

Lerach LLP, New York, NY—Russian/Hungarian; H. Daniel Wenstrup, President & CEO, CHEMCENTRAL Corporation, Bedford Park, IL—Danish; Siggie B. Wilzig, Chairman & CEO, The Trust Company of New Jersey, Jersey City, NJ—German/Prussian; Margaret W. Wong, Managing Partner, Margaret W. Wong & Associates Co., Cleveland, OH—Chinese; John B. Yasinsky, Chairman & CEO, GenCorp, Fairlawn, OH—Lithuanian; Zachariah P. Zachariah, MD, Director of Cardiology, Holy Cross Hospital, Fort Lauderdale, FL—Asian Indian; and Robert Thomas Zito, Senior Vice President of Communications, New York Stock Exchange, New York, NY—Italian.

HONORING RINGO'S SHOP'N SAVE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Monarco, owner and operator of Ringo's Shop'n Save, for business excellence and commitment to public service. Mr. Monarco is a man of impeccable character who is constantly giving back to the community, and I want to acknowledge his great contribution to my colleagues in Congress.

Scott, with his family, attends school functions and charitable events for a number of organizations in the La Junta area. He is always willing to go the extra mile and selflessly contributes his time and knowledge to others. This generous attitude exudes throughout Scott Monarco's life from his family to his business.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor Mr. Monarco. I hold him up to the House, and to all Americans, as a shining example of the best of America's businesses. He exemplifies the industrious spirit, can-do attitude, and community involvement that made America great.

IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY Q. KEEFE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an extraordinary journalist, Nancy Q. Keefe, who is retiring in July after 22 years with Gannett Suburban Newspapers. Ms. Keefe is being honored on June 18 by the American Jewish Committee Westchester Chapter with their Distinguished Community Relations Award for her work as a columnist and "community voice of conscience."

Nancy Q. Keefe was editorial page editor of the Gannett Suburban Newspapers from 1984–1989 and then became a columnist. She consistently wrote with unusual clarity and style about people, issues and events, often on topics that few others dared to tackle. During her stint as editorial page editor, she wrote editorials and columns favoring a program of transitional housing for homeless people. In appreciation, the WestHELP organization named its Mount Vernon housing complex, the first in Westchester County, for her.

As a Roman Catholic and member of an interfaith group, she traveled to Israel in the

spring of 1993 on a trip arranged through Project Interchange of the American Jewish Committee. She wrote about the experience for the newspapers.

She graduated from the College of New Rochelle in 1956 and received her master's degree from the Graduate School of Journalism in 1958. In 1981, the College of New Rochelle awarded her the Angela Merici Medal, its highest alumnae honor for service to college, church and community.

In 1991, Nancy Q. Keefe was named to the Westchester County/Avon Women's Hall of Fame, cited for being "the conscience of our community."

She was born in Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 20, 1934, the daughter of John Gorman Quirk and Ann O'Laughlin Quirk. She began her newspaper career at The Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield and then worked at the old World-Telegram & Sun in New York City.

She and her husband, Kevin Keefe, live in Larchmont, N.Y. They have three children and three grandchildren.

For her unflinching courage, commitment to the truth and dedication to improving the lives of all in our community, Nancy Q. Keefe deserves our heartfelt thanks and congratulations. We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement from Gannett, but hope that she will continue the writing that has informed, inspired and even incited us to action for so many years.

CONGRATULATING MR. CRAIG MEYER WINNER OF THE 1998 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Craig Meyer of Bella Vista, Arkansas for his winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1998 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. A senior at Bentonville High School, Mr. Meyer is already an active participant in our nation's democratic process—participating in the Political Science Club, the Speech and Debate Team, National Honor Society, and serving as the Co-Editor of Literary Magazine.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, which began 50 years ago, provides financial awards to students whose writing expresses the spirit of democratic principles. Mr. Meyer's entry exemplifies the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those who gave their lives for freedom's sake.

I congratulate Mr. Meyer on his thoughtful and moving essay. Mr. Speaker, I just might borrow it sometime!

I would also like to thank VFW Post 9063 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Bella Vista, Arkansas for sponsoring Mr. Meyer. This nation owes a debt of gratitude it can never repay to our veterans—those who served our country in times of crisis and who continue to serve our communities through programs such as this.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

1997–98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION—ARKANSAS WINNER, CRAIG MEYER

It's the voice on the campaign trail, it's the voice on a soapbox in the employee wash-

room. It's the schoolteacher's voice educating the future. It's the reporter writing his morning column, it's the corporate Public Relations Ad executive writing his press release. It's the museum curator demonstrating Warhol, and the bag lady huddled over a heating grate. It's the smooth jazz sounding out, echoing over the city skyline.

