

Given that her district covered a geographic area which traverses the whole of Erie County's eastern side nearly from its northern border to its border in the south, there can be no doubt that this is a challenging task indeed.

During my initial years as a member of the New York State Legislature, I too represented a number of the same towns Legislator Marshall would later represent in the County Legislature. While Legislator Marshall, as a resident of the town of Lancaster, is not a constituent of mine, she did faithfully serve several towns that are within the confines of the 27th Congressional District, including the towns of Alden, Marilla, Holland, Sardinia and Wales. Her office's cooperation with mine was universally professional.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Legislator Denise Marshall upon the occasion of her retirement as a member of the Erie County Legislature, and I want to wish to her and to her family the best of luck and Godspeed.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND JOSEPH MARTIN OF WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA, AS HE CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representative to pay tribute to Very Rev. Joseph Martin of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Martin was born in Frackville, a son of the late Joseph P. Martin and Anna Martin. He was the eldest of five brothers.

He married the former Glora Matechak of Old Forge and the couple are the parents to four daughters. They also have eight grandchildren.

Father Martin was ordained by HIS Eminence Archbishop Kiprian on November 7, 1965 at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

He was assigned to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in McAdoo where he served for 30 years. He was awarded the Hold Cross, Jeweled Cross and the St. Innocent Bronze Medal. He was also elevated to Archpriest.

While at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, he also served as acting rector of Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, Shenandoah; St. Mary's Orthodox Church, St. Clair; Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Minersville and St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Mt. Carmel.

He served on the Diocesan Council for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania and the Metropolitan Council for the Orthodox Church in America. He was a past spiritual advisor for the Central Pennsylvania District Federated Orthodox Clubs of America and national spiritual advisor for eight years for FOCA.

He served on the board of directors of the Hazleton chapter of the American Automobile Association, Hazleton Chapter American Red Cross and he is still a board member for Mid-Atlantic AAA.

Father Martin has always been very active in community projects. He was a member and

trustee of the McAdoo Fire Company where he is still remembered as "Padre." He helped coordinate the borough food pantry, was a member and past president of the McAdoo Lions Club and he served as District Governor of the Lions District 14U.

In 1995, Father Martin was assigned to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. Since then, he was instrumental in helping reorganize the Wilkes-Barre Lions Club and he served as its charter president. He is a Melvin Jones Fellow, a Lions International award, and is currently chaplain of the Lions District 14W.

He serves as chief of chaplains at the Wilkes-Barre V A Medical Center, is president of the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, serves on the pastoral advisory board of the John Heinz Rehabilitation Center, is a member of the board of trustees of St. Tikhon's Monastery, is a member of the Diocesan Council, St. Tikhon's Alumni Association, St. Tikhon's Century Association and the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards.

And while he remains an extremely active person in the community, he still finds time to cook and bake for parish dinners because no job is too big or small for "Father Joe."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Martin on this milestone in his life. Father Martin has enriched the lives of so many by demonstrating selfless and humble service to his fellow man in the manner that his Lord and Savior did 2,000 years ago.

HONORING STEVE FURLONG

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable public servant and citizen from my congressional district. Steve Furlong recently announced his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, bringing to a close 35 years of achievement and success managing lake projects in Central Kentucky.

Raised on a farm near the Mammoth Cave National Park, Steve's career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began in 1970 at nearby Barren River Lake where he worked as a Temporary Laborer. Within a year, he was selected as a permanent Park Ranger at Green River Lake. Steve returned to Barren River Lake in 1974 to continue work as a Park Ranger. Three years later, he was assigned to oversee the construction of the project office at Rough River Lake. Due to his outstanding performance, he was selected soon thereafter to be the permanent Park Manager at Rough River Lake.

Under Steve's management, Rough River Lake was named the 1980 National Project of the Year, among 400 Corps projects across the country. Steve was recognized for his efforts that year with receipt of both the Louisville District and the Ohio River Division Achievement Awards, along with the Commander's Award for the Louisville District. Steve was installed as Operations Manager of the Green River Area, with oversight of four regional lake projects, later that same year.

