

Orchard" near the Sacred Heart Church. Both of their families were in the ranching and canning business. Vic and Mae each have three siblings, who all reside in San Jose, and Mae survives her late sister, Dolly.

Vic and Mae have been close since childhood when they met in elementary school. The nuns at school were constantly busy trying to interfere in the couple's endless chase, but to no avail! Vic would chase Mae, and when stopped, Mae would in turn chase Vic.

The couple married on September 10, 1930, at Sacred Heart Church in San Jose when Vic was twenty and Mae was nineteen. They settled into a home on Willow Street, near their cherry orchards, where Vic worked in the family business.

In 1966, when Vic became a partner in the Indian Wells Country Club, home of the "Bob Hope Classic Golf Tournament", Vic and Mae moved to Southern California. The couple has homes in Carmel Valley Ranch Country Club and Indian Wells Country Club. They have also maintained a long-time membership to The Thunderbird Club in Rancho Mirage.

Vic and Mae have one child, Victor, Jr. Victor, Jr. and his wife, Jeannie, lived in Gilroy for many years but moved to Indian Wells, California in 1990.

Vic has generously contributed to the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Jose throughout his life. He, along with his brother, Salvador, donated a room at Santa Clara University. Vic was an active member of the Jaycees, the San Jose Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Clara County Horseman's Association. He was also a member of the Sheriff's Posse.

Today, Vic and Mae divide their time between San Jose and Southern California. They have lived a long, healthy and happy life.

Congratulations to Vic and Mae LoBue on the occasion of their seventy-fifth wedding anniversary. Their marriage is a testament to happiness, commitment and fulfillment: What began as a childhood game of chase has become a lifetime of love.

HONORING JERRY L. REPPERT ON BEING NAMED THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jerry L. Reppert, who recently was appointed as president of the National Newspaper Association.

The National Newspaper Association, created in 1885, represents owners, publishers and editors of America's community newspapers and is the largest newspaper association in the United States, currently having more than 3,200 members. As President of the NNA, Mr. Reppert will be responsible for protecting, promoting and enhancing America's community newspapers.

Prior to election as President, Mr. Reppert held several other positions within NNA, including Vice President, State Chairman, Regional Director and Government Affairs Director. In addition, Mr. Reppert has made important contributions to the newspaper publishing business in Southern Illinois, having served as

president of the Southern Illinois Editorial Association and the Illinois Press Association, where he played a pivotal role in establishing the Illinois Press Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the Illinois Press Association. He continues to serve as the foundation's President to this day.

Jerry L. Reppert first began his career in managing newspapers by becoming editor of the Gazette-Democrat, a community newspaper run by his family, based in Anna, Illinois. Mr. Reppert greatly expanded the small, weekly newspaper into Reppert Publications, which published weekly newspapers throughout Southern Illinois, including the Cairo Citizen in Cairo, the Navigator-Journal and Prairie Post in Grayville and Albion, the Tri-County Record in Dongola. Reppert Publications also published numerous specialty publications, several of which have received honors from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Governor's Conference on Tourism.

In addition to his pursuits in publishing, Mr. Reppert has also been successful in many other enterprises. He is a founder of Anna-Jonesboro Cable TV and constructed a cable television system for it. In 1971 he opened his own furniture company: Reppert Office Furniture. He also served 20 years in the United States Navy Reserve and attained the rank of lieutenant commander.

Mr. Reppert and his wife, Dianne, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of congratulations to Mr. Jerry Reppert for his election to lead the National Newspaper Association and offer our best wishes during his tenure as President.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleagues Rep. TOM LANTOS and MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, I am introducing a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, in recognition of his pioneering role in promoting religious freedom and human rights throughout the world, for close to half a century.

A holocaust survivor, and the Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Rabbi Schneier has devoted his life to overcoming the forces of hatred and intolerance.

He has been a pioneer in bringing together religious leaders to address ethnic or religious conflicts. For example, in Bosnia in 1997, he convened government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation between Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish communities. In the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia he worked with the Orthodox Patriarch and the Turkish Government to hold the Peace and Tolerance Conference in 1994 and address religious and ethnic tensions in that area. In the former Yugoslavia, he mobilized religious leaders to halt the bloodshed of the early 1990s, holding the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia and the Conflict Resolution Conference to build support and consensus among religious leaders of different faiths.

