

of students, faculty, and sponsors such as American Airlines, who delivered the clothing to Haiti free of charge. He has followed the footsteps of a very close role model, his brother Chase, who is an eighth-grader at Saint John's, began a book recollection program and recently won the Do Something Brick Awards, a program that recognizes community service involvement in young men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I can attest to the fact that both are extraordinary students and remarkable young people. I feel very proud of representing first-rate students like Mónica and Ridge in Congress. They are members of a whole new generation of Puerto Ricans greatly concerned with their people and their country and willing to take action to improve their community. During the course of their projects, they have demonstrated superb intellectual ability and undertaken a very commendable task: service to their neighbor.

PERMANENTLY EXTENDING INCREASED STANDARD DEDUCTION, AND 15-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET EXPANSION, FOR MARRIED TAXPAYERS FILING JOINT RETURNS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that provides permanent relief from the marriage penalty for millions of married Americans.

Congress has debated this issue for years, but this is the first time we have really come close to getting rid of this onerous, unfair tax. Frankly, we should have done away with this tax a long time ago. It has not been for lack of trying by Republicans. In 2000, the Republican Congress sent President Clinton a bill that provided marriage penalty relief. President Clinton vetoed the bill before leaving Washington that day for a round of golf in Martha's Vineyard. Couples were left with another year of paying higher taxes simply because they were married.

In 2001 the Republican Congress sent President Bush a bill that gradually phased-in tax benefits for married couples. The 2001 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act increased the standard deduction for married couples that filed joint returns and increased the width of the 15 percent bracket for joint filers. These provisions would be phased-in beginning in 2005. Shortly after Congress passed this legislation, President Bush signed it into law. After years of frustration, progress was finally being made on lowering the tax burden on married Americans.

Again in 2003 the Republican Congress signaled support for legislation that accelerated the tax benefits given to married couples. Instead of waiting around until 2005, under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act, married couples would be able to receive tax benefits in 2003 and 2004. Beginning in 2005, however, the full strength of the marriage tax will again penalize taxpayers. We must not retreat from the progress we have made on eliminating the marriage tax.

Opponents of making permanent marriage penalty relief argue that the country cannot afford lowering taxes for married couples. Certainly, it is without dispute that the country is facing a federal deficit. Federal deficits are a concern and we must work immediately to erase the red ink. In my view, cutting wasteful government spending should be a top priority.

The legislation today leads us to accomplishing three main Republican priorities: permanent elimination of an unfair tax on marriage; continued economic growth through tax cuts; and deficit reduction because of a growing economy and job creation. For these important reasons, I support permanent repeal of the marriage penalty and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF YOM
HA'SHOAH—THE HOLOCAUST RE-
MEMBRANCE DAY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. As in years past, today we honor those who were lost to the world forever in the horrors of the Holocaust.

More than fifty years have elapsed since that dark period in human history. Since that time, Grandparents have taught their children and those children have taught their own, to remember the events that changed our world forever so as never to repeat the mistakes of our past. Year-round, we fight ignorance and disbelief through educating and informing others about the causes, realities, and legacies of the Holocaust. Today however, we set aside the day of Yom Ha'Shoah, to memorialize the tragedy and pay tribute to all who suffered.

We remember those who endured, those who fought, and those who died during World War II. We recognize not only the loss of more than six million Jewish lives, but also the loss of human potential. Entire families were lost to the world forever. We think of the descendants of victims of the Holocaust who never had the opportunity to make their contributions to mankind. And we recall the heroes who risked and surrendered their lives in the greatest fight for freedom and democracy the modern world has ever known.

Our greatest tribute to the millions who suffered at the hands of the Nazis will be to ensure that their suffering was not in vain. It is through our reflections on Holocaust Remembrance Day that we acknowledge their loss, and it is through our actions that we build a better world for us all.

With contemporary examples of hatred and terrorism all around us, we think back and marvel at the strength and character of the Jewish people. Their steadfast determination to rebuild their lives following the Holocaust has given the world a remarkable model of resolve. Through their example, we can glimpse the extraordinary human spirit that rises above the fruitlessness of anger and resentment. With this special day and with our deeds we honor that spirit.

