

served more than 20,000 dinners during the year. The system used by this non-profit group harnesses the good intentions of a wide swath of the Henderson community. Friends in the Desert provides a place for the privileged members of society to reach out to those less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the volunteers of Friends in the Desert for their commitment to helping provide food for the homeless. The sheer size and scope of their operation is a testament to their dedication and their efforts should be applauded.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD R. RUBANO,
JR.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Superintendent of Farrell School District Richard R. Rubano, Jr.

Mr. Rubano not only serves as the Superintendent of the schools in Farrell, but also teaches a leadership class to juniors and seniors in the school district one day a week. The subjects taught in the class vary from speech preparation to key decisionmaking to job and college outlook. This leadership class has become very popular among students in the Farrell School District.

Mr. Rubano has been the superintendent of the Farrell School District since 1997. Before becoming the superintendent, Mr. Rubano spent many years as a teacher, then principal. Mr. Rubano has served as a team facilitator for a group of ten who designed new math curriculum for grades K-6. He also assisted in writing the district's Act 178 Professional Development Plan. Mr. Rubano has dedicated his career to bettering the education of young minds.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing all of the hard work and time Richard R. Rubano Jr. has put in to make the school district better. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual like Richard R. Rubano, Jr.

IN HONOR OF LINDA ROSENTHAL
ON THE OCCASION OF HER ELEC-
TION TO THE NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Linda Rosenthal on the occasion of her election to the New York State Assembly. After a lifetime on the Upper West Side, more than 2 decades of community activism, and 13 years as my Manhattan District Director and Director of Special Projects, on February 28th, 2006, Linda was elected to represent the 67th Assembly District. Assemblywoman Rosenthal's dedication to her constituents continues the West Side's legacy

of progressive politics and independent representation in Albany.

Linda first got involved in politics after a dispute with her landlord more than 20 years ago. This experience led her to become a staunch advocate of tenants' rights. Throughout her career, Linda has worked with both individuals and with community groups to secure funding and legislation to help low- and middle-income residents.

As Manhattan Director and Director of Special Projects for the 8th Congressional District, Linda was instrumental in enacting several initiatives to enhance the quality of life for the residents of my District. Linda has been a relentless advocate of such community improvement projects as the Hudson River Park, the 72nd Street subway renovation, various senior and community centers, local parks, playgrounds, and green spaces.

Perhaps Linda's most significant contribution followed the notorious attacks on the World Trade Center in my district on September 11, 2001. Following the attacks, Linda passionately fought the Environmental Protection Agency to provide adequate clean-up efforts to improve the air quality for those who live and work in lower Manhattan. The fight is ongoing, but her dedication to the cause may well save countless lives. Linda also worked strenuously to compel the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to free up more Federal grant money to aid in the economic recovery of small businesses in the area.

In Albany, Assemblywoman Rosenthal has hit the ground running. Since taking office, she has already introduced significant legislation, sponsored over 40 bills, testified before State agencies, and met with community leaders and constituents about the issues facing our neighborhood. She has also been named to the Committees on Housing; Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Agriculture; Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; and Energy.

Linda Rosenthal is the kind of public servant every Member of Congress wants to work with. Her selfless dedication to her job, her fierce protection of my office and my reputation, and her genuine interest in helping the greater good, are all a testament to her character. I am saddened to see her leave my office after 13 years, but I am also deeply proud of her. I can't think of anyone who deserves to hold public office more than Linda.

For her commitment to her neighborhood, her city, her State, and her Nation, it is my privilege to congratulate Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal on her record of distinguished service, and on her recent election, and to join the rest of her constituents in high expectations of her future public service.

IN HONOR OF ELSA GREENBERG
ON THE OCCASION OF HER 70TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsa Greenberg on the occasion of her 70th birthday. Elsa was born April 25th 1936, in Providence, Rhode Island, six minutes after her twin sister Saralee. Elsa grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts and Port-

land, Maine, and when she was 13, she moved to Miami, Florida.