Since the early 1980s, he has led delegations of religious leaders to China to open a dialogue on religious freedom.

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1930, Rabbi Schneier lived under Nazi occupation in Budapest during World War II and came to the United States in 1947. He has been the Spiritual Leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York City since 1962.

I hope my colleagues will join us in honoring this distinguished pioneer of religious freedom with a Congressional Gold Medal.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3824. This legislation seeks to undermine one of the most successful and visionary environmental policies, the Endangered Species Act. For 32 years, the Endangered Species Act has been a safety net for wildlife, plants, and fish that are on the brink of extinction.

Since its enactment in 1973, the Endangered Species Act has prevented the extinction of hundreds of species. In fact, 99 percent of the species listed are still with us today, and more than two-thirds of all currently listed species are improving.

Minnesotans have witnessed the success of this Act first hand. In Minnesota, the bald eagle population grew from a dwindling 380 eagles in 1981 to more than 1,400 eagles today. This is more than double the recovery goal of 600 eagles. We have seen the gray wolf population grow from 300 in 1975 to 3,020 in 2004. Again, that is more than double the recovery goal of 1,400 wolves. Minnesota is also home to the dwarf trout lily, which is found nowhere else in the world.

In April 2005, many of my constituents showed their support for endangered species during Aveda Corporation's Earth Month. In Aveda salons and stores across the country, more than 170,000 people signed petitions asking for a strong, fully funded Endangered Species Act. These petitions were delivered to the steps of the Capitol in July. The message is clear. Americans want to protect endangered species for future generations.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3824 makes it harder to protect threatened and endangered species. It repeals one of the most important parts of the act—critical habitat protection. Habitat destruction is the primary reason many animals end up on the Endangered Species List. Species with designated critical habitats recover at twice the rate of endangered species without critical habitat. Yet, this bill provides no alternative to protect the places where vulnerable species live.

This bill also creates a new corporate welfare entitlement for developers. Under this bill,

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have only 180 days to review proposed developments and their impact on endangered species. If an assessment cannot be reached within this time frame, the project is allowed to proceed. If it is determined that endangered species would be harmed by the project, the Federal Government must pay the landowner the value of the proposed development. This would encourage speculative development schemes aimed at harming endangered species in order to receive windfall payments from the government. A frenzy of fraud and abuse will not help responsible landowners comply with the law, and it will not help species recover.

The use of sound science is also undermined by this bill. It gives political appointees the authority to determine the "best available science" without having to consult with recognized scientists and other experts in the field. Under this bill, the use of sophisticated scientific modeling could also be banned. This opens the door to the use of questionable science and politically-motivated findings.

This bill also repeals all Endangered Species Act provisions related to pesticides. Pesticides, such as DOT, have contributed to the decline of many species, including the American bald eagle. Under this bill, the Environmental Protection Agency can approve pesticides without considering their impact on threatened and endangered species. Given the choice between recovery and extinction, this bill appears to favor extinction.

I supported a responsible alternative aimed at recovering species. The Miller/Boehlert substitute amendment contained a more flexible timeline for consideration of projects, clarified the obligation of federal agencies, and provided real landowner incentives for conservation and species recovery. This approach responded to the legitimate concerns of landowners and sportsmen while continuing efforts to recover endangered species. Unfortunately, this amendment was not adopted.

Mr. Speaker, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act fails to protect vulnerable wildlife and plants and threatens to break the federal bank with a new open-ended entitlement for developers. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and work together to create a strong, scientific and bipartisan Endangered Species Act.

SALUTING SERGEANT HECTOR R.
FELICIANO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and pay tribute to Sergeant Hector R. Feliciano, a 22-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. Sergeant Feliciano is receiving an honorable mention commendation for the annual TOP COPS Award Ceremony, from the National Association of Police Officers. This is a great honor, and reflects the substantial respect and recognition accorded to Sergeant Feliciano by California and national law enforcement. Sergeant Feliciano represents the very best of our outstanding law enforcement officers, previously being selected as Rampart Sergeant of the year 2004, for distinguishing

himself as an exemplary leader as well as a tactical expert.

Among his many achievements include developing game plans that targeted narcotics violators who utilized the Mac Arthur Park as a base of operations. He also planned operations to address quality of life issues in and around the park. His operations focused on such concerns as drinking in public, illegal street sales, and gambling. He was also tasked with developing and writing operations plans for special events in and around the park. According to superiors, his operations plans were outstanding, covering all aspects of the event from manpower to street closures to tactical considerations. The reduction in crime and improvement in the quality of life in and around the park has been remarkable. The efforts of Sergeant Feliciano, as well as those officers he supervises, has been the topic of crime strategy seminars throughout the Los Angeles Police Department.