Mr. Speaker, today we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day and call to action all peoples of the world to build a more tolerant and

loving society. I am proud to recognize Yom Ha'Shoah and urge all Americans to do the same.

HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR
AWARD RECIPIENT CYNTHIA
DOLATA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cynthia Dolata on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Outstanding Education. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held on Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Cynthia Dolata shows a strong dedication to the nursing profession. She has taught in a variety of healthcare, academic, and community settings. Cindy began her career as a staff nurse in Gynecology at Saint Agnes Medical Center in 1999. While maintaining her position in the Gynecology department she was also a clinical nursing instructor at California State University, Fresno and Fresno City College. In 2003 Cindy became a Breast Health Educator, a position she continues to serve in today.

As a Breast Health educator, Ms. Dolata meets with patients and their families prior to breast surgery and listens to their fears and anxieties while providing support. She also received grant money to purchase books for patient's family members. Her latest project was creating a video tape for women with breast cancer called, "A Patient's Journey." The video takes a patient with breast cancer on a journey from diagnosis through postsurgical follow up. She has also developed "comfort kits," a bag that includes educational materials and other items for her patients. Her lifelong achievements are reflective in her love for the profession and for the welfare of all people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cynthia Dolata for her excellence in the field of Outstanding Education. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Cynthia many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING LISA C. HERMAN ELLISON ON BEING NAMED ONE OF THE FINALISTS FOR THE NCEE/NASDAQ NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Lisa Herman Ellison for being nominated as one of only five national finalists in the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) and NASDAQ National Teaching Awards. Lisa was selected from among applicants around the United States for her originality, creativity, and effectiveness in the teaching of economics.

One of the greatest educational challenges we face today is ensuring that students enter

the world financially literate. A sound grounding in economics is necessary for individuals to participate in an increasingly complex global economy. The need for innovative and effective methods for teaching about the global economy has never been greater, and Lisa effectively prepares Kokomo High School students for that environment. Lisa teaches senior-level Advanced Placement Macro- and Microeconomics, Economics, U.S. Government and Advanced Placement Government and Politics at Kokomo High School in my district.

Lisa's creative approach to the topic of economics tasks her students with running a mock corporation. The students develop written and graphic analyses of the effects of international political events, trade policies, and finance issues on their simulated corporations. The students then complete a mock stock market analysis based on their corporation's involvement in international trade and the effects of government policies. Finally, students participate in "International Day," which involves researching and preparing papers and presentations on a country and how government policies, cultural influences, and geography affect that Nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker and my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring and recognizing the service and commitment that Ms. Lisa Herman Ellison gives to her students on a daily basis. She is a fine example of the best the teaching profession has to offer.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA COVAIS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, we live in a nation in which the mass media are so obsessed with the antics of celebrities like Michael Jackson and Donald Trump that we often forget that courage and heroism are all around us, that for many of our friends and neighbors each day is a difficult but victorious struggle against tough conditions.

I want to talk today about Donna Covais, a Vermont woman who represents what is best in American daily life. Seven years ago, Donna began to lose her sight as a result of diabetic retinopathy. A year later, she was blind. Of course, she was afflicted by despair: who wouldn't be, in those conditions?

But she did not succumb to that despair. Formerly a florist, she began taking courses at the Community College of Vermont, and through the intercession of a local business, Gardener's Supply Company, she was encouraged to begin, even though blind, a garden. What a success her foray into gardening has been! Blindness has not impeded her from making the world bloom—or from playing a vital role in our social community.

Donna Covais has won a local prize for the best use of gardening space in Burlington. She has drawn upon her experience and made a gardening video for the Vermont Association for the Blind. She has traveled to Virginia to speak before the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Donna has recently completed her degree program in horticultural therapy at Johnson State College; she's even done a practicum in the world be-

yond the safe harbors of college classrooms, at Essex High School in Vermont. A wife, a mother, a gardener, Donna has not let physical disability stand in the way of living a rich and fulfilling life, and giving much to the community in which she lives.

