

World War II. He is best remembered for the countless hours he spent serving St. Paul's Church, Holy Rosary Church, Holy Family Residence, The Penn Ridge Club and the Irish American Men's Association.

Mr. Forbes served with the Australian Army in the Republic of South Vietnam in the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in 1971 as a combat medic. He also served as a drum major and a piper.

Following a successful business career, Mr. Forbes settled in northeastern Pennsylvania where he currently serves as national commander of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., and the Veterans Coalition, which is headquartered in Pittston, Luzerne County.

Mr. Forbes has made it known that he will dedicate his award to the memory of three Scranton natives who served during the Vietnam War and are believed to have made the ultimate sacrifice and were declared missing in action. Their names are: Frederick Krupa, Wesley Ratzel and Lothar Terla.

To further honor the memories of these men, Mr. Forbes will present a synopsis of their service records to student representatives at each of Scranton's four high schools so the stories of their heroic service can be retold and so the present generation understands that they and all others who have died fighting for our country are gone . . . but not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Forbes for his selfless service to military veterans. Those who serve to protect others deserve the best this grateful nation has to give. Mr. Forbes has spent many years advocating for veterans rights, a crusade that has improved the quality of life for all who have worn a uniform and volunteered to place themselves in harm's way.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY BERGER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 90th birthday of Harry Berger, I am proud to share with my colleagues a tribute to this great American, lovingly written by his son Robert I. Berger. Clearly Mr. Berger is deserving of this recognition by the United States House of Representatives.

Harry Berger was born on March 26, 1916 in Hungary. During World War II, he and his family were forcibly removed from their homes and taken by the Nazis to live in a crowded Jewish ghetto. Not long after, my father, along with other men his age, were taken by German and Hungarian soldiers to work as slave laborers for the balance of the war. After my father was liberated by American soldiers, and unable to return to his home because it was then under Russian control, he obtained a temporary visa to live and work in Brussels, Belgium. It was there that my father met my mother, Helen Berger, a survivor of Auschwitz, with whom he will celebrate 58 years of marriage on February 28, 2006.

My parents, together with me age 2½, arrived in the United States on January 6, 1952, and settled in the Albany Park neighborhood of Chicago. My sister Margaret was born in Chicago in 1954. My parents and I became

naturalized citizens in 1957. In 1964, my parents achieved the American dream and purchased their own home in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago where they lived until 1992 when they moved to Lincolnwood, Illinois.

My father worked as a tailor at Broadlane Clothiers in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago from the time he arrived in the United States until the store closed in approximately 1980. My father then worked for Lytton's and then Mark Shale on Michigan Avenue, where he was awarded Employee of the Year honors before retiring in 1995.

In addition to having worked hard to provide for his family, my father made time and worked tirelessly for many good causes in the service of others. My father served on the Synagogue Board and Men's Club Board of Congregation Ezras Israel in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago and served two terms as President of the Men's Club and two terms as President of the Congregation. More amazing is that my father served as President of the Congregation when he was in his mid-eighties.

My father was also a Board Member and two term President of the Zionist Organization of Chicago (ZOC), the Chicago chapter of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA). The ZOA is one of the oldest and largest Israel advocacy organizations in the United States. Founded in 1897, to support the establishment of a Jewish state, past presidents of the ZOA include Justice Louis D. Brandeis. In 1996, the ZOC honored my father and mother with the State of Israel Award for their long-time commitment and service to the organization and to the State of Israel.

My father has also helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the State of Israel. In 2001, my father and mother were honored at an Israel Bond Luncheon that raised over one half million dollars in Israel bonds. My father has supported many other Jewish charities including the JUF.

My father has lived in the United States for the past 54 years and has loved all of the ideals for which this country was founded. He has been an exemplary citizen, never taking for granted the freedom and opportunity that this country afforded him and his family. He has voted in every election, he has always kept informed of the issues facing America, and he has worked for candidates for various elective office. My father has lived the American dream. He came to this country a Holocaust survivor and refugee with a wife and young son and barely a penny to his name. He worked hard, bought a home, paid off the mortgage, raised two children, provided for his family, and has and continues to live a decent and productive life.

One of my father's great pleasures is sports. As a young boy in Hungary he loved to play soccer. In his new home, he came to understand and love baseball, football and basketball. He loves the White Sox, Cubs, Bears and Bulls, and would often take me to games on Sundays, his one day off of work. My father's joy was immeasurable when his beloved White Sox finally won the World Series this past Fall.

