

Woman of the Year, once by the California State Assembly, once by the California State Senate and received a Special Congressional Recognition in honor of Women's History Month.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Doris Wahl for her many years of service to the community and for her many years of HIV/AIDS advocacy. Let us wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

THANKING MARYBETH PETERS
FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the distinguished career of Marybeth Peters, the United States Register of Copyrights, and to congratulate her as she commemorates 40 years of service to our Government and to the American people.

Marybeth Peters became the Register of Copyrights on August 7, 1994, the 50th person to hold that office since the appointment of the first Register of Copyrights, Thorvald Solberg, in 1897. The mission of the Copyright Office is to promote creativity by administering and sustaining an effective national copyright system. The Copyright Office administers the Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.; provides policy and legal assistance to the Congress, the executive branch and courts; and provides copyright-related information and education to the public.

As chairman of the House Administration Committee and a member of the Joint Committee on the Library, I want to extend my thanks for Ms. Peters' leadership at the Copyright Office, which is a vital component of the Library of Congress. The Library is the custodian of the mint record of American creativity largely due to copyright deposits of books, music, films, photographs, and other materials that reflect our creative society. The Americana collections of the Library—millions of which are available on the Library's Web site through its American Memory digital collections—have been assembled largely through our Nation's copyright system. Last year alone, the Copyright Office forwarded more than 1 million items to the Library for its collections. I want to extend deepest thanks on behalf of the Joint Committee on the Library to Ms. Peters for her stewardship of the Copyright Office as Register and her long years of service to Congress and the American people.

Prior to her appointment as Register of Copyrights, Ms. Peters served as Policy Planning Advisor to the Register from 1983 to 1994. She has also served as Acting General Counsel of the Copyright Office and as chief of both the Examining and Information and Reference divisions. Ms. Peters is a frequent speaker on copyright issues. She is the author of the General Guide to the Copyright Act of 1976 and is recognized worldwide as a pre-eminent authority on intellectual property matters.

Mr. Speaker, Marybeth Peters can certainly be proud of her long and distinguished career in Government service. We are proud of her

leadership and her service to the Copyright Office and to the Nation.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD L.
MASRY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, during his 40-year career as an attorney in California, Edward L. Masry fought courageously not only for his clients but also for all people of the United States. As a strong advocate for the environment and open space, Mr. Masry worked to preserve our community's most precious resources. His contributions to the Conejo Valley, the State of California, and the country will never be forgotten.

Sadly, Mr. Masry died on December 6, 2005. Today, I am pleased to pay tribute to him. Mr. Masry moved to southern California in 1940. He graduated from Van Nuys High School in 1950 and then attended Valley Junior College. He never received a bachelor's degree, opting instead to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1952, during the Korean conflict. After serving our country, he was honorably discharged with the rank of corporal and was soon accepted at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. He graduated with a Juris Doctorate in 1960.

Soon after graduation Mr. Masry began his law career, and in 1975 moved his law offices to the San Fernando Valley. He gained expertise and a national reputation in numerous areas of the law, including criminal defense, business litigation, entertainment, the first amendment, and toxic torts. His success as a litigator earned him numerous awards, including the esteemed Justice Armand Arabian Law & Media Award in 2000 and the Academy of Justice Award from the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Masry became best known for his work on cases involving toxic environmental contamination. In the early 1990's, his firm, renamed Masry & Vitoe in 1982, argued for the people of Hinkley, California in the landmark case of Anderson v. Pacific Gas & Electric. Mr. Masry won what was at the time the biggest settlement for a civil class action lawsuit. This case was made into a movie, Erin Brockovich, which extolled the success of Mr. Masry as a lawyer and a leader who fought for the rights of the people in California.

Ed Masry was a friend and ally of mine and other local environmental advocates. His involvement with local environmental organizations was instrumental in protecting the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area, as well as other parks and open spaces in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. I was proud to present him with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in honor of his receiving the Environmental Hero Award from the Environmental Defense Center in 2002. He continued his outstanding work for environmental justice by serving as the CEO and President of Save the World Air, Inc., a company dedicated to improving air quality.

In addition, Ed Masry served two terms as city councilman and mayor of Thousand Oaks. During his tenure he fought to implement his slow-growth platform to protect open space in the Conejo Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Ed Masry's spirit, perseverance and chutzpah. He fought valiantly and successfully for the residents of the Conejo Valley. His legacy will continue to have a profound effect on his Valley, his State and his Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY WALL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has been a great asset to the health care community in Colorado. After 31 years with the Colorado Health and Hospital Association where he served as president for 21 of those years Mr. Larry Wall is moving on to undertake new challenges.

