

Supervisor in the Food Stamps Unit and moved throughout the Social Services system to include: the Multicultural Child Welfare Unit, Basic Services, Adult Protective Services, Immigration, Social Work Coordinator, Voluntary Foster Home Intake and Coordinator of Special Projects.

Mr. Borelli developed the first Immigration Services Unit for Santa Clara County in 1974, where he worked closely with neighborhood youth groups. In fact, Ken is an expert and leader in the field of Immigration Services and has exhibited his accomplishments in many ways. He not only provided professional development training in the field of immigration, but also significantly contributed to the development of the 1990 Federal legislation which established "Special Immigrant Juvenile Status" laws to help immigrant children in the Child Welfare System across the country. Ken also was responsible for the development of an invaluable "Immigration Resource and Practice Guide" which helped so many families. Ken accomplished other written work in the field of Social work practice including topics such as: Child Welfare, International Social Services, and Domestic Violence. Mr. Borelli continues to remain involved in all levels of social service issues, including: child welfare abuse issues, dependency court investigations, AIDS research and fund-raising, immigration, and development and enhancement of our library systems. His participation in Committees and Advisory Boards included: the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Committee of the Child Abuse Council of Santa Clara County (20 years), the Alum Rock Library Committee, the County Library Commission, the Advisory Board of the Eastside Athletic Club, and the Board of Catholic Charities Immigration Services.

Mr. Borelli is a prominent leader in the community and continues to demonstrate his innovative contributions. He was a founding member and Chair for 20 years of the Social Service Agency's AIDS Services Committee. He is a supporter of the Opera San Jose and is being honored as "2006 Volunteer of the Year" by the Italian American Foundation. I hereby honor Ken Borelli, on the closure of this chapter of his life, but know he will continue to have a tremendous impact on social services in the county.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DAMU AMIRI IMARA SMITH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Damu Amiri Imara Smith, a prolific fighter for justice and peace who succumbed to colon cancer on May 5th of this year. In keeping with his long and distinguished career of activism, Damu continued his fight until the very end. Helped along the way by his "Army of Angels" and inspired by his enduring love for his daughter Asha, Damu outlived all the doctors' predictions. Not letting his terminal diagnosis dampen his spirit, he turned his personal health crisis into a fight for better health care services for black and poor people.

Just as Damu's resolve to speak truth to power was not constrained by his illness, nei-

ther did his sense of justice know any limit. Damu's concerns and actions ranged from the local to the global. He started out fighting for the Martin Luther King holiday and against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Later, his concerns expanded to include environmental justice; he monitored corporate pollution on Louisiana's Gulf Coast as national associate director for Greenpeace USA. He sought to unite the civil rights and environmental movements by founding the National Black Environmental Justice Campaign, which led the nationwide fight against contaminated water and waste dumps in poor and black communities.

Damu furthered his concern for peace and nonviolence at home and abroad as the associate director of the American Friends Service Committee's Washington Bureau. He confronted police brutality and worked to end gun violence in the District of Columbia while advocating for an international freeze on nuclear weapons. He saw health disparities and the lack of adequate health care as another form of violence, and added his efforts to the campaign for universal health care. After September 11th, Damu founded Black Voices for Peace. Continuing in his fearless tradition of speaking truth to power, Damu took on the Bush administration for spending billions of dollars on the Iraq war, money that could have been used for health care, education and basic services here at home.

Damu's voice is something that we'll all dearly remember. I was privileged to be a guest on his WPFW radio show, "Spirit in Action," a number of times and I will remember Damu Smith not only for being a tireless advocate for peace and justice, but for the generosity of his spirit. He could spend his entire program excoriating Condoleezza Rice or Colin Powell, and then end by saying, "But you know I love you." He was able to rise above all of the injustices he spent his life fighting to recognize his opponents' humanity. That kind of bigheartedness is sorely lacking in America's public discourse today. We Members of Congress could stand to learn a thing or two from Damu Smith, and though he is no longer with us in body, but his spirit will live on, as always, in action.

HONORING DR. ROBIN LOWITZ

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robin Lowitz on the occasion of her receipt of the prestigious Tikkun Olam Award from the Jewish Community Center of Sonoma County (formerly the Jewish Community Agency). The "Healing the World" Award is bestowed upon an individual who demonstrates this Jewish Value and Obligation of dedication, perseverance, creativity plus giving time, energy, talents and resources to make an important social justice impact on the quality of life in a community.