The voices of our democracy come together, they form a chorus, form a symphony. From the soft prayer of childhood, to the savage battlefield roar of D-Day, to a suburban "honey, I'm home!", to the shriek of a fire engine on the fourth of July, to "New and improved—available in stores everywhere!", to the hush after a ghetto gunshot. It's PT Barnum putting his head into a lion's mouth. It's Joe McCarthy hunting down the communists.

IT'S AMERICA, IT'S DEMOCRACY

The real beauty of it all is that I get to find my own voice. My role isn't mapped out for me, I'm not locked into a channel. Democracy allows a person to be a citizen and not be a slave. We can not only participate in our government, but we also have the freedom to do what we want to do, to be what we want to be. Our nation allows people to think for themselves—which carries with it responsibility, carries with it the ability to be right and to be wrong. It's all about people having the freedom to decide on their own voices, the freedom to pursue their own destiny—to succeed or to fail. Democracy doesn't reside in a dollar sign or in a bomb, it lives in us. It's not just an ideology or a political theory, it's a way of life.

How do I spell out both my future and the future of my country? How do I find my voice in our democracy? Through education. Through learning about other's voices—learning from those who have been there, learning from those who experienced history firsthand. Talking to teachers, professors, auto mechanics, veterans—it's learning as much as I can about as many things as I can. I need to learn about both the issues that face our nation, and the issues that face me as a person.

With all this in mind, my own responsibility is clear—It's up to me to find a voice. It's up to me to see all sides of an issue, to question myself constantly "am I really seeing the whole picture?" It's up to me to narrow and define my voice—to not only blend into the chorus of our democracy, but also be able to do an occasional solo. But lets face it, I need to be willing to vote, to serve jury duty, to read that newspaper, to pick up a gun or a musical instrument—I need to be willing to take a stand for my beliefs.

And this is our democracy—all the glory and the gaudy, the legends (both living and dead) and the truth. The artistic and the autistic, the commerce and the commercialism, the existentialism and the exit sign—this is our America, this our democracy. It runs red through our blood. It rings in our bones, rings in our ears, and it rings in our hearts. We are a part of it, and it's a part of us.

RECOGNIZING MS. ELEANOR KOPLOVITZ FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO DAVID L. SILVER YESHIVA ACADEMY AND THE HARRISBURG COMMUNITY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Ms. Eleanor Koplovitz, who is being

honored this Sunday, June 14, 1998 upon her retirement from the David L. Silver Yeshiva Academy of Harrisburg, PA after fifty years of devoted service to that institution.

The Yeshiva Academy has been providing quality education to the children of Harrisburg and central Pennsylvania for over fifty years. Ms. Koplovitz received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Penn State University where she majored in education and speech therapy. During her distinguished career at the Yeshiva Academy, Ms. Koplovitz taught second and third grade classes (many alumni fondly remember her reading Pinocchio) and instructed the middle school grades in English, Latin, Spanish, history and geography.

In recent years, she served as the school's assistant principal. In addition, Ms. Koplovitz has made important contributions to the Harrisburg Jewish community as vice president of its community relations committee and of the Jewish Community Center, and as member of the board of Temple Beth El.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I congratulate Eleanor Koplovitz for a lifetime dedicated to the education and nurturing of Pennsylvania children.

HONORING APPLEWAY MUSIC
CENTER COMPANY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Appleyway Music Center Company, owned and operated by Garland Appleyway II, for business excellence and commitment to public service. On the night of July 28, 1997, flood waters ravaged many of the small businesses located along College Avenue in Fort Collins, Colorado. Appleyway Music Center was especially hard hit by the disaster. The business received eight feet of water and mud in its basement and had an additional three feet of water on its main floor. The flooding caused over \$120,000 in damage to the building and its contents. With over 70 percent of Mr. Appleyway's business inventory lost, his building condemned, and himself near certain personal financial ruin, he never once considered going out of business.

Instead, he initiated a 30-day plan to get his business up and running. Only 28 days after the floods, Appleyway Music Center Company was back in business and not one employee had lost a paycheck during the time following the disaster.

