstanding young man, Sean Butler. Through hard work and dedication he has achieved his goal, a goal that few young men have the courage, dedication, and character to achieve.

Sean's dedication has given him the title of Eagle Scout within the Boy Scouts of America. This program has long been recognized as a program that builds strong minds upon sound morals. Achieving an Eagle Scout status shows that this young man has participated in projects and activities that will help him become a strong man in life. It has shown him how to set reasonable and accomplishable goals, a value that will put him considerably ahead of his peers.

The Boy Scouts of America is a great building block for our youth and it is quite an achievement, with so many other activities available, for young men to receive their Eagle Scout Award. It is my hope that he will hold this award as a special honor; to always remember the principles and teachings he has learned, and to use this award as a tool in his future.

THE GREATER TEXARKANA
PEOPLES' CLINIC

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic on its grand opening. The clinic, whose motto is Good Health for All, was established to provide free, quality health care to qualifying residents in the greater Texarkana area, which includes Miller (Arkansas) and Bowie (Texas) Counties, who do not have access to basic medical services. The First United Methodist Church at 401 N. Stateline, Texarkana, Texas has offered its facilities as a site for the clinic.

Statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicate that sixteen percent of Arkansans are uninsured and twenty-five percent of Texans are uninsured. In The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic's medical service area, forty-one percent of their service area population is uninsured. Instead of waiting for a government fix, the people saw a need and set about solving that need. Thanks in part to Chaplain Jim Rowland, president of the Greater Texarkana Ministerial Alliance, Dr. Tim Reynolds, medical director, and Dr. D. Jack Smith, clinic board member, a non-judgmental, compassionate environment in which to serve those individuals and families largely rejected by mainstream society has been created. The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic is truly the result of a collaborative community effort. Medical professionals throughout the Texarkana area along with numerous volunteers are generously giving their expertise, time and financial support to make this initiative an overwhelming success.

I join with the leadership of Texarkana, Arkansas and Texarkana, Texas in thanking and congratulating all that were involved in bringing The Greater Texarkana Peoples' Clinic to a reality. The clinic and its services will prove to be an asset for years to come.

HONORING NATALIE STERN, 2004
CHERRY BLOSSOM PRINCESS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Ms. Natalie Stern, who will be representing New Jersey as our princess in the 2004 Cherry Blossom Princess Program.

Since 1948, state societies have selected accomplished female students to represent their states in the Cherry Blossom Princess Program. During the week-long program, the princesses participate in a number of events that provide them with an opportunity to share the culture and unique traditions of their state. The program culminates with a princess being crowned as the United States Cherry Blossom Queen, who will travel to Japan as a representative of the United States. During her two weeks in Japan, the U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen participates in events across the country and meets with Japanese dignitaries.