

the Diocesan Greek Education Committee, and chairman and secretary of the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court in Ohio.

When he is not working to enhance the spiritual, cultural, and civic life of the community, Father Protopapas is an avid gardener. His plants and flowers, as well as his parishioners and the community as a whole, have certainly flourished under his care. My fellow colleagues, please join me recognizing the lifetime achievements of Father John Protopapas as his friends and family celebrate his prestigious career on July 26, 1997.

#### TRIBUTE TO ABE FRIEDMAN

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 1997*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, the Denver Police and Fire Widows have asked me to please pay tribute to Mr. Abe Friedman of Jamaica, NY and it is a great honor to have the ability to do so. It is not possible to reiterate all the good, kind, and charitable acts Abe Friedman has provided these women over the years. We all innately understand the terrible circumstances that revolve around losing one's loved one. While no one can give back the husbands these women lost, Mr. Friedman has gone above and beyond the call of duty to give these women the comfort and respect they so rightfully deserve. To the widows of the Denver Police and Fire Departments, his unending concern for their happiness is one of the most endearing memories of those years they lovingly spent as a member of a police or fire family.

On Sunday, May 18, 1997, these women assembled as guests of Mr. Friedman to celebrate the Seventh Annual Spring Extravaganza to celebrate Mother's Day. He spent the day toasting and honoring the many years each widow served as an integral part of a police or fire department family. This simple act was truly a sign of deep consideration for these women and was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

The Denver Police and Fire Widows are hopeful that this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reading, in a small way, may convey to Abe Friedman their sincere and unending admiration. They are forever grateful for his many acts of thoughtfulness, attentiveness, and kindness which Abe Friedman has bestowed upon them simply with his friendship.

#### IN HONOR OF THE ANNANDALE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ACTION

### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 1997*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, a group which provides a safety net for needy families and individuals in my district through volunteer social action programs. ACCA is a model provider of child care for low- and moderate-income families and

their array of volunteer programs in emergency assistance in transportation services is unparalleled in northern Virginia.

Thirty years ago, the Higher Horizons Day Care Center learned that 13 of the children enrolled would have to be ejected because the income of their working parents was slightly greater than the set poverty standard. Fred and Emily Ruffing, members of St. Michael's Catholic Church, which had organized Higher Horizons saw this impending crisis as a focal point for organizing Annandale's Christian community. In late February of that year, Fred met with Annandale clergy and lay people form the local congregations to explain what was needed. On March 13, 1967, at Peace Lutheran Church, about three dozen members of the local church community gathered and ACCA was born. Responding to the demonstrated need for more day care facilities, particularly ones open to minority children, January 1968 marked the opening of the ACCA Day Care Center at John Calvin Presbyterian Church. This center still serves today as an outstanding model for other similar facilities in the provision of quality care and education for nearly 200 children.

ACCA programs are operated almost entirely by hundreds of volunteers and financed primarily through donations from its 25 member churches, individuals, and groups. These programs include emergency food and monetary assistance for such basic necessities such as rent, utilities, and medical expenses. Additionally, ACCA has developed programs that provide individuals with transportation to medical and therapy appointments, collection and delivery of used furniture, college scholarships for students with special challenges, and repairs and provision of shelter to homeless families.

ACCA Inc. is governed by a board of directors comprised of official representatives from its 25 member churches. All functions, including those of officers, committee chairperson, and service providers, remain carried out by volunteers. From the beginning, ACCA has had successful continuing partnerships, not only with its member churches, but also with Fairfax County and the private sector. Drawing on its large pool of volunteers, ACCA also collaborates with Christmas-in-April, Meals on Wheels, and two local shelters. Both the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Virginia General Assembly have passed resolutions commending ACCA for leadership and continuity of effort in carrying out community social action programs.

Throughout 1997, ACCA's board and member churches are celebrating both the remarkable achievements of the small, dedicated group of local citizens who began ACCA in 1967 and the growth and flexibility of ACCA's programs over three decades in meeting the needs of this dynamic suburban area. I know my colleagues will join me in applauding ACCA for continuously carrying out successful community social action programs for three decades. It is a model worthy of emulation by others, nationwide, in meeting the challenges of immigration, poverty, and welfare reform.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE FAKAN

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 1997*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and courage of Regional Security Officer Steve Fakan. Steve is a native of Vermilion, OH, which is in my district and was recently honored by the Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

Steve exhibited exceptional personal bravery and perseverance by saving the lives of trapped American journalists caught in raging gun battles between rival factions during the renewed fighting in Monrovia, Liberia, in May 1996.

On May 14, 1996, the Regional Security Officer [RSO] office received a frantic call for help from eight journalists staying at the Mamba Point Hotel. Factional fighting raged around the hotel and the journalists feared for their lives as out-of-control fighters savagely ransacked the area only a few hundred meters from the Embassy. They requested urgent help in getting to the Embassy, as conditions continued to deteriorate.

Diplomatic Security [DS] agents RSO Steve Fakan and TDY RSO Tony Deibler quickly assessed the potentially lethal situation and devised a strategy to rescue the beleaguered journalists.

Using the nearest Embassy gate to the hotel as an exit, Steve and Tony traversed by foot over 300 meters of treacherous open field to the hotel by using alternate covering patterns for each other. Their every movement was closely eyed by snipers perched in nearby buildings.

After reaching the hotel safely, they quickly briefed the journalists on their escape plan. Countless bullets ricocheted off the pavement and nearby buildings as the group made its way back to the embassy. The two agents both realized that they were being tracked by snipers.

As the reporters used the appropriate cover maneuvers, taught to them by the DS agents, to make it back to the Embassy, Tony spotted a sniper aiming his weapon at Steve. Without hesitation, Tony quickly sighted in the sniper with his scoped weapon, causing him to hold his fire and take his finger off the trigger.

The eight journalists, dragging cameras and equipment, made it safely to Embassy compound, thanks to the expertise of the two DS agents. The exhausted, but grateful group of journalists rained enthusiastic praise on the exceptional courage exhibited by their rescuers.

These two men are outstanding examples of the best that DS has to offer, and the American people can be proud that Diplomatic Security has public servants like Tony and Steve to protect our interests overseas.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN LEONARD

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 1997*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable young man,