Elsa studied at the Universities of Alabama and Miami, where she learned to dance and studied education and social psychology. She was married in 1956 to Mel Greenberg, who would later found the Miami-based Greenberg Traurig law firm in 1967.

A devoted wife and mother of three children—Dianne, Carol, and Michael—Elsa was widely-known in South Florida as a thoughtful and gracious hostess, and, with Mel, a generous philanthropist and engaged citizen. She was for many years an avid classical music and tennis fan, a political devotee, and a gourmet cook, even picking up the art of macrobiotic cooking after Mel was diagnosed with cancer. Elsa and Mel were married for 38 years.

Elsa now devotes herself primarily to her family. Invariably, she can be found with her children and their spouses Steve, Mark, and Maria and her grandchildren Arik, Ditty, Daniel, Josh, Brian, Melanie, and Carolina. Elsa continues to be a refined hostess, now passing on her secrets to her family. She has also taken up knitting, amazing her family and friends with her impressive mastery of the craft. Elsa Greenberg continues to be a strong political enthusiast and is, in short, a patriotic citizen—the kind of constituent we all want in our districts.

For her commitment to her family, to her community, and to her nation, it is my privilege to wish Elsa Greenberg a very happy 70th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIGRID
SOMMER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sigrid Sommer for her wonderful service to Las Vegas and her commitment to public international education.

Sigrid Sommer has served with great distinction as Germany's Honorary Consul in the Las Vegas area and beyond. She has enjoyed the highest possible respect for her professional accomplishments, as well as affection for her warmth and friendliness, by all those who have had the privilege of working with her, both in Germany and the United States. She has resided in the Las Vegas area for some 30 years and comes from a distinguished family of diplomats and journalists in Germany. She is a fixture in local business, cultural and political affairs and is married to another well-respected member of the Las Vegas community, attorney George Golson. She has received many accolades for her personal and professional accomplishments, most notably receiving the "Cross of Merit" from the German government in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sigrid Sommer for her personal and professional success. I wish her the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MOHAN

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Charles Mohan for all of his hard work with the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, UMDF.

This year the UMDF celebrates its 10th anniversary and the retirement of founder and Board Chair, Charles Mohan. Mr. Mohan started the foundation after his daughter, Gina, lost her courageous struggle with mitochondrial disease. The UMDF is headquartered in Pittsburgh and has funded more than \$3,000,000 for research to find a cure for this devastating disease.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Charles Mohan for his work with the UMDF. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual.

COMMEMORATING EARTH DAY 2006

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Saturday marked the 36th annual Earth Day, a day set aside for reflection, education, and action on the impact of human beings on our planet. Although it is certainly important to celebrate the rich diversity of nature with our families and communities, my greatest hope for the Earth is that my children's children will not have to observe an Earth Day. Instead, I look forward to a future when concern for the environment is part of each decision our country makes, rather than only a matter we address one day each year on a date set aside to make us consider the impact we are having on our surroundings.

While the front pages of our newspapers routinely carry stories on the degradation of our natural resources, environmental issues have yet to rise to a top priority in Congress. Nonetheless, the decisions we make today will profoundly impact the way we live for years and generations to come. Indeed, our stewardship of the environment is inextricably tied to our economic security and growth.

This is not news to the American people. Over the last 20 years, more Americans have said that environmental protection is a high priority for the Nation. Nearly three in five Americans are active in or sympathetic to the environmental movement, but most believe the government has a negative, or at best negligible, impact on these efforts.

One area in which the Federal Government has failed to lead is global warming. A recent Gallup poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans worry about the greenhouse effect, up from just over half in 2004. Eighty-three percent believe that global warming will become a problem for the U.S. and 57 percent feel it poses a very serious threat to the world. And, Mr. Speaker, 68 percent of our fellow citizens believe the Federal Government should be doing more to combat it.

