

Despite lacking an official diocese or church, both stories exemplify a Catholic presence and influence which exceeds the creation of physical infrastructure. It is a testament to an often repeated adage which states that the people inside the church are the church; a church without people is just an empty building.

St. Patrick Catholic Church has been an important resource for Michigan's Thumb Region, and has always worked to improve the community. It has always answered the call of service and almsgiving. And despite the struggles and obstacles faced along the way, St. Patrick has remained steadfast and resilient exhibiting its core values and trust in God.

Currently, over 1.4 million Catholics embody the Archdiocese of Detroit and St. Patrick Church has been a strong part of its history and the history of Lapeer County. Parishioners can be extremely proud of this keystone anniversary and have every reason to celebrate. Reaching this notable achievement is a strong reflection of the faith and commitment of the people who attend religious services and worship every Sunday.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I commend the leadership, parish staff, event coordinating committee and everyone who had a helping hand in seeing this day come to fruition. Their hard work is recognized and greatly appreciated. I extend my best wishes to St. Patrick Catholic Church on a successful and wonderful celebration.

AMERICAN JEWISH HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of American Jewish Heritage Month. For more than 350 years, members of the Jewish faith have lived in this country, built this country and contributed to this country.

From colonial days to the present, the course of American history would be profoundly different if it were not for the contributions of American Jews. The early settlers arrived in New York in 1654 and won official toleration, despite the objections of Peter Stuyvesant, marking America as a place where Jews would be free to practice their religion. America's toleration was unusual. Elsewhere in the world the Spanish Inquisition was in full swing; Italian Jews were confined to ghettos; Jews had not yet officially been readmitted to England or France; and they were banned from Scandinavia. Toleration became accepted practice in New England and the South as well, and Jewish communities began to form in many parts of America. A Jewish doctor, Samuel Nunez Ribiero, kept the settlers of the new colony of Georgia from being ravaged by malaria in 1733, which persuaded the founder of the colony, James Edward Oglethorpe, to allow Jewish people to settle in Savannah.

Jews played an important role in the Revolutionary War and the establishment of the fledgling United States. From the merchants who carried supplies and arms to Hayim Solomon who helped bankroll the new government at a crucial time, Jews contributed to the

birth of our country. And, as the country grew, Jews found opportunities and freedom in the new towns and cities that were built in the West.

Jews began to immigrate to the United States in large numbers during the 1880s. And their language, customs and stories were incorporated into American culture. What could be more American than nosh on a bagel while watching a Woody Allen movie? Thanks to comedians like Milton Berle, Jack Benny, Fanny Brice, Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Neil Simon, Phil Silvers, Jerry Seinfeld, Roseanne Barr, Sacha Baron Cohen, Gilda Radner and thousands of others, American comedy often seems to have a distinctly Jewish humor.

Jews have made their mark in American literature, music and the arts. Saul Bellow, Herman Wouk and Michael Chabon are among the 14 percent of Pulitzer Prize winners in literature who are Jewish; Barbara Tuchman, Studs Terkel and Jared Diamond are among the 51 percent of Pulitzer Prize winners for non-fiction who are Jewish. From Leonard Bernstein to Aaron Copeland, some of America's most famous composers are Jewish. And many of the most influential artists of the last 100 years have been Jewish, including Man Ray, Helen Frankenthaler and Mark Rothko.

Jewish scientists have expanded our knowledge of the world and have helped discover new cures. From Albert Einstein to Jonas Salk, Carl Sagan to Mark Zuckerberg, Jews have used their scientific knowledge to change our understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month, and the myriad of ways in which Jewish Americans have influenced our lives.

INTRODUCING THE SMALL
BUSINESS TAX EQUITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. POLIS (D-CO), Mr. FRANK (D-MA), Mr. ROHRBACHER (R-CA), and Mr. PAUL (R-TX) to introduce the Small Business Tax Equity Act.