Today, Appleyway stocks an outstanding selection of musical instruments and audio sound equipment. The business also serves as an information hub to the Fort Collins music scene and is a supporter of local artists and community functions.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor Mr. Appleyway. I hold him up to the House, and to all Americans, as a shining example of the best of America's businesses. He exemplifies the industrious spirit, can-do attitude, and community involvement that made America great.

THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING
INSTITUTE

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following regarding the Leadership Training Institute.

Mr. WATTS. Mr. President, it is commendable that the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) is committed to advancing patriotic values in America's youth and preparing them to lead authoritatively with a Biblical world view.

America has been blessed with forefathers of outstanding virtues, which has strengthened our contested role in the world. Decay of our National Leadership, though, will necessarily knock us out of a leading position. America's leaders must do more than simply "get the job" because they are the moral pace setters for both our great nation and our allies.

Programs that guide youth in setting the highest standards for their lives are essential to continuing morality in our culture.

The Leadership Training Institute originated in Arkansas and draws support across many states, including my home state of Oklahoma. LTI is committed to training youth in principles that have produced some of America's greatest leaders. Loyalty, integrity, and honesty are the cornerstone values of the LTI curriculum.

The activities and curricula of LTI are designed to familiarize today's youth with the moral underpinnings of America's founding fathers and equip them with the scientific reasoning that our society demands. The prominence of God's role in our Nation's foundation was recognized by General George Washington: "I am sure that [there] never was a people, who had more reason to recognize divine interposition in their affairs, than those of the United States; and I should be pained to believe that they have forgotten that agency, which was so often manifested during our Revolution."

I am proud of the young Oklahomans participating in this program, and it is with pleasure that I recognize the Leadership Training Institute as it challenges America's youth to strive to be leaders with American virtues at all cost.

I yield the floor.

INTRODUCTION OF TAX SIMPLIFICATION
LEGISLATION
STATEMENT OF MR. NEAL OF
MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Congressman RANGEL and I are introducing legislation to help taxpayers. In the next few months, both the House and Senate will vote on legislation to sunset the tax code by 2002. Instead of engaging in rhetoric and unrealistic solutions, I think we should be working on legislation that simplifies our intricate tax code. We should not be wasting time on an unworkable proposal to repeal the current system.

Today, we are introducing legislation which would make the calculation of individual taxes that require complicated calculations simpler. This legislation would replace two worksheet schedules with a total of 19 lines and replace with them with one line.

This legislation simplifies the individual income tax by repealing the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations on itemized deductions and the personal exemption. Under current law, personal exemptions are reduced by 2 percent for each \$2,500 by which the AGI of the taxpayer exceeds \$181,000 for joint filers and \$121,200 for single filers. If an individual's adjusted gross income exceeds \$121,200, certain otherwise allowable deductions are reduced by the lesser of 3 percent of the excess of adjusted gross income over the applicable amount, or 80 percent of the itemized deductions otherwise allowable for the tax year.

This legislation repeals the complicated provisions described above and replaces them with an additional income tax of 1.59 percent. The bill simplifies the calculation of current phaseouts and removes the marriage penalty of these provisions.

In order to remove the marriage penalty the new additional income will affect individuals with lower AGI in order to remove the marriage penalty imposed by the provisions. The additional income tax of 1.59 percent applies to individual taxpayers with adjusted gross income of \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for joint filers. These thresholds are indexed for inflation. This additional tax does not apply to estates or trusts. This legislation is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998.

This legislation is revenue neutral. The purpose of this legislation is to make it easier for individuals to compute their taxes and to remove unfair marriage penalties included in phaseout provisions.

I urge my colleagues to join us in sponsoring legislation to simplify the tax code. Instead of talking about strapping the tax code, we should be taking concrete steps to simplify it. This legislation builds upon other legislation offered by Democratic Members of the Committee on Ways and Means. These bills address complexity of the code in areas such as the individual AMA and capital gains.

I look forward to working together to reduce the complexities of our current code. I urge you to consider cosponsoring this legislation.

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF WHALERS

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, from March Second to March Sixth 1998, the First General Assembly of the World Council of Whalers took place in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. More than 125 representatives from twenty-three nations were in attendance including both government officials and non-government observers.

Over the course of the discussions, one of the main topics was the adverse impact of protectionist campaigns and associated governmental policies. These have affected traditional whaling, food security, nutrition, and religious and cultural identities of humankind from