Hector is a highly sought after and well-respected supervisor. Even under great pressure, he has repeatedly proven that his is steadfast and levelheaded. Hector has stepped forward to take command in many situations, thus ensuring the welfare of his officers and the citizens of Los Angeles. A notable example of this occurred on November 9, 2004. Sergeant Feliciano employed decisive and heroic actions during a hostage crisis at the Mexican Consulate. His lifesaving intervention resulted in the successful rescue of a pregnant female who was being held hostage by a gunman.

Mr. Speaker, Hector Feliciano has served our community with great distinction. As a husband, father, and grandparent, I feel secure knowing the safety of my loved ones is entrusted to such a fine individual. An officer's work is never done, and because of that, our families are secure.

And so, we thank Hector, with gratitude and respect for his distinguished service. We wish the very best to him, and his wife, Jeanette, and their other family members who are here this month in Washington, DC. God bless, and congratulations on this great honor.

HONORING JUDGE HORACE
WHEATLEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Alameda County Superior Court Judge Horace Wheatley of Oakland, California. Serving Alameda County on the bench for almost 25 years, Judge Wheatley has been known throughout his career for his unflinching sense of social justice, and for his unwavering commitment to our young people. Today our community comes together to celebrate his career and achievements on the occasion of his retirement in Oakland, California.

Judge Wheatley was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and raised in San Francisco's historic Fillmore district. After graduating from the "old" Lowell High School in 1957, he went to College of the Pacific, now known as University of the Pacific, later transferring to Howard University in Washington, DC, where he con-

tinued his record as a champion debater. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 had not yet been enacted during his time in college, making some of the challenges he faced in school extend far beyond the realm of academics. When he competed in the National Collegiate Debate Tournament at the University of Oklahoma in 1961, the open and unabated racial discrimination that prevailed in some parts of the country was so severe that the southern colleges who were competing were instructed to walk out of any round in which an African American was competing. Undeterred, Judge Wheatley went on not only to win the tournament, but to be awarded the Pi Kappa Delta gold debate key for his outstanding performance. Following his studies at Howard, Judge Wheatley returned to the University of the Pacific in 1960, where he graduated with a degree in Sociology and Psychology.

Following a successful law school career at Willamette University in Oregon, where he won the school's Moot Court Competition and served as a teaching assistant before earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, Judge Wheatley began serving as Deputy Attorney General for the State of California in 1965. He later went into private practice in Oakland, where he engaged in general litigation practice and was one of the lead attorneys in a precedent-setting class-action lawsuit against the savings and loan industry. In 1972, he became General Counsel for the California Teachers Association, representing the organization's 300,000 members in several noteworthy cases which resulted in precedent-setting rulings in favor of public school teachers' rights and benefits.

Judge Wheatley was appointed as a Judge of the Alameda County Municipal Court on July 1, 1981, by California Governor Edmond G. "Jerry" Brown, Jr., and was elevated to the Alameda County Superior Court when all of the courts in Alameda County were unified in 1998. Known for his tendency to give many young defendants the choice to "Go to school or go to jail," Judge Wheatley's career on the bench has been marked by his steadfast commitment to serving the young people in our community who are most in need of guidance.

Judge Wheatley's outstanding dedication and accomplishments have not only impacted countless young lives, but have also been recognized by a number of the professional organizations of which he is a member. He has not only been inducted into the Charles Houston Bar Association's Hall of Fame, but has also received its "Judicial Excellence Award." In addition, he received the Bernard S. Jefferson Award from the California Association of Black Lawyers as its Judge of the Year in 2001, and has also been named the Lend-A-Hand Foundation's "Man of the Year." This past August, he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in recognition of having practiced law for over 40 years and made significant contributions to the cause of justice. In addition, he was also given the A. Leon Higginbotham Memorial Award by the Young Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association in recognition of his intellectual accomplishments, professional achievements and community contributions.

Today Judge Wheatley's family, friends and colleagues come together to celebrate the impact of his life and work not only on the innumerable lives, particularly young lives, he has touched here in Alameda County, but the lasting effects his rulings and his commitment to