

wanted to keep serving his country. After several years as a civilian employee at Fort Bragg, he moved over to the Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations where he became a Facilities Manager. For the last three years he has served in areas at the heart of our War on Terror, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan.

David's eulogy says everything you need to know about him as a man and him as a servant. He is a hero and a warrior. He was a devoted family man who deeply loved and adored his wife and their four daughters.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on May 5th will honor this loyal patriot by presenting to his wife, Donna, and his daughters the Department of State's Thomas Jefferson Star Award for sacrifice in the performance of his duties.

Mr. Speaker, David Foy is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his dedication to this country that he served so long and so well. David and other civil servants like him are the reason why we rise every morning in the warmth of a blanket of freedom. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOU EMMERT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lou Emmert for her professional success and outstanding contributions to the community.

Lou Emmert is the vice president and general manager for Sprint of Nevada, the primary local telephone provider for Clark County. In this role, she directs the efforts of local and state governmental relations, regulatory relations, public relations and community involvement activities, and is the main point of contact for key business leaders.

Lou is also involved in many community organizations, including the Girl Scouts of Frontier Council, the Las Vegas Chamber Board of Trustees, the YMCA Board, the Nevada Development Authority Board, the Las Vegas Philharmonic Board of Directors, the Nevada International Women's Forum, the Clark County Public Education Foundation, the Clark County Department of Social Service Citizens Advisory Committee, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Desert Research Institute Foundation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor Lou Emmert for her extraordinary record of professional and community service. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, for their individual and

collective dedication as public servants, all focused on the public good.

The community of federal employees in Cleveland, Ohio, is comprised of nearly 20,000 individuals who contribute their talent, trade and expertise daily within an array of roles, including park rangers, administrators, accountants, clerical employees, attorneys, engineers, military members, mail carriers, scientists, nurses and physicians.

The professional contribution extended daily by federal employees serves as a foundation of support, safety and security throughout our community. Every day, the mail is delivered; veterans receive medical care; the environment is monitored; our national park is preserved; immigrants are guided to citizenship; job services are provided; and astronomers study the mysteries of the universe.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of the members of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board and the thousands of federal employers who live and work within our Cleveland community. Their individual and collective commitment to their work continues to preserve, protect and strengthen our entire community.

BOOKSELLER OF THE YEAR—HONORING A VERMONT INSTITUTION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Northshire Books, honored as this year's Bookseller of The Year. The selection and award was made by Publisher's Weekly.

Northshire Books is located in the small town of Manchester, Vermont. Owned by Ed and Barbara Morrow, it is a wonderful example of a locally-owned bookstore. It boasts a handsome environment for browsing books and a huge selection of titles. The selection it carries is not chosen by corporate giants seeking maximum sales, or by a central office following national trends. Quite the contrary, Northshire's wonderful inventory of books is the result of the informed knowledge of its staff: people who read and value books.

Northshire Books regularly presents readings by authors, allowing it to serve as a rich cultural resource for all of southwestern Vermont. It introduces young people to reading, through its fine children's section, and "Story times" for young readers.

Vermont authors value this wonderful store. "Northshire is everything one could want in a bookstore," said Vermont novelist Chris Bohjalian. "It's a huge gift to the state." And best-selling novelist John Irving agreed: "What's remarkable about the quality and range of the Northshire Bookstore is that Manchester isn't a college town, or even a very big town, yet the store is both broad and deep—it is literary, friendly to children, and welcoming to tourists. I love the place." Novelist Howard Frank Mosher said, "Every time I walk through there, the first thing I see is a dozen or so of my favorite contemporary novels and non-fiction books. He continued, "Then, the booksellers that the Morrows have hired over the years are, I think, the most knowledgeable booksellers I've ever met. They've actually read the books they sell and know an enormous amount about them."