Robin Lowitz saw a great need in Sonoma County and preceded to fill it by envisioning and implementing The Jewish Community Free Clinic, a medical clinic specifically for the uninsured—"the working poor, barely able to make ends meet who fall through the cracks."

A Berkeley, California, native, Dr. Lowitz had volunteered for several faith-based free

medical clinics in the Bay Area in the 1990's. Upon arriving in Sonoma County and witnessing the need first-hand, she garnered volunteers and financial support from the Jewish Community, synagogues, and other groups and individuals. In October, 2001, she opened the Jewish Community Free Clinic in a space donated by the Lions Club of Petaluma.

That first night there were 6 patients and 15 volunteers. The Clinic now provides 2,500 free medical care visits to over 1,000 uninsured patients annually, offering free medical care for anyone in need, without regard to ethnicity, race or religion. The vast majority of patients are uninsured Latino immigrant men, women, and children (many of whom need immunizations and physicals in order to attend school). They also serve uninsured single parents, students, the elderly, homeless, and temporary/unskilled workers.

The medical equipment at the Clinic is donated, and its 100+ volunteers come from all sectors of the community—including the communities it serves. Fifteen volunteer physicians, with as many nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants rotate each week, supplemented by a large referral network of volunteer physician specialists. Volunteers also offer social work, growth and development monitoring, safety awareness in Spanish and English, Spanish language interpreting and community resource referrals.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Dr. Robin Lowitz. She had the commitment, passion, and energy to make the Jewish Community Free Clinic a reality for the people of Sonoma County and truly exemplifies the spirit of Tikkun Olam, Healing the World.

TRIBUTE TO CORP. NEIL W. REID, POST 2358

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Corp. Neil W. Reid Post 2358 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, created in 1936, and named after Neil W. Reid, the first casualty of World War I from Macomb County.

The Post was formed in 1936 by members of the Post in Mount Clemens who sought to establish a separate post in the Village of Roseville. At its foundation, the Corp. Neil W. Reid was operating out of the old township hall and had 24 members. Shortly after, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Post was chartered, made up of 20 former servicewomen and wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of veterans.

In 1939, members of the Post received a charter from the Military Order of the Cooties, formed to better the metal attitude of bed-ridden soldiers through hospital visitation and fundraising activities.

By the end of World War II the membership of the Post had grown to 175. This growth was recognized in 1950 when the National Commander of the VFW visited the Post's Home, an honor that few Posts throughout the nation have received.

In 1958, Mildred Mueth, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Post, was elected

President of the organization in the State of Michigan, and one year later, Post member Fred McDaniel was elected to the position of commander in the State of Michigan. McDaniel would go on to coordinate the National Convention of the VFW, held in Detroit in 1960.

The Post continued to grow, and during the 1960's and 1970's expanded and remodeled its Home several times. With the added space, the Post became an important community institution, hosting baby showers, birthday, anniversary, and retirement parties, as well as funeral lunches.

Over the years, the Post has been an important fundraiser for the Roseville Police and Fire Departments, the Roseville Community Schools Scholarship Foundation and has been active in raising money for several other charities as well. The Post has been rewarded with numerous awards for Community Service, Americanism, and Youth Activities, demonstrating its involvement and commitment to the local community.

Today, the Post helps veterans in need of medical care and other assistance, and has been active in providing household goods to soldiers in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Corp. Neil W. Reid, Post 2358, and its Ladies Auxiliary on the occasion of their 70th anniversary. These organizations have been an important and active force in aiding local veterans as well as the community as a whole.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B.
WEGMAN

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Robert B. Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc., who died on April 20, 2006, at the age of 87. Mr. Wegman was surrounded by his family, as he passed away peacefully in his hometown of Rochester, NY.

Mr. Wegman made his mark as a pioneer in the supermarket industry, transforming the conventional grocery store into a superstore, emulated by others across the country. Mr. Wegman's passion for business began as a child, when he worked in the family store operated from the front of his grandmother's home. He developed a philosophy that has served as the foundation for the company. He believed: "I am a merchant and I have, therefore, my own philosophy about merchandising. That is: To do something that no one else is doing, and to be able to offer the customer a choice that she doesn't have at the moment." Mr. Wegman embodied the American entrepreneurial spirit from the start, and proved to be one of the most successful businessmen in the grocery store industry.