Throughout the last 25 years, Steve's adept management and work ethic on behalf of the

U.S. Corps of Army Engineers has established four nationally recognized recreational sites that will be enjoyed by many for generations to come. During his tenure, lake facilities have been upgraded and improved to meet changing demands, supporting high quality outdoor recreational experiences for over six million people each year. Combined, the Green River Area now contributes an estimated annual \$1.7 million to the regional economy.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Steve Furlong has built a legacy as a model citizen and community leader, volunteering for a variety of local organizations including Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, the Board of Hospice, Boy Scouts of America, and Youth League Baseball.

It is my great privilege to recognize Steve Furlong today, before the entire US. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements and unwavering dedication to the communities of the Green River Area make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ZOYA ROISMAN STEINBERG

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Zoya Roisman Steinberg, whose son, Moshe Steinberg is a constituent.

Zoya Roisman Steinberg, who survived the Holocaust and was a pioneer of the State of Israel with her husband Jacob Steinberg, died on October 23, 2005, at nearly 100 years of age. After VE Day, Zoya joined the exodus of Jewish survivors en route from Eastern Europe to Palestine. Her guide was a decorated Russian officer, named Jacob Steinberg, who had fought with the Allies from Stalingrad to Berlin after his family was killed by Nazis in their Odessa home. Zoya and Jacob navigated through treacherous post-war Eastern Europe and endured two years in a Cyprus detention center for Jewish immigrants to Palestine before Israel's recognition as a State in 1948. They then entered Israel and built there a home, a family with their cherished son Moshe, and a country out of the desert and the ashes of war.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR ALBERT DEBENEDETTI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend and fellow public official whose unique and energetic service to the residents of Erie County will long be remembered. I rise to commemorate and honor the service of Erie County Legislator Albert DeBenedetti.

Serving as a legislator since his initial appointment in 1991, Al DeBenedetti brought a quick wit and a keen intellect to the deliberations of the Erie County Legislature. Often

contentious and pugnacious, few Erie County Legislators in history have cared more for the communities they represent, and about the actions of government in service to those people than has Al DeBenedetti.

Now, I tell you Mr. Speaker, Al is a unique individual indeed. Al comes from proud and deeply rooted Italian and Polish stock, and his father was a renowned professional wrestler. One thing is certain—it is a good thing for his opponents that Al's weapon of choice was his mind and not his fists, because Al always fought, and fought hard, for the people he represented in Buffalo's Black Rock, Riverside and west side neighborhoods.

Prior to his service in the Erie County Legislature's 6th District, Al was Assistant Deputy Commissioner to the Erie County Board of Elections and also served on the Administrative Staff of former Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski. Upon the election of then-Legislator David Manz to Buffalo City Court in 1991, Al took office as his successor, and has served in this capacity ever since.

Al rose quickly through the Legislature's ranks. In only his third term of office, Al was elected Majority Leader and was appointed Chairman of the Legislature's Finance and Management Committee. In that capacity, Al worked with legislators and with then-County Executive Dennis Gorski to steer a clean and effective financial ship for Erie County.

In 2002, Al was elected Chairman of the Erie County Legislature, a position he held for one year. During his Chairmanship, the Legislature began the process of moving its offices from the Erie County Hall Annex back to its original home in Old County Hall, the historical site where United States President Grover Cleveland once held court as Mayor of Buffalo.

Al DeBenedetti rarely saw an election day without a vigorous fight, but was always successful. I have always chalked that success up to his personality and his unwillingness to give up on a fight. I had a nickname for Al—I always called him "Alley Cat." I think I did this because Al was always a scrapper, and invariably, his fight was an independent one, and was conducted on the behalf of Erie County's taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me an opportunity to commemorate the service of my friend and colleague, Erie County Legislator Al DeBenedetti, on the occasion of his retirement as a member of the Erie County Legislature. Al's service on the Legislature was honorable and unique, and his history as a member of this august body will carry on for many years to come.

HONORING FRANCIS BONNER OF HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my very good friend Mr. Francis Bonner, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his 70th birthday celebration.