I began by saying that many of our friends and neighbors struggle with adversity and triumph over it. Let me conclude by pointing out that not only Donna, but her husband Joe, has been the master of his fate. For Joe too has suffered first deteriorating vision and then blindness, as was the case with Donna. Joe too has had to remake his life, which he has done by earning first a B.A. in psychology and the then an M.A.: he is now teaching Psychology at the Community College of Vermont, and is interested in counseling disturbed adolescents. He will be particularly qualified to bring them proof that facing life with courage, determination, and an openness toward the future can really work. Donna and Joe Covais are examples, I believe, of what is best in America and the American spirit, and I commend them for the example they have provided to all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE CREATION OF THE MARLA BENNETT PEACE TILE GARDEN PROJECT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, nearly two years ago, Marla Bennett, age 24, was one of the nine innocent victims of a terrorist attack at the Frank Sinatra cafeteria of the Hebrew University Mt. Scopus campus in Jerusalem. Ms. Bennett was a recent graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who was studying to get her Masters at Hebrew University. Marla's tragic and needless death brought the horror of the Israeli conflict home to the Berkeley community and on May 9, 2004, the Berkeley Hillel will unveil its permanent tribute to her with the dedication of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. This is a fitting tribute to a young lady whose life was ripped from those who loved her by a senseless act of terrorism.

During her academic career at UC Berkeley, Marla's face was a familiar one among the Jewish student population as well as the Jewish community of the Bay Area. She was an active student organizer, a Hebrew school teacher, and resident of the Bayit, the Jewish student cooperative of UC Berkeley. Marla's personality, her enthusiasm, and her zest for Judaism and the Jewish way of life made her well-known within her community and she was the first recipient of the Berkeley Hillel award, Hineni, given to the student who best exemplifies selfless devotion to the Jewish Community by answering "here I am" whenever a task needs to be completed.

Marla's tragic death had a profound effect on the Jewish Community at Berkeley and led to many inspiring endeavors in honor of Marla. The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group at the Berkeley Hillel was revived to honor her memory and scholarship funds in Marla's name for students seeking to study Jewish education in Israel were established. As wonderful as these tributes were, Dana Blecher, the Cultural Arts

and Educational Programs Coordinator, for Berkeley's Hillel wanted to create a permanent memorial to this extraordinary individual who blessed our world for too short a time. Ms. Blecher envisioned the unused backyard of the Berkeley Hillel as an ideal space to construct a lasting tribute to the memory of Marla Bennett.

During the past year, Ms. Blecher has been instrumental in the creation of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project and I want to publicly commend her for incorporating so many aspects of the Berkeley and Bay Area community into the project. For example, she collaborated with Bay Area artist Jodi Gladstone, and invited the students of Berkeley Hillel to contribute sketches, poetry, and memories of Marla to be the foundation of the inspirational material for the creation and design of a tile project. Keeping with our Bay Area sensibilities, Dana contacted Jonathan Pilch, a student instructor in the subject of organic farming, and a UC Berkeley student, to prepare, recommend, and supervise the formation of the garden.

Mr. Speaker, friends of Marla's, as well as students who never had the opportunity to meet her, have come from across the country to help build the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. They all came to Berkeley to create a lasting tribute to a person whose life touched so many and was tragically cut short. This new space at the Berkeley Hillel, while dedicated to Marla, also will be presented in the name of peace and hope that there will be a time in the future of Israel when violence does not play such a tragic and terrifying role in the history of the Jewish state.

The Marla Bennett Tile Garden will serve as a place for recollection and reflection, an appropriate memorial to a person who took investigating her Judaism very seriously. As the expression says, "to live in the hearts of those who love you is to never die," and this wonderful memorial will allow the memory of Marla to continue to live on so that in the words of the Executive Director of Berkeley Hillel, Adam Weisberg, "Her name will be for a blessing."

HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT MARY FARRELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Outstanding Administration. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Mary Farrell has been a strong leader in the health care community. She is currently the Vice President of Patient Care Services at Madera Community Hospital. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and is also a Registered Nurse. In her present position, all nursing and allied health care departments report directly to her. Mary always focuses on safe and professional health care delivery. Patients and families appreciate her open and playful way of taking chaos and replacing it with calmness and logical problem solving.