

in ensuring the enforcement of the newly-drafted safety regulations. When the agency banned refuse bins that were tipping over, pinning down, and killing children who were playing around them, Bill was part of the team that travelled the country, engaging in enforcement litigation to have the unstable bins removed from public use. He later worked with the Commission's Office of Compliance to lay the groundwork that led to the guidance to eliminate soft bedding in cribs and to have babies placed on their backs for safe sleep. Bill was also instrumental in drafting the certification requirements for bicycle helmet and cigarette lighter regulations. During his tenure, Bill negotiated over \$16 million in civil penalty fines, the highest cumulative amount of civil penalty fines in the agency's history.

Bill has played a major role in protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury posed by consumer products. He has provided guidance to other attorneys and compliance staff as they pursue legal strategies against manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of dangerously defective and hazardous products. Over the years, he received many well-deserved distinguished and meritorious awards for his outstanding work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill Moore and in extending our nation's gratitude to him for his honorable and productive service.

#### HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF DOROTHY ROCKAITIS

##### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Dorothy Rockaitis, a lifelong resident of Chicago who is celebrating her 90th birthday today.

Dorothy Victoria Cichoszewski was born on February 6th, 1923, and was raised in Brighton Park by her parents, Victoria and Michael. She would later move to Garfield Ridge, where she lived for 50 years. In 1963, Dorothy married Frank Rockaitis, her steadfast partner for nearly four decades.

For over forty years, Dorothy was actively involved in government and politics. Not only did she work for Chicago Aldermen Frank Kuta and Bill Krstyniak, she also worked for Illinois State House member Robert Terzich. She later served Illinois' 3rd Congressional District on the staff of Congressman Bill Lipinski. As an office manager, secretary, and Democratic Precinct Captain, Dorothy faithfully served her party, city, and country for nearly half a century.

A vibrant and lively aunt, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, Dorothy is beloved by so many around her. From her seventeen-year marriage with Frank Miller, Dorothy has three children: Michalene, Patricia, and Charles. Dorothy also has five grandchildren: Gina Glaubke, John Glaubke, Aaron Conrad, Keith Conrad, and Alicia Miller. From her grandchildren come four great grandchildren: Luca Conrad, Odette Conrad, Clare Glaubke, and Emma Glaubke.

Dorothy is a caring, energetic, and dedicated American who is deserving of our recognition and praise. Today, I ask my col-

leagues to join me in wishing Dorothy Rockaitis a very happy 90th birthday, and to thank her for being such an active contributor to her community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HATTIE ELIE JACKSON

##### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Mrs. Hattie Elie Jackson, a Memphis educator, a devout woman of faith and a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. An Arkansas native, Mrs. Jackson graduated from Arkansas AM&N College, and obtained her master's degree at Columbia University in New York. She received further graduate-level education at the University of Chicago, and finally obtained her Education Specialist degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Mrs. Jackson used her extensive education and many talents to serve and nurture the Memphis community. For 25 years she presided as principal over Double Tree Elementary School, inspiring young hearts, and helping to shape the minds of local luminaries such as former Memphis Congressman, Harold Ford, Jr. She was a devoted member of St. Andrew AME church, and played an active and energetic role in her faith community. She was the former first lady of St. Andrew AME Church, where she served as a trustee, Sunday school teacher and President of the Ruth Circle Club.

Mrs. Jackson was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement and in the Memphis Sanitation Strike of 1968. In 2004, she was inspired to write and publish an account of her personal recollection of the Sanitation Strike, entitled *65 Dark Days in '68*. Her primary purpose in recording her memories, thoughts and feelings was to educate younger and future generations as to what transpired in 1968, and to inspire them to continue to strive for greater things.

Mrs. Hattie Jackson passed away on January 13, 2013 at 88 years of age. She leaves to cherish her memory two daughters and their husbands, Zita and Glenn Blankenship, and Cheri and Joseph Harrell as well as five grandchildren, two great granddaughters, a host of loving and supportive nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. I extend my heartfelt appreciation for the life and work of Hattie Elie Jackson. Hers was a life well-lived.

#### LAKE CHARLES AWARDED ACADIANA'S CITY OF THE YEAR

##### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the city of Lake Charles for its recent selection by the *Acadiana Profile* magazine as the city of the year. Lake Charles continues to make major progress improving the economic

opportunities and cultural life for its citizens. In the next few years, approximately 34,000 jobs will be generated in the petrochemical industry due to significant and meaningful commitments to the region by international companies including Sasol and Cheniere Energy, Inc. Also, the Calcasieu Parish and the city of Lake Charles' tourism produced \$358 million just last year alone and this number is expected to increase in the future. Furthermore, residents are enjoying the luxuries of a more personable and hospitable community, with the new Millennium Park serving as a pillar of the downtown area.

Due to the redevelopment of the downtown area, the Charpentier Historic District is more inviting than ever. With seventy-five festivals held annually in addition to the construction of the National Hurricane Museum and Science Center, Lake Charles' impressive progress will continue into the future.

I am proud of Lake Charles' improvements and want to commend Mayor Randy Roach and the City Council for their vision and dedication.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 31 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 225, the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND TITLE IV OF THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 TO PROVIDE FOR A GUARANTEE BY THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR QUALIFIED PRERETIREMENT SURVIVOR ANNUITIES UNDER INSOLVENT OR TERMINATED MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

##### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to rectify an inequity regarding the benefits provided to surviving spouses through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). I am pleased to be joined by Representative ROB ANDREWS in this effort.

