

to working people is extraordinary and his work on behalf of I.B.E.W. is a testament to his deeply held belief in the power of unions to make life better for workers. Frank has spent a lifetime working hard to ensure that union members are guaranteed decent wages, a safe workplace and fair conditions. He has long been a champion of electrical workers, coming from a family with a long history in the profession.

The best example I can offer to illustrate Frank's commitment to protecting workers on the job is his actions after the L'Ambiance Plaza collapse on April 23, 1987. Twenty-eight union members were killed in Bridgeport on that terrible day after substandard building conditions caused the building to collapse. This tragedy placed a national spotlight on the need for strict standards to ensure the safety of workers. In response, Frank played an instrumental role in supporting legislation which would ban the lift-slab construction method used at L'Ambiance Plaza. Frank's testimony was pivotal to passing this legislation and this method of construction is no longer in use. I applaud Frank's efforts on this and other safety issues that are so crucial to our Nation's workers.

Frank is the first person from Connecticut to assume the position of international vice president, 2d district. This new position will provide an opportunity for his experience and wisdom to benefit all I.B.E.W. members throughout New England. I know that he will bring his activism, energy and enthusiasm to this new role and his tenure will be creative and productive.

I am very pleased to join Frank's wife, Patty, and his children, Frank III, Raymond and Amy Lynn in congratulating his on his new appointment. I feel confident that Frank will once again, prove successful as he takes on these new challenges. I wish him all the best.

IN HONOR OF RAPHAEL VITALE  
FOR DISTINGUISHED AND DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO HUDSON  
COUNTY

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 1997*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special gentleman, Raphael Vitale, who has distinguished himself through his continuous dedication to the residents of my district. Mr. Vitale will be honored by his family and friends on June 29, 1997 at Anthony's Restaurant in his hometown of Hoboken, NJ. Sunday's celebration recognizes his long history of selfless service to his community.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Vitale has been a religious man, a model citizen and devoted family man. He entered the St. Francis Seminary in New York at the age of 17. He later joined the film and production industry as a member of the Spotlight Production Co. in New York. In 1941, he became the production coordinator for Koven's in Dover, NJ where he supervised the production of military equipment for our country's effort in World War II.

Mr. Vitale embarked on his public career in 1959 when he took his first assignment as a park attendant, helping to ensure the safety of his community. In 1961, he assumed the responsibilities of deputy director of health and

welfare, and pursued the high safety and health standards of our area's restaurants, hospitals and clinics. In 1963, he started his tenure as Hoboken's director of Public Works, Revenue and Finance. In 1979, Mr. Vitale began serving Hudson County, as its production coordinator. In this position, he was the county troubleshooter for numerous vital issues, particularly budgeting and allocation of public funds.

His 19 years of service to Hoboken and his 9 years to Hudson County are an example of commitment and loyal service. His record stands on its own. He is a firm believer that hard work is the best way to meet the challenges of the future.

Family has always played a major role in Mr. Vitale's life. This year Mr. Vitale's wife, Lina, his three sons, Michael, William and Joseph, and his two stepsons, Michael and Matthew Canarozzi, celebrated his 80th birthday on June 2, 1997. Raphael and Lina are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren and the great grandparents of one child.

Mr. Vitale epitomizes excellence in community service, and has had a positive impact on many lives. It is an honor and pleasure to have such a remarkable individual residing in my district.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE  
IX

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 1997*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues today in commemorating the 25th anniversary of a civil rights law that has changed the way American girls and women think about themselves and their futures.

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination in education programs. Title IX is not just about access to sports and it is an integral player in gender equity. Greater athletic opportunity does build leadership and teamwork skills that serve every person throughout his or her life. More women have received higher education in the past 25 years through athletic scholarships. The ratio of high school girls playing sports has gone from 1 in 27 to 1 in 3.

With the recent success of women Olympic athletes and the unveiling of a new professional women's basketball league, we do not lack athletic role models for young girls. Women's participation in collegiate sports has risen from 2 percent in 1972 to 35 percent in 1996. But title IX has also provided more lasting academic results, increasing the participation of girls and women in non-traditional educational and professional environments—math, science, engineering and technology.

Today we celebrate 25 years of women's achievement through sports and education. But we know that the progress we have made is not near enough. Today the National Coalition of Girls and Women in Education ranked the United States with a grade of "C" in gender equity in education. Enforcement of title IX has been inconsistent at best over the last 25 years. All but two states have eliminated or reduced title IX enforcement staff positions, despite the federal law's requirement that each state department of education must have a Title IX designee.

Title IX services provide training for school districts on sexual harassment in schools, identify and address gender bias in classrooms, support programs to infuse women's history into school curriculums. They assist young women in forming a strong identity, receiving support from peers and learning how to interact effectively with others.

Title IX and other programs supportive of girls' education send a clear message to American girls that their education and future is important. As a mother of four adult daughters, I have seen the positive results. We are seeing a generation of young women growing in an environment that does not make them limit themselves by identifying roles or opportunities as "men's" or "women's". Young women today believe they can do anything. And they can. And we have a great responsibility to do all that we can to support them in that belief.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA BUCKNER

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 1997*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Miss Amanda Buckner of Gadsden, AL. Miss Buckner won statewide first place honors in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy Contest and third place honors in the national contest. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD her prize winning script. I am very proud of Miss Buckner's accomplishments, and of the way she represented Alabama in our Nation's capital.

DEMOCRACY ABOVE AND BEYOND

Welcome fans, to the 49th Olympics. You are about to see the relay event. On America's team we have five exceptional runners. The first is George Washington. Next we have Abraham Lincoln. On the third leg is Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ronald Reagan takes the fourth leg. The last leg is a bit different. America has a surprise runner. I will announce his name later. Ladies and Gentlemen, this team should carry democracy above and beyond.

The runners take their marks. One . . . Two . . . Three . . . Go! Washington holds his baton of democracy tight and begins the run. Not only is he running, he is shaping this race for freedom. Washington is setting the pace for democracy with grace, authority, and peace. Earlier in an interview, Washington said he hopes this team prospers, focuses on their goals and sticks together. He wants to show everyone what a wonderful experience freedom can be. And boy has he! Although the older, stronger countries are trying to push him out of the way, he fights on. Washington has carried democracy above and beyond, but now he must pass it along.

Honest Abe takes control. At this point democracy has fallen behind in the race. Slavery and economic unrest seem to be slowing them down. Yes, it looks as if they are at war with themselves. . . Wait, Lincoln refuses to let the injury of ignorance and racial discord tear this team apart. He is holding his own. He is showing the rest of the world that freedom will rise, and democracy will continue above and beyond. Lincoln is brave to continue after such an injury. It looks as if he still has the lead. Ladies and gentlemen, freedom may survive this tragedy after all.