Northshire has not been purely commercial. In 2003 its owners sponsored "Cry Out: Poets Protest the War," a collection of the anti-war poems were read by eleven renowned poets, including Galway Kinnell, Grace Paley and Jamaica Kincaid, to an overflow crowd of 500 in Manchester's First Congregational Church. That event was announced after the White House canceled a poetry reading out of a fear that poems critical of the war in Iraq might be read. The poems read were subsequently published by Braziller. And when the Patriot Act eliminated reader privacy—making it easy for investigators to check bookstore purchases without judicial oversight—Northshire actively opposed the law with American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. As a result, a petition with 185,000 signatures was sent to Congress, asking that it restore protections for reader privacy which were eliminated by Section 215 of the act.

Small, local business is the heart of the American economy. Local bookstores are, and have been ever since the times of Benjamin Franklin (a bookshop owner), a center of American learning. Congratulations to Northshire bookstore, to owners Ed and Barbara Morrow, to its manager Chris Morrow, to its staff, and to its dedicated and supportive patrons.

IN HONOR OF PACE UNIVERSITY'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most respected private institutions of higher learning in my district, Pace University, as it celebrates a major milestone, the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1906. This great school has grown from humble beginnings as a School of Accountancy to become a vibrant and dynamic Liberal Arts University offering more than 100 majors.

Over the last century, the school has lived up to its motto, *Opportunitas*, by offering its students the opportunity to discover and fulfill their potential, and affording its distinguished faculty and outstanding staff the opportunity to achieve excellence. As part of its 15-month centennial celebration, Pace University will be hosting lectures, symposia, service activities, and other special events that reflect on its long history of opportunity and innovation.

With its six schools and colleges and two main campuses, Pace is consistently ranked among the top quarter of 4-year colleges and universities in the country. Pace's School of Law is nationally recognized for the excellence of its Environmental Law Program and its Lienhard School of Nursing has been an acknowledged leader in nursing education, research, and practice for more than 35 years.

Ultimately, Pace University's greatest strength has been its people—its faculty, staff, students, and alumni—and its most profound achievement can be seen in the countless lives that have been transformed by the Pace experience. I offer my sincere congratulations to all those that have helped the school prosper and grow over the past 100 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF LAS VEGAS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian-American Cultural Society of Las Vegas on this, the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. This organization was established in 1978, and since that time has grown in size and influence. They are now the largest non-political, non-denominational organization in Nevada. They have worked tirelessly to educate the general public about the atrocious acts committed against their people and also to help preserve the Armenian culture here in Las Vegas and America.

I am proud to represent a large and vibrant Armenian community in the Third Congressional District of Nevada and I consider it an honor to have been invited to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. These ceremonies offer participants an opportunity to honor the survivors and their descendants, and to remind the world of the tragedy that befell Armenians of the Ottoman Empire.

It is estimated that one and a half million Armenians perished between 1915 and 1923 in a genocide planned and executed by the Turkish government against the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. The great bulk of the Armenian population was removed from Armenia and Anatolia to Syria, where the vast majority was sent into the desert to die of thirst and hunger. Large numbers of Armenians were methodically massacred throughout the Ottoman Empire. The entire wealth of the Armenian people was expropriated. After only a little more than a year of calm at the end of WWI, the atrocities were renewed between 1920 and 1923, and the remaining Armenians were subjected to further massacres and expulsions.

While there are still many who deny that the Armenian Genocide ever took place, I am pleased to see more and more countries and states and even the media are now in the process of recognizing the genocide. It is critical that we reflect on this human tragedy and on the lessons of history and work to avoid the horrors faced by the Armenian people in 1915.

H.R. 3380—THE GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROMOTION AND KINSHIP SUPPORT ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and honor the 294,969 California grandparents as well as 2.4 million grandparents around the Nation who act as primary guardians to grandchildren that are unable to live with their parents. As a result of the service and efforts of these individuals, many children around California and the country are able to live with relatives and stay out of the foster care system.