During his tenure as president of CHA, Larry helped to increase the association's stature and reputation as the primary source of credible information about hospitals in Colorado. In addition, Mr. Wall worked to reaffirm CHA's commitment to public health and expand its community based role.

Over the past 31 years Colorado health care systems have seen vast changes. During Larry's tenure, he has been a part of changes that have made Colorado a leader in public accountability. In fact, while Wall served at CHA, Colorado hospitals became the first in the nation to make mortality data for individual hospitals public. Contributions such as this demonstrate how valuable an asset Mr. Wall is to the Colorado health care community. I wish the best to Mr. Wall in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
CARL T. BRANCATELLI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Carl T. Brancatelli, United States Veteran, loving husband to the late Mary Brancatelli; dear father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend to many as well as a successful entrepreneur.

Mr. Brancatelli was born and raised in Cleveland, the son of Italian immigrants. His parents instilled within him a strong sense of family, faith, and community. He gave these gifts from his parents to his own children—giving them a clear example of the significance of hard work, integrity, kindness, and giving to others. Mr. Brancatelli served our nation as a United States Marine and was stationed in Korea during the 1950's.

For many years, Mr. Brancatelli worked as a bus driver with the former Cleveland Transit System. His expertise in the mechanical trades led him to a long career as a Master Mechanic. Equipped with a keen business sense, Mr. Brancatelli also operated several successful small business ventures throughout his life, even after retirement. As owner of the Shanty Inn Tavern on Harvard Avenue, Mr. Brancatelli regularly sponsored community baseball teams.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Carl T. Brancatelli, whose kindness, energy and compassion for others will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him well, especially his family and friends. I extend my deepest condolences to his children, Robert, Wanda, James, Tina, Carl, and Tony; to his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and also to his extended family and friends. Mr. Brancatelli lived his life with great joy, energy and with a loving focus on his family and friends, and he will live on within their hearts and memories forever.

TRIBUTE TO FRED CUSIMANO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Fred Cusimano, a life long resident of Chautauqua County and a truly remarkable man.

COUNTY REMEMBERS FRED CUSIMANO

(By Manley J. Anderson)

Friends and associates of the late Fred J. Cusimano of 190 Linwood Ave., Jamestown, who died Monday morning in the WCA Hospital emergency room have expressed their thoughts about him.

"He was a man for all seasons," said Joseph Trusso Jr., longtime friend, fellow Democrat and veteran member of the Chautauqua County Legislature. "He worked on an oil rig, he owned a gas station, he was a tree farmer. We planted Christmas trees. I helped him plant some of those trees."

Cusimano had a lengthy career in the voting machine industry, first as sales manager of Voting Machine Service Inc. owned by the T.H. Huhn Agency. He also worked as sales representative for the former Automatic Voting Machine Company from 1960-1990, and in the later part of his career was named vice-president of Automatic Voting Machine. He had also worked for the Voting Machine Service Center in Gerry, until his retirement in 1992.

Voting machines weren't Cusimano's only foray into politics, however. Trusso said Cusimano was respected by both local Republicans and Democrats while being invited to President John F. Kennedy's 1960 inauguration.

"He worked for Automatic Voting Machine and became vice president," Trusso said. "He was a member of the Board of Supervisors when there were only about seven of them. He was par excellence about elections. He knew everything about election law and wrote most of the election laws in New York state. He was a strong Democrat who believed in the democratic way and he wished at times we could go back to it. Fred's predecessors were all Republicans. You can call him a man for all seasons. You can call him a Renaissance man. He advised the city's Democratic and Republican mayors. He worked very hard for the parks in the county. He had a trail named after him."

Trusso also noted Cusimano's dedication to the Bemus Point rest stop and Chautauqua Lake overlook even when he wasn't feeling well.

"You never see a Fred Cusimano come along very often," Trusso said. "He's a great loss to the city, the county and the state and especially to the Democrats. This man should and will be honored. He devoted a good part of his life to the parks of Chautauqua County. He also helped Allegany

State Park. He was a member of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) that helped build it. He was in the Army before and after the draft and before and after the war (World War II) for about five years."

Trusso said that at their traditional breakfast meeting Tuesday he brought a toast to the little restaurant where the faithful gathered with an empty chair for Cusimano who was remembered by his surviving comrades.