My father's 90 years, 54 of them in the United States, is an example of what Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation." He provided for his family and found time and energy to help others. His life is to be celebrated and honored.

HONORING EDGERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to the Edgerton Public Library in Edgerton, Wisconsin, on the occasion of its grand opening celebration. Housed in the Carnegie building originally built in 1907, the library is an impressive tribute to the people of Edgerton.

A public library serves as the cornerstone of democracy. A library fosters intellectual freedom and makes available to all citizens an extensive information network. In a local setting, citizens have access to global resources of information. The educational importance of a public library is immensely important in improving the community by providing access to higher learning. A library is a requirement for a cultivated democratic society.

A public library allows citizens to perform their civic duties placed upon them in our noble democratic nation. It not only provides free worldwide access to information, but also is a place where residents can obtain information about their community, and where internet access, tax forms and voter registration forms are provided. The role of the public library is essential in supporting a democratic state. The Edgerton Public Library has gone beyond its civic duty in providing these services for the public.

In spite of the many challenges they faced, the people of Edgerton were committed to this important project. I am proud to recognize the efforts of a community that created a dream and followed through to success. I join the residents of Edgerton in celebrating the grand opening of the newly expanded and renovated Edgerton Public Library and wish them the best for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 2006, the second in a series of "Free and Equal D.C." bills to remove the remaining congressional statutes that impose discriminatory and unequal treatment on the District of Columbia as a U.S. jurisdiction, on its elected and public officials, and on its citizens. These bills are different from the No Taxation without Representation Act, which in addition to providing equal treatment, would remedy a major violation of basic human rights recognized under international law and treaties and, moreover, a human rights denial found only in the United States. Residents justifiably focus on this most basic of infringements, but our city can and must make more progress on other unnecessary requirements and denials that violate the rights of the tax-paying American citizens who live in the Nation's capital as well.

The Free and Equal D.C. series addresses privileges, rights and benefits universally enjoyed not only by the citizens of State and local jurisdictions, but also by the four territories, under Federal principles of local control that govern the United States. Among the most important are the right to enact local budget, civil and criminal laws free from Federal interference. This bill's fraternal twin, the most important in the Free and Equal D.C. series, H.R. 1629, the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2005, sponsored by Government Reform Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS and I, was introduced last year as the first bill of the series. The Senate passed the bill in 2003, and my goal is to achieve passage by both Houses this session.

Because the period of congressional review involves only legislative days, when Congress is in session, not calendar days, D.C. laws typically do not become law for months, not days. A required hold on all D.C. bills, forces the City Council to pass most legislation using a cumbersome and complicated process in which bills are passed concurrently on an emergency, temporary, and permanent basis to ensure that the operations of the large and rapidly changing city continue. The Legislative Autonomy bill would eliminate the need for the District to engage in this Byzantine process that often requires a two-thirds super majority even for ordinary legislation.

This second bill in the Free and Equal D.C. series would eliminate the congressional review period for civil and criminal District acts of 30 days and 60 days respectively. I have introduced today's legislative autonomy bill before, but today's bill is particularly timely because of substantial changes in congressional approach and practices in responding to Council-passed law. In effect, Congress has eliminated the review or layover period. My bill would do no more than align D.C. City Council practices with the approaches Congress uses today.

Moreover, although control of the Congress changed in 1994 for the first time in 40 years, no resolution of disapproval has been heard in committee or used on the floor of either House. Instead of the cumbersome formal filing of bills that require processing in the House and the Senate, both use other more efficient processes, particularly appropriations or attachments to other bills. My bill would eliminate a formal review system that has died of old age and non-use. Congress has walked away from layover review and should allow the city to do the same.

Today's bill, of course, does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the House Government Reform Committee and the Senate Government Affairs Committee could scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the City Council, if desired, and could change or strike legislation under the plenary constitutional authority over the District. However, today Congress prefers more rapid approaches. My bill merely eliminates the automatic hold placed on local legislation and eliminates the need for the City Council to use a Byzantine emergency and temporary process to keep the District functioning under law.