According to the Census of 2000, 6.8 percent of California's children are living in grandparent-headed households as well as an additional 3.5 percent living in households headed by other non-parent relatives. I commend the efforts these relatives take in providing a safe and familiar living environment for these children.

However, now more than ever, I also recognize the financial hardships and personal sacrifices faced by these guardians. As a cosponsor of H.R. 3380, The Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, I am committed to working toward a solution that will help to alleviate these financial burdens placed on guardians and give them access to Federal funds that they deserve.

Today, on behalf of the constituents of the 16th District of California, I extend my deepest appreciation to these exceptional guardians. It is an honor to have many of these individuals in my own district whose care and commitment to vulnerable children help to build a better future for them.

IN RECOGNITION OF COUNTY CONNECTION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, Representative GEORGE MILLER, to pay tribute to County Connection, the public bus system provider that serves more than a dozen communities and unincorporated areas of central Contra Costa County in our two Congressional Districts.

County Connection was founded on March 27, 1980 under a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. After several years of careful planning, locally elected officials in Central Contra Costa recognized the need for a truly coordinated and integrated regional transit system.

County Connection began providing service with 12 buses, carrying 1,950,000 passengers, traveling 1,423,357 miles. In just its first ten years, the agency multiplied its fleet of buses ten fold. Today, the transportation agency maintains a current fleet of 131 buses and 56 LINK vans, makes nearly 5,000,000 fixed-route and paratransit trips throughout central Contra Costa and provides 4.5 million rides annually.

The system is now overseen by an 11-member Board of Directors, one representative from each jurisdiction and one representative for the unincorporated areas of Central County.

Since its establishment, County Connection has received numerous prestigious awards including: the American Public Transit Association (APTA) Minority & Women Advancement Award for its meritorious accomplishments in the employment, promotion and training of minorities and women in management positions, and this year, the California Water Environment Association recognized the agency with its "Facility of the Year" award in recognition for going above and beyond normal efforts to protect susceptible plant and wildlife that survive in local streams.

For 25 years, County Connection has provided vital transportation services to residents throughout Central Contra Costa. As the popu-

lation of this County grows, the services provided by County Connection have never been needed more. Each day agency buses help people get to their work, return home, and in general provide a service that no other program in the community can. Today, we are proud to commend County Connection for the agency's service to the community and its lasting commitment to the people of Contra Costa County.

MGIB LEGISLATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an inequity facing America's men and women in uniform who seek an education in return for their military service.

For years, the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) has allowed thousands of men and women in uniform attend college or to receive vocational training to prepare for a new career after the military.

It is an excellent program and one we must preserve.

However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remedy an inequity that exists in this program with legislation I am introducing today.

To receive the benefits of the Montgomery GI Bill, our service members must pay \$1,200 to \$1,800 into the program at the beginning of their military service.

A \$100 is deducted each month from their military pay for the first 12 months, for example.

With the legislation I offer today, our service members would still make the initial contribution. However, this contribution would no longer count against them later on when they apply for federal student aid.

In many cases, Mr. Speaker, the Montgomery GI Bill alone does not cover the cost for college or job training. Our service members must also apply for federal student aid to cover tuition and other expenses.

The Department of Education considers their benefits from the Montgomery GI Bill as "income"—thereby reducing the amount they are eligible to receive from federal student aid programs.

This legislation goes back to the \$1,200 out-of-pocket contribution that a service member made to become eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill.

It is not fair to ask our service members to pay the original amount out of their own pocket and then penalize them for it later on.

This bill would simply exempt the original contribution that came from their own pocket from the Department of Education's income consideration.

This legislation does not present significant cost to the federal government but would go a long way to help America's individual service members afford college.

I offered the provisions contained in this legislation as part of the College Access and Opportunity Act (H.R. 609) when it was on the House floor.

Unfortunately, the amendment was not accepted, but I plan to pursue the issue until we correct this inequity.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take just a moment to thank those who have worked on