Mr. Bonner has enjoyed an exceptional career in public service and in the advancement of the anthracite coal industry. He has been married to Marie (Clatch) Bonner for more than 40 years. They are the parents of Mary Pat Bonner, whose career in Democratic politics was inspired by her father's lifelong dedication to the Democratic party.

Born in Hazleton, Mr. Bonner was a son of Miles and Mary Hannigan Bonner. He graduated from St. Gabriel's High school in Hazleton and Villanova University where he also pursued graduate studies. He also attended Clarion State College Coal Institute, the University of Pittsburgh Coal Gasification Liquefaction and Conversion to Electricity Conference and the Penn State University Coal Combustion Technology Seminar.

From 1954 to 1960, he served as International Representative for District 50, United Mine Workers of America.

He later served as a field investigator for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

In the early to mid 1960s, he served as Eastern Regional Administrator for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. In that position, he conducted investigations and educational functions to insure compliance with legislation guaranteeing equal opportunity in employment, housing, education and public accommodations.

He then worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an administrator for federal equal opportunity executive orders.

From 1971 to 1979, he served as special personal assistant to Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp. In that capacity, he was directly responsible for the administration's energy and fuel development programs; industrial development programs; liaison for labor management relations; liaison to the state House and Senate on matters concerning energy and labor relations; disaster control and relief and industrial development.

He later worked for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission as a fossil fuels coordinator, developing programs to encourage the use of coal in the generation of electric power.

From 1982 to the present, he has been president of Bonner Associates of Pennsylvania, a firm that serves as a consultant on governmental affairs with special emphasis on energy, particularly coal use and development, health care, labor management relations and waste disposal and recovery.

Honored by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce and the economic development group, CAN-DO, as "Hazletonian of the Year," Mr. Bonner has served his community in numerous ways, including as assistant director of the Villanova Urban Studies Program, Deputy state chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee, member of the Hazleton City Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment, member of the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission, member of the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, Governor's Energy Council, United States Department of Energy Anthracite Task Force, Governor's Coal Conference, White House ad hoc Anthracite Task Force, chairman and member of the board of directors of St. Joseph's Hospital, Hazleton; chairman of the Anthracite Health and Welfare Fund and member of the Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Board of Review.

On a personal level, Fran has been an astute political observer and a trusted advisor to me during my tenure in Congress. I have always valued his insight into the political atmosphere of Northeastern Pennsylvania and I treasure his friendship.

Mr. Chairman, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bonner on this special occasion. His achievements reflect a devotion to his community in northeastern Pennsylvania where he has contributed to enriching the quality of life.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation to address long-standing inequities in Medicare's payments for graduate medical education.

More than 600 hospitals across the country, many in my home state of Kentucky, receive less than the national average from Medicare to train and educate physicians. Medicare's formula for paying hospitals that operate teaching programs is based on costs reported in the early 1980s, significantly below current costs and expanded needs. This limits the ability for many hospitals to train a workforce sufficient to care for the growing Medicare population.

In my state, teaching hospitals lose more than 2 million dollars a year as a result of Medicare's dated policy. In neighboring Ohio, Medicare's policy shortchanges hospitals more than \$10 million each year. My bill will increase Medicare's Direct Graduate Medical Education (DGME) payments to hospitals to 100 percent of the national average per resident amount for facilities whose historical costs are less than the national average.

Congress has made incremental improvements to DGME payments throughout the past 6 years. This began in 1999 with the implementation of a 70 percent minimum payment. In 2001, payments were raised to 85 percent of the national average. In the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, Congress again recognized the flaws in Medicare's payments to teaching hospitals by including a provision requiring that any resident positions redistributed to other hospitals be reimbursed at 100 percent of the national average. My bill continues this work by requiring Medicare to at least pay the average cost of operating a training program.

Medicare's Direct Graduate Medical Education payments should be increased to the national average so no hospitals receive less than Medicare's fair share of the costs of operating a medical education program.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR EDWARD J. KUWIK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great son of the city of Lackawanna, New