Our tax code currently undercuts legal medical marijuana dispensaries by preventing them from taking the full range of deductions allowed for other small businesses. While unfair to these small business owners, the tax code also punishes the thousands of patients who rely on them for safe, legal, reliable access to medical marijuana as recommended by a doctor.

The Small Business Tax Equity Act would create an exception to Internal Revenue Code Section 280E to allow businesses operating in accordance with state law to take tax deductions associated with the sale of medical marijuana. This legislation is one in a series of bills being introduced today that would help ensure the fair treatment of medical marijuana businesses and the patients they serve.

Forty years after the start of the War on Drugs, 16 states and the District of Columbia now regulate and allow the sale of marijuana for medical purposes. Our tax laws have not kept pace with these changes in state law. My legislation would amend a portion of the Inter-

nal Revenue Code that was intended to prevent criminal drug dealers from claiming tax benefits. Under this bill, dispensaries operating legally under state law will no longer be prohibited from taking tax deductions and credits attributed to the sale of marijuana to patients.

Medical marijuana dispensaries operate legally in my home state and pay federal, state, and local taxes. California now collects over \$100 million in state taxes annually from these small businesses. They should be able to claim the full range of benefits under the U.S. tax code just like other businesses that operate legally under state law. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of fair tax treatment for the medical marijuana industry and to ensure safe access to the patients it serves.

IN MEMORY OF KEN MORGAN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great voice for labor, a great Mainer and most importantly, a great friend, Ken Morgan.

For 35 years, Ken worked at the AFL-CIO fighting for the rights of Maine's hard-working men and women. As a union brother of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1837, Ken believed that united in solidarity, we could all move our society forward.

In the late 1960s, Ken's principles led him to refuse his doctorate from Northwestern University because of a dispute regarding the extension of civil rights based upon sexual orientation. Ken carried this strong commitment to justice and solidarity into all aspects of his life and was a trail blazer in the civil rights community. During his long career, Ken served as a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, was an award-winning member of the Maine Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance and a member of the Board of Directors of the Maine Center for Economic Policy. These are only a few of the many organizations Ken was involved with, all of which worked to help those who might otherwise be forgotten.

However, Ken is best remembered by his friends and family as a great man, with a mind that was deep, broad and keen. His heart was huge. He was a gentle soul who leaves a huge void and who so richly filled the lives of his many friends and family. Above all, Ken was a loving friend, mentor, brother, son and partner.

On the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, President Obama declared, "Dr. King once said that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice. It bends towards justice, but here is the thing: it does not bend on its own. It bends because each of us in our own ways put our hand on that arc . . ." Ken's work and life embodied this active engagement with our nation's, and our world's, struggle to be a place of equality and freedom.

Ken leaves behind his partner of more than three decades, Rick Strout, his brother Charles, his sister-in-law Jerie, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering a great American, Ken Morgan.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SENIOR
HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Senior Health and Fitness Day, the nation's largest annual health promotion event for older Americans.

The contributions and sacrifices made by the senior citizen community are invaluable. Some have proudly served our country overseas and abroad. Others, through their ingenuity and innovations, have paved the way for the United States' leadership in technology. They are the very foundation of this country's evolution.

By the year 2030, approximately one in five U.S. residents will be a member of the senior citizen community and we must ensure that our seniors will have access to resources that will aide them in living strong and healthy lives.

Today, I'm proud to partner with the H. Louis Lake Senior Center, Acacia Adult Day Services and Community SeniorServ to host the National Senior Health and Fitness Day in my district.

In celebration of this important day, seniors in my district will have access to free fitness classes, healthy foods cooking demonstrations and brain stimulating exercises.

In honor of National Senior Health and Fitness Day, I encourage all our seniors to join in on the exciting activities taking place throughout our respective communities and to stay active physically, mentally and spiritually.

HAL DAVID'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 90th birthday of a great songwriter, lyricist, advocate, and leading voice of America's artistic community: Hal David.