Since the Home Rule Act became effective in 1974, of over 2000 legislative acts that have been passed by the Council and signed into law by the Mayor, only three resolutions to disapprove a D.C. bill have been enacted, and

two involved a distinct Federal interest; only 43 acts have been challenged by a congressional disapproval resolution. Federal law to correct for a Federal interest, of course, would be appropriate for any jurisdiction, but placing a hold on 2000 bills has not only proved unnecessary, but has meant untold costs in money, staff and time to the District and the Congress.

We continually urge the District government to pursue greater efficiency and savings. Congress must now do its part to promote greater efficiency both here and in the District by streamlining its own cumbersome, redundant, and obsolescent review processes. Eliminating the hold on D.C. legislation would not only save scarce D.C. taxpayer revenue; my bill would benefit the city's bond rating, which is effected by the shadow of congressional review that delays the certainty of finality to District legislation. At the same time, Congress would give up none of its plenary power because the Congress may intervene into any District matter at any time.

Thus, the limited legislative autonomy granted in this bill would allow the District to realize the greater measure of meaningful self-government and Home Rule it deserves and has more than earned in the 32 years since the Home Rule Act became effective. This goal can be achieved not only without prejudice to congressional authority. A congressional practice for many years now that has meant savings to Congress should now be reciprocated to the City Council as well. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF HER BILL SUPPORTING A SALVADORAN-AMERICAN DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill supporting the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreño) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States.

Forty years of internal political turmoil forced hundreds of thousands of individuals from the Republic of El Salvador to flee the country and seek peace and security in the United States. Currently, there are over 900,000 Salvadoran-Americans living in the United States, with the majority of them living in California, the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area and New York. In the Los Angeles metropolitan area alone, there are roughly 400,000 Salvadoran-Americans.

In California, the state with the largest population of Salvadoran Americans, El Dia del Salvadoreño is widely celebrated among the Latino community. This celebration of Salvadoran traditions dates back to 1525, when on August 6 the city of Villa De San Salvador was founded. August 6 also marks the date when Salvadorans around the United States celebrate the "Fiestas Agostinas" (August Holidays.) This celebration pays homage to the cultural festivities of El Salvador while adapting itself to the lives of Salvadorans in the United States. Celebrated by Salvadoran-

Americans in California and throughout our country, Salvadoran-American Day has grown in significance over the years.

Let us not forget that our Nation was built by people from many nations and cultures whose lives and work have contributed to the greatness of our Nation. Likewise, we must recognize the efforts of Salvadoran-Americans for their cultural and economic contributions to the United States and support the ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF LENA CARDOSO COSTA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA, to share the obituary of Lena Cardoso Costa a loving mother to our dear friend and colleague, Congressman JIM COSTA. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who meant a great deal to a great many people. Knowing of the important bond between JIM COSTA and his mother Lena, we express our deepest sympathies for his loss.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and remembering the life of Lena Cardoso Costa.

OBITUARY TO LENA CARDOSO COSTA

Surrounded by loved ones Lena Cardoso Costa completed her long journey of 90 years during which she contributed generously to the lives of her family and her community. As a member of what has been described as "America's Greatest Generation", she knew first hand the hard-scrabble days of the Great Depression, the uncertainty of living in a nation at war and the joy that comes from seeing the success of her children and family.

Born in Corcoran, California on August 20, 1915 to Joseph and Georgina Cardoso, Portuguese emigrants from the Azore Islands, Lena Cardoso was raised in Stratford, California along with her 5 brothers and 2 sisters. Her parents came to America to establish for themselves and their children a better life. During Lena's childhood her family endured very difficult economic times, but they persevered to realize the American Dream. The values of Lena's parents, hard work and dedication to family, were passed on to their children.

On October 11, 1936, Lena Cardoso married Manuel Costa and joined the large extended family of John C. Costa Sr. Along with his brother and his wife, John and Mary Costa, Lena and Manuel established a dairy and farming business that moved permanently to the Kearney Park area in 1942.

During the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's Lena was deeply involved in her community, cooking at the Kearney Elementary School and serving on the school's district's Board of Trustees. Because she had to quit school at the 9th grade to help her family, she placed an extraordinary importance on education for her children and grandchildren. As a matter of fact, Lena decided for her own satisfaction in 1985, at age 70, to go back to school and earned her General Education Degree.

In addition, Lena was appointed to the Fresno County Social Services Commission upon which she served through the late 60's and early 70's. She was active in the Fresno County Cabrillo Club for over 60 years in support of the club's numerous civic and charitable events and for years represented