Trusso concluded with, "I owe him a lot. I don't see anyone who can take his place. What a wonderful person."

He was influential in returning the City of Jamestown from a "non-partisan" to the "party" system for local elections. He was a past member of the Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce and served on its Governmental Affairs Committee and its Greater Jamestown Industrial Development Committee. Cusimano was a past member of the city Planning Commission and served as chairman of the county Economic Development Commission. He also served several years on the Advisory Council to the state Legislature's Joint Legislative Committee on Election Law, and for many years served as a consultant and honorary member to the Election Commissioners Association of New York State.

"He was considered the father of the Chautauqua County Parks System," said Anthony M. Teresi, a longtime Cusimano friend and former county legislator. "He was very active with the parks until the end. The West Side Trail was named for him. He helped everyone who asked for help and it was good help. With me, he was a good and loyal friend who helped me a lot with some of the county issues when I was a legislator. When he believed in something he pursued it until it was done. I consider him the brother I never had. I miss him dearly."

John C. Cheney of Belleview, Bemus Point, a longtime member and former chairman of Chautauqua County Parks Commission, said of Cusimano, "He was with us for years. He was one of the founders of it. He's a real loss. We've named one of the trails after him. He had a lot to do with getting those trails organized and started."

Fred was a man who fully understood how to live to its fullest and that Mr. Speaker is why I rise to honor him today.

THE GRACE ALICE CAMPBELL FOUNDATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this week is Congenital Heart Defects, CHD, Awareness Week. Across America, over 1 million families face the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects. Roughly 1 in 125 children are born with 1 of approximately 35 different congenital heart defects in the United States. Some of these are treatable with medications while others require surgeries or even transplants. Heart defects are the No. 1 birth defect in the United States, affecting 32,000 babies in the United States every year. They are also the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide during the first year of life, and while genetics or environmental factors are assumed to be the cause for congenital heart defects, it will take more research to help uncover their cause.

The Grace Alice Campbell Foundation, founded by her parents Brenda and Chris Campbell of Mansfield, MA, which is in my district, has been established to raise public awareness of these birth defects, assist in the treatment of these children, and raise research funds to help doctors discover the cause of congenital heart defects and find a cure. Grace Alice was born on September 4, 2003, with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, and by the time she was 5 months old, she had already had two open-heart surgeries. Now as a toddler, Grace Alice's perseverance is a wonderful example of love and courage for others every day. The foundation, launched by her parents, serves as a support group for the families of those affected, encouraging these families to celebrate life, remember loved ones lost, and to honor dedicated health professionals.

I extend my congratulations and express my admiration to the Grace Alice Campbell Foundation for its hard work on behalf of those affected by congenital heart defects and their families. I also ask that, because of the resolve of the Campbell family as well as many others across the country, the article, "Heart Buddies," by Deborah Knight Snyder in the Norton Mirror, published on Friday, February 3, 2006, documenting the courage and struggle of these families, be printed here.

HEART BUDDIES

(By Deborah Knight Snyder)

One in every 100 babies is born with a heart defect.

February 7-14 is Congenital Heart Defects (CHD) Awareness Week, and a group of Massachusetts mothers agrees word needs to get out about the many children living with CHDs. For these mothers, that awareness is simply a way of life, because their children were born with heart defects.

"People know more about conditions like Down's Syndrome and spina bifida than they do about heart defects, when heart defects are actually the number one birth defect in the United States," said Lyn McPhail of Braintree during a recent support group meeting in Mansfield for mothers of children with CHDs.

Increased consciousness will hopefully lead to more help and, ultimately, to more funding, she said. There are approximately 35 different types of congenital—meaning present at birth—heart defects.

McPhail is the mother of 15-month-old Cameron, who was diagnosed with a CHD when he was just 1½ days old.

Cameron has had two heart valve operations already and still needs a valve replacement. The quandary, his mother explains, is what to do next. There is a small mechanical valve available for children who are at least 2 years old, but that valve will become too small as he grows and would ultimately require yet another operation. However, she said, there is clinical testing currently underway in Canada and Europe which could produce better options.

"You're just racing against time," she said.

McPhail is a member of Heart Buddies, a group of mothers and kids from all over the Boston area who get together every month at each other's homes to lend and provide support. The mothers initially met through literature from Children's Hospital and through Little Hearts, Inc., a Connecticut-based organization which lends support to families of kids with CHDs.

The children—who outwardly appear to be healthy, chubby babies and toddlers—play, while the mothers talk about their experiences.