The science of climate change has become clear and alarming. NASA recently confirmed that 9 of the last 10 years have been the warmest since modern records began in 1861, with 2005 topping the list. Much of this rise can be explained by a 35 percent increase over preindustrial levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial production.

Even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, the current levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere will cause the Earth's temperature to reach its highest point since the end of the Ice Age some 9,000 years ago. Average global temperatures could rise by 3 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. This would melt the polar ice caps, causing sea level to rise twenty or more feet, causing severe worldwide flooding that would put large parts of Florida and California underwater. Warmer weather will also lead to severe weather patterns that will contribute to food shortages, increase the spread and severity of disease, increase the damage and displacement from a range of natural disasters, and jeopardize billions of people around the world.

In 2005, the economic costs of weather-related catastrophes have been estimated at more than \$200 billion. As temperatures rise, so will this economic toll. The extinction of millions of plant and animal species presents another priceless and irreversible toll of global warming.

While some temperature rise is inevitable, most scientists still believe that concerted action can prevent the most apocalyptic consequences of climate change. The global nature of this challenge creates not only an obligation for the U.S., but also an opportunity. By conserving the resources we have and developing new, cleaner sources of energy, we will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, protect our wilderness, and purify our air, water, and soil. Taking the lead in improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions will improve our economic security and prosperity today and for generations to come.

New scientific findings highlight the urgency of addressing global warming and related environmental challenges. Fortunately, the innovative and enterprising spirit of the American people puts us in an ideal position to seize this opportunity. Together, we can change the headlines to reflect a more optimistic outlook for our planet while improving our own quality of life. The American people have made it clear that the environment should be on our agenda every day, not just Earth Day, and I hope that Congress will heed this appeal.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD L. SCHWARTZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard L. Schwartz, a distinguished American who retired in March 2006 as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Loral Space and Communications, Inc., posts he has held since the company was founded in 1996. He served in the same posts

at the predecessor company, Loral Corporation, since 1972.

Loral Space and Communications designs and manufactures large, geostationary telecommunications satellites, and through its Skynet subsidiary provides a wide range of satellite services. Under Mr. Schwartz's wise leadership, Loral Space and Communications has played a central role in the development of the satellite industry and a central role in satellite services for our nation.

Bernard Schwartz is a legend on Wall Street and in the defense industry. He is highly regarded for his work in the fields of economic growth, industrial policy, technology and national security. He gives generously of his time, his talents and resources to many organizations to further examine these topics. Among his extraordinary contributions are the endowment of academic chairs for the study of economic policy and international affairs at New School University and Johns Hopkins University, as well as establishing a fellowship program in public policy at the New America Foundation. He is a Trustee of New York University Hospitals Center where he established the Neurointerventional Radiology Center, and he funded a distinguished chair in urologic oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He established chairs at the Brookings Institution and at Tel Aviv University and founded a Communication Institute at Baruch College where he serves as a Trustee. Mr. Schwartz serves on the Board of the New York Historical Society, and as Vice-Chair of the New York Film Society. He is also a Trustee of Third Way and the Democratic Leadership Council.

Mr. Schwartz, a graduate of City College of New York, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science by his alma mater. He and his wife live in New York City and have two daughters, three granddaughters and one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bernard Schwartz for his extraordinary leadership and countless contributions to our nation's economy and its well-being. He has taken his citizenship seriously and given back to the country he loves so much. We salute him for his leadership of Loral Space and Communications, which serves the interests of our country and for his continuing patriotism which makes him a national treasure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY CHAPLIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sidney Chaplin a Las Vegas business and civic leader who died this past March.

Sidney Chaplin was a longtime executive vice-president and general manager of Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada drew great personal satisfaction from helping those less fortunate. He was a true philanthropist who never sought recognition for his good deeds and generosity. During World War II, Mr. Chaplin served in the United States Air Force. After his military service for our country, he started his working career as an insurance