From the beginning, Mr. Wegman made it his goal to make Wegmans supermarkets the finest chain in the country—he was not concerned if it was the fastest growing, but more with growth itself. In 1930, Mr. Wegman and his brother received national attention with the opening of their innovative grocery store. The 20,000-square-foot store was unlike anything

seen before—it featured modern techniques for keeping produce fresh with vaporized water spray and refrigerated food displays. Over the next 56 years, Mr. Wegman transformed his store with the concept of one-stop-shopping. He imported fine cheeses, and wine, ethnic foods, and introduced patisseries and prepared foods into the grocery stores. In the 20th century, Wegman integrated pharmacies, photo labs and video departments into his stores, propelling the model for customer convenience to its highest levels.

Wegmans Food Markets has expanded to now over 70 stores, and the company is now as well known for its corporate responsibility as it is for exceptional customer service. Wegmans Food Markets has been named one of 'The Top 100 Companies to Work For' by Fortune magazine several years in a row, and in 2005 was ranked #1 as the best company to work for in the nation. Fortune's annual ranking of companies is determined by the number of employees and is measured by benefits, job growth, pay, percentage of minorities and women, and turnover. For example, Wegmans provides a scholarship program which has given close to \$60 million in tuition assistance to its employees. Although the superstore helped to shape the Rochester community, Robert Wegman has crafted his company into one that serves as a national model, both for its corporate success and for the opportunities and environment he has provided for his employees.

Mr. Wegman is also highly admired for his philanthropy. In 1995, he and his wife, Peggy, announced a 10-year, \$25 million gift in support of Catholic education, allowing hundreds of families to choose Catholic education in the Rochester-area community. Mr. Wegman also made considerable contributions to Aquinas Institute high school, giving \$10 million to the school for new athletic facilities and a fine arts center. In 1997, Wegmans Food Markets became the title sponsor of the Wegmans Rochester LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association); with proceeds supporting camps for disabled children. Most recently, Mr. Wegman contributed a combined \$13 million to St. John Fisher College, which will be used for the establishment of the Wegmans School of Pharmacy and the Wegmans School of Nursing.

Mr. Wegman's pursuit of excellence is portrayed in every aspect of his life: family, community, and corporate responsibility. He will be remembered as a pioneer and leader of his industry and for his extraordinary compassion and generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Robert Wegman.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL THEO F. MIDDLETON,
JR., ON RECEIVING THE LEGION
OF MERIT AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Theo F. Middleton, Jr. on receiving the Legion of Merit Award.

The Legion of Merit Award is a military decoration of the United States armed forces, which is awarded for exceptionally meritorious

conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. We congratulate Colonel Middleton on being awarded this medal.

Colonel Middleton is a native of Mobile, who attended UMS Preparatory School and completed the ROTC training program at Marion Military Institute. After graduating from Louisiana State University, Colonel Middleton was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. His initial assignment was to the Korean Demilitarized Zone as Rifle Platoon Leader. Following training as an Army helicopter pilot, Colonel Middleton was assigned as an Aero-Scout Platoon Leader. He is a founding member of Task Force 158, which is the U.S. Army's first long range, night vision capable special operations helicopter unit. He presently serves as the congressional district commander for Alabama's First Congressional District.

Colonel Middleton's other awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Commendation Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Master Army Aviator wings.

Colonel Middleton served as past president of the Mobile County Wildlife Conservation Association, as well as the Greater Mobile Area LSU Alumni Association. He is an investment advisor with the Wealth Management Group of Regions/Morgan Keegan in Mobile.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Ted Middleton on receiving his award. I acknowledge his invaluable work and significant contribution to not only the state Alabama but our Nation as well.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER SKERSKI
AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMO-
RIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for five minutes and to revise and extend my remarks.

This past Friday, I attended the funeral of Philadelphia Police Officer Gary Skerski. I saw the pain of his wife Anne, 13-year old son Robert, and 10-year old daughter Nicole—a pain that may dull with time, but will never go away.

They lost a husband and a father. And Philadelphia lost one of its finest.

Officer Skerski was a community relations officer, and a 16-year veteran of the force. And, on May 8th at 10 pm, Officer Gary Skerski was murdered in the line of duty.

Gary was working overtime when he and his partner responded to a robbery call. He entered a neighborhood watering hole to stop a gunman who was terrorizing patrons and staff. Gary was shot in the neck by a cold-blooded killer who has no regard for the law and no regard for life. Gary never even had a chance to draw his gun.

Officer Skerski worked to protect the families, homes, and businesses of Northeast Philadelphia. He interacted with my staff often, and I had the pleasure of meeting Gary at a community meeting just this past winter.