improve the community of Ellwood City for its children.

T R U B I T E  T O  J I M  R U P P

HON. GLENN POSHARD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and dear friend, Mr. “Jolly” Jim Rupp of Decatur, Illinois who has recently passed. He was a devoted public official and my condolences and best wishes go to his family and all who will miss him.

Some of my Illinois colleagues may remember Jim as Decatur’s mayor from 1966 to 1976 and state senator until 1986. But anybody who knew Jim, knew him as “Jolly Jim.” He was always happy, rarely ever down in spirit. His smile would warm you up on the coldest of mornings, and his personality was genuine. Jim got along with anybody and everybody. This was his best quality not only as a politician, but as a person. He was cut from a different type of political cloth. Jim realized that politics relied on personal qualities, and paying attention to the grass roots. He would make visits just about everywhere he represented to arouse interest in issues, and gain support from constituents. In fact, he was once quoted that he loved making these visits so much, that he could rarely ever complete a personal house chore. Nevertheless, he took the concept of politician to mean personable, and in touch with his constituents, which is a quality public officials still need to follow.

Jim grew up in New Jersey, and served in World War II and the Korean War proudly for this nation. He married Florence Reineke in 1966. He also offered much of his time out of public office in the Decatur community. Jim was a member of the Rotary International, the American Legion Post 105, VFW Post 99, Decatur Shriners Club and the Creighton-Jackson Insurance Agency. Jim was then elected mayor several years later in 1966. He also offered much of his time outside of public office in the Decatur community. Jim was a devout Christian and a charter member of the American Legion Post 105. Moreover, Jim was a member of the Rotary International, the largest Indian American community leaders. Jim, as the Caucus of India and Indian Americans enters its sixth year, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Frank Pallone on a job well done. I am certain the other Members of the Caucus agree with me that we are looking forward to his continued strong participation as a senior Member of the Caucus and to his strong support of the interests of the Indian American Community.

R E S O L U T I O N  R E A S S E R T I N G  U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PAL ESTINIAN STATE

HON. MATT SALMON
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce with Representative Jim Saxton and Majority Whip Tom Delay a resolution calling on President Clinton to publicly and unequivocally state that the United States will actively oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state and that any such action would have severe negative consequences for Palestinian relations with the United States. Though the United States has traditionally opposed a unilaterally declared Palestinian state, recent statements by the Administration have been ambiguous, and contradictory to its previous policy. This shift in the attitude by the U.S. government has been followed by recent announcements by the Palestinian Authority of their intention to declare a Palestinian state in late May, 1999 and the Palestinians issue a unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state at the end of May. Chairman Arafat continued his push for statehood on September 28th in a speech before the United Nations, calling upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state.

I would like to call upon all of you from this place—the source of international legitimacy and peacemaking, the guardian of freedom, security and stability, and the source for the achievement of justice and prosperity for humankind—to stand by our people, especially as the five-year transitional period provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements will come to an end on May 4, 1999. In mid-July, Chairman Arafat stated there is a transition period of 5 years and after 5 years we have the right to declare an independent Palestinian state. Even more recently, on September 24th, Chairman Arafat’s cabinet threatened to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state that would encompass a portion of Jerusalem. "At the end of the interim period, it the Palestinian government shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state." (The Columbian, Mark Lavie, Associated Press, September 25, 1998.) Chairman Arafat continued his push for statehood on September 28th in a speech before the United Nations, calling upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state.

A unilateral declaration of statehood would be a renunciation of the Oslo Accords and could ignite hostilities. The Oslo Accords make no provision for the creation of a Palestinian state and, in fact, prohibit the Palestinian Authority from taking any actions that would affect the sovereignty of the Israeli-administered territories. Earlier this week Assistant Secretary of State Indyk said that a declaration of statehood "becomes a threat to the American position . . ." (Hillel Kuttler, Jerusalem Post, October 4, 1998). The threat of designating Jerusalem as the capital