The child of immigrants blessed with an extraordinary talent, Hal David has lived—and continues to live—the American dream. He used his musical gifts in service of our country as part of the U.S. Army Entertainment Section on the Pacific front during World War II. He returned home to write songs for the nation's top performers; produce Grammy-winning Broadway masterpieces and Oscar-winning lyrics; and partner with great composers to create soundtracks for stage and screen, and popular hits that remain classics to this day.

For his achievements, his success, his creativity, and his contributions to our history and society, Hal David was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

On behalf of his colleagues—whether leaders in the field, famous faces, or those struggling to earn their place in the pantheon of great artists—Hal David has advocated for the rights of all performers and writers in the halls of Congress and in our nation's public discourse.

As President of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, he focused on key legislative issues facing music creators, led the charge against source licensing efforts, and oversaw the organization's increased presence in the field of country music. As Chairman and CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he invested in new technologies and an expanded digital presence for the institution, and strengthened the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

Hal David has spent his career enriching our music, our culture, our society, and our nation. His story is a tribute to his desire to do what he loved, his willingness to work hard, his ability to succeed and thrive across generations, and his creativity. I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, and fans of music across the country, in wishing Hal David a happy and healthy 90th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ATHERTON COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Atherton Community Schools will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the school district's start on May 29th in Burton, MI. An All School Class Reunion is planned to celebrate the occasion.

The Atherton Settlement was founded by three brothers: Perus, Shubael and Adonijah. The settlement grew to 30 farming families and the Settlement school was founded in 1836. The first teacher was Adonijah's daughter, Betsey Atherton. She held the teacher's position in the single-room schoolhouse for 20 years. The Atherton Agricultural School, as it was known at the time, remained a 1 room schoolhouse for over 100 years. In 1940, an 8-room schoolhouse was built to accommodate the growing community. In 1946, the Atherton School District combined with the Howe and Casper districts. Until 1954 classes were only offered through the eighth grade. If a student wanted to continue their education beyond that grade level, they had to transfer to Bendle, Flint Central or Davison High Schools. In 1954, Atherton Schools graduated its first high school class of about 18 students.

Currently, the Atherton School District holds classes in the Vern Van Y Elementary School, Atherton Middle School and Atherton High School. Graduates have gone on to fill roles in the spectrum of society including doctors and judges.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the alumni, educators, students, staff, parents and supporters for their commitment to education and community. I commend them for 175 years of continuous education, and I wish them the best in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Tuesday, May 24,

2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

1. "Nay" on rollcall 333, On Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule—Consideration of H.R. 1216 to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations; consideration of H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2012; and waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII.

2. "Nay" on rollcall 334, On Agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 269)—Consideration of H.R. 1216 to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations; consideration of H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2012; and waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII.

3. "Nay" on rollcall 335, On Motion that the Committee Rise—To amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

4. "Yea" on rollcall 336, On Agreeing to the Amendment—Tonko of New York Amendment No. 2.

5. "Yea" on rollcall 337, On Agreeing to the Amendment—Cardoza of California Amendment No. 9.

HONORING CLAUDETTE VIOLETTE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claudette Violette of Lewiston, ME, on her graduation after having earned her GED.

This achievement is a great personal accomplishment for Claudette. She has faced many obstacles in her life, but her work ethic and tenacity allowed her to persevere, raise her family and volunteer thousands of hours for the Lewiston/Auburn community.

She has truly found her voice with her volunteer work. Claudette volunteers for the Good Shepherd Food Bank, Red Cross Blood Drives and Salvation Army fundraising. She delivers promotional posters for L/A Arts and the Public Theatre, and assembles a multi-thousand piece mailing in hours. Claudette also helps organize a monthly French luncheon for the Franco-American Heritage Center, making 300 plus calls each month to invite attendees.

Claudette is an inspiration to both me and my staff. Her commitment and dedication to completing her high school education speaks to the strength of her character. I am so proud of Claudette's achievement and her personal growth over the 10 years that I have known her. Claudette is a well-known and well-loved member of the community, and I know she will continue to play an active role in the lives of Lewiston/Auburn residents, my staff and myself.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Claudette on her outstanding personal achievement.