PBGC provides pre-retirement survivor coverage, which provides a benefit to the surviving spouse of a pension participant who dies before retirement. However, in the case of a multiemployer pension plan turned over to PBGC, this benefit is guaranteed only if the plan participant dies before the plan is turned over. For single-employer plans the benefit is guaranteed regardless of when the participant dies.

The PBGC website acknowledges this discrepancy, stating

... For the most part, the PBGC guarantees the same type of benefits for multiemployer pension plans as for benefits in the

single-employer program, with the exception that preretirement survivor annuities are forfeitable in multiemployer plans if the participant has not died as of the termination date.

The debate over how to best provide income security for older Americans will continue for some time. However, in the meantime, it is unconscionable that a widow or widower would be denied the modest benefits provided under the PBGC multiemployer plan simply because his or her spouse did not die before the plan was turned over to the PBGC.

This discrepancy appears inadvertent and deserves to be corrected by Congress. I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation so we can address this issue quickly.

HONORING KRISTINA “KRISTY”  
MARIE SERMERSHEIM

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Kristina “Kristy” Marie Sermersheim. I first met Kristy more than 30 years ago. I was a brash candidate for office not backed by the establishment and not expected to win. Kristy was a union activist who didn’t know the meaning of the word “no”. Together we challenged the conventional wisdom. Voters decided that an emphasis on children and families was what they cared about. I was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County. That same year, in 1981, she became a full-time Service Employees International Union (SEIU) staff member.

The financial roof fell in on the county shortly thereafter, the impact of Proposition 13. Neither of us wanted a reduction in services to people in need. But we faced the imperative of reductions.

We worked together to cut the budget, to make sure that as we dealt with the budget reality we protected the most vulnerable and never scapegoated our employees. Kristy Sermersheim proved her bona fides in those tough times. She was smart, pragmatic but idealistic. She had values. She stood up for her members and she stood up for those in need. She was a star.

She continued to represent workers for another 32 years. As a passionate advocate for workers’ rights, she held a range of positions on various local, state, national, and international organizations, including SEIU Local 715, SEIU International Union, South Bay American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO) Labor Council, California Labor Federation, SEIU Public Services Division, and SEIU California State Council. Kristy assumed the leadership role of SEIU local 715, the largest union representing employees of Santa Clara County.

Born in New Albany, Indiana, during elementary school, her family lived in Michigan, San Diego, and Long Beach, California. In 1961, her family moved to San Jose. In 1967, she graduated from Leigh High School. Kristy’s good grades earned accolades as a National Merit Scholar Finalist and she was voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by her classmates. After she graduated, she took classes at San Jose State University and began work-

ing as a Santa Clara County Social Services Eligibility Worker in the Welfare Department.

Kristy has devoted her life to social justice and workers’ rights. She served 11 years as a member leader for the Santa Clara County Employees Association.

As head of the former SEIU Local 715 in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, Kristy expanded the union from 5,000 members working for four employers to more than 30,000 members with over 20 different contracts. She led the consolidation of five unions, including Local 715, to form the new SEIU Local 521. As Chief Elected Office of SEIU 521, she fought on behalf of 57,000 workers throughout North and Central California. Under her leadership, the County of Santa Clara and SEIU negotiated an \$80 million settlement that established pay equity by removing discrimination in wage-setting for women and people of color.

We worked together for rights for women. Kristy helped make sure that the union represented a female worker in the county roads department in an affirmative action case that went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. County government was her partner in the case. I remember so well listening to the oral arguments on that case as a young County Supervisor. We were proud that local government and the union were partners in the quest for equal rights for women.

The case confirmed that government agencies must consider previous discrimination history as well as qualifications when making hiring decisions. In recognition of over 40 years of contributions to the social and political advancement of women, Kristy was awarded the South Bay AFL–CIO Labor Council’s 2012 COPE Award for Service Above Self.

Throughout her career, Kristy worked together with public workers to obtain improvements in working conditions, wages, and benefits. She forged alliances with other unions and community groups to improve public services to the residents union members serve. Kristy is now retired and lives in Morgan Hill with her two sisters, Andrea and Teresa. The three sisters have collectively raised their brother’s children after he passed away. They live with their niece Flori, a little dog, and three cats. In her retirement, Kristy wants to help the developmentally disabled community and volunteer where she can make a difference. I join in honoring her decades of contribution and service to the betterment of our society. The community is very fortunate to have benefited from her advocacy, dedication, and leadership. She has left her mark in the community and I know she will continue to play a positive role.

COMMEMORATING THE 21ST ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE KHOJALY  
MASSACRE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre perpetrated by Armenian armed forces on February 25–26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly, now under the oc-

cupation of Armenian armed forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Khojaly, once the home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed. Six hundred thirteen people were killed, of which 106 were women, 83 were children and 56 were purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. In addition, 1,275 people were taken hostage, 150 went missing and 487 people became disabled. Also in the records maintained, 76 of the victims were teenagers, 8 families were wiped out and 25 children lost both of their parents while 130 lost one of their parents. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the Armenian Armed forces were reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

At the time, Newsweek magazine reported: “Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped.”

As part of the Khojaly population that tried to escape, they encountered violent ambushes that led to abuses, torture, mutilation and death. The Russian organization, Memorial, stated that 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days.

Time magazine published the following description: “While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.”

The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. This anniversary reminds us of the need to redouble efforts to help resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group should intensify its efforts to reach a resolution of this protracted conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly.

TERRITORIAL SEA

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will return to the people of the Northern Marianas ownership of the three