eliminated and in a very real sense their lives were in peril. The Volperts educated the Jewish community of Southern California and beyond about the dire circumstances of Soviet Jews and the absolute necessity of doing whatever all of us could to bring about their release. As far as we're concerned, Dick and Marcia merit at least a chapter in any history of the Soviet Jewry movement in the United States.

While this was going on, Dick also spent countless hours engaged in pursuits relative to the Jewish community of Southern California. And though the cause of Soviet Jewry waned with the fall of the Soviet Union, Dick today remains extraordinarily active in local Jewish affairs. Since 1996, he has been a board member of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, and he continues as both a member of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles and the Executive Board of the American Jewish Committee. Dick has also been active with the University of Judaism and Valley Beth Shalom, a large synagogue in the San Fernando Valley.

Dick has other causes that occupy his time, not to mention a thriving practice in real estate law. For example, he is president of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, a position that allows him to help determine the future of cultural life in Southern California. The Museum is in fact one of the most important places to experience art and culture in the entire region.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Dick Volpert, a man whose dedication to making ours a better world is an inspiration to us all. We are in awe of his accomplishments and proud to be his friend.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this month our nation commemorates the 56th anniversary of one of the most tragic, and at the same time inspirational, incidents in our nation's history.

As an avid stamp collector, as well as a Member of Congress who served for many years on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and who now serves on the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I have long been aware that federal law prohibits any American being honored on a postage stamp prior to 10 years after his or her death. The only exception made is for Presidents of the United States, who may appear on stamps one year after their death.

However, once and only once in this century was an exception made.

And that was in 1948, fifty-one years ago, when Congress passed special legislation allowing the four chaplains to be honored on a stamp only five years after they sacrificed their lives. It was the night of February 3, 1943, fifty-six years ago this week, when four brave chaplains—George I. Fox and Clark V. Poling, Protestant ministers; Alexander D. Goode, a Rabbi; and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest—laid down their lives aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* so that others might live on.

The *Dorchester,* carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers, was traveling across the North Atlantic, toward a U.S. Army base on the coast of Greenland, when it was attacked without provocation by a German submarine. The Germans fired torpedoes toward the *Dorchester* which struck the transport ship below the water line, beyond all hope of repair. As water began to flood through the ship's hull, chaos set in aboard the *Dorchester,* and it was into the ensuing scene of utter hopelessness and despair that the chaplains' legacy was woven.

When it was discovered that the supply of life jackets aboard the *Dorchester* was insufficient, the chaplains—without hesitation—removed their own life jackets and offered them to four frightened young men. The chaplains remained with those injured by the initial blast as the ship slanted down toward the icy water. The four chaplains were last seen clutching hands together, offering prayers to heaven for those around them.

The qualities which those chaplains embodied—self-sacrifice, unity, and faith—are the qualities upon which our nation rests, and it is for this reason that they are rightfully honored as true American heroes.

As we pay homage to the four chaplains today and throughout this month, let us call on all our fellow Americans to reflect for a moment upon the attributes which defined their actions.

Mr. Speaker, today more than ever, it is important that we recall the sacrifice and selflessness which won for us the liberty and freedom which all of us Americans enjoy today.

Today, we sometimes seem to be living in an era when selflessness and sacrifice for others is considered ''passe''. Today, it sometimes seems that some people are more concerned with coming up with excuses for their actions, and casting themselves as the ''victim'', no matter what.

Today, more than ever, it is appropriate to remember the four chaplains and their self sacrifice. It is important to recall also the sacrifice of countless other men and women who gave their lives in the name of our country.

Nathaniel Hawthorne once wrote: ''A hero cannot be a hero unless in a heroic world.''

Mr. Speaker, in memory of the 4 chaplains, let us dedicate ourselves to reconstruct that historic world, a world where ideals and principals reign supreme.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH EQUITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would fix an inequity in the current reimbursement rates for low-income Native Americans who receive health care through the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Under current law, a 100 percent federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) applies for the cost of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries by a hospital clinic, or other IHS facility, as long as they are run by the IHS, tribe, or tribal organization. While IHS facilities (usually in rural areas) are eligible to receive the 100 percent FMAP, similar services provided through IHS programs (usually in urban areas) receive only 50–80 percent reimbursement depending on the service.

My legislation would fix this inequity by raising the IHS program FMAP to 100 percent as well.

Equalizing the FMAP for health care received through IHS programs is especially important given that roughly half of the nation's Native Americans now live in urban areas. Furthermore, many urban IHS programs are run through Federally Qualified Health Centers whose state funding have been threatened by repeal of the Boren Amendment.

Passing this legislation would benefit IHS programs in over 35 cities throughout the country and would have little impact on the federal budget. Informal estimates illustrate that equalizing the FMAP for IHS programs would cost $17 million over the next 5 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Indian Health Equity Act.

IN MEMORY OF HEDY SOMMERFELT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hedy Sommerfelt, a prominent figure in the Cleveland Polish Community.

Hedy was a lifelong Slavic Village resident. While in elementary school she began to go to Polish school on Saturdays. There she learned to speak, write, and read the Polish language. Throughout her life she was an advocate of Polish culture. In 1946 Hedy married John F. Sommerfelt. This prompted her to join the Union of Poles in America (UPA), a fraternal insurance organization founded more than 100 years ago. In 1978, Mrs. Sommerfelt began working for the UPA as the financial secretary. Following that, she worked under longtime UPA president Richard Jablonski as the executive vice president. When Jablonski died in 1995, Mrs. Sommerfelt assumed the presidency of the Union of Poles. She was the first woman president of the organization. She also volunteered for many Catholic and Polish causes and was the president of the Immaculate Heart Parent Teachers Unit (PTU) in the 1960's.

Those who worked with Hedy will forever remember the pens given to them which were topped with a tiny gold ''guardian angel.'' One of these pens, her trademark, was even given to President Clinton in 1996. She was a pillar of strength in the community. She had great energy which she used to help the Polish community in every way to further the cultural and spiritual growth of the community. Her influence was felt at every level of government. She was committed to the cause of Poland as well as the Polish Community in Greater Cleveland. She and her husband have been lifelong friends and I consider her passing a personal loss.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in honoring the memory of this remarkable woman, Hedy Sommerfelt.