

ask the House to join me in expressing our gratitude to WTOP for the indispensable service the station performs as well as our congratulations for 30 years of a job very well done.

WALNUT GROVE RETIREMENT
COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Walnut Grove Retirement Community which is celebrating its 10th anniversary of outstanding service to the elderly community of Grundy County.

On March 7, 1989, the Walnut Grove Healthcare Center opened with 97 beds available to seniors. Four years later, in 1993, Grundy County experienced a need for more beds for the elderly. Walnut Grove applied for and completed the Certificate of Need process in order to add more beds and better serve Grundy County senior citizens. This process resulted in the increase of licensed beds from 97 to 123.

On January 10, 1994, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for these 24 private suite sheltered care units. This addition is known as the Walnut Grove Villa. As these Villas have established a fine reputation, a waiting list of applicants wanting to reside in them usually exists.

In addition to the Healthcare Center and the Villa, there are duplexes included in the retirement community. These 24 cottages house 30 elderly residents for independent living.

Walnut Grove's provision of care is sensational. The rehabilitation program of Walnut Grove is Medicare certified. Furthermore, there are always special events on the holidays, along with various outing and recreational events.

Mr. Speaker, I find it appropriate that the Walnut Grove Retirement Community be given praise for its 10 years of existence. May the service Walnut Grove has provided to the people of the 11th District and the elderly community of Grundy County continue as we move into the 21st Century.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW
JENDIAN AND ARMEN DEVEJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Matthew Jendian and Armen Devejian upon their ordination to rank of dea-

con for St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church. The rank of deacon requires much effort and discipline; the responsibility is heavy, and the standards are high. Both men have risen to those standards.

Deacon Matthew and Deacon Armen were previously ordained together as sub-deacons in 1991, and have been serving at the Holy Altar for the past 15 years. They served on the executive committee of the St. Paul Armenian Christian Youth Organization (ACYO) Chapter, were co-editors of the ACYO California in 1987, and currently teach the high school Sunday school class.

Deacon Matthew is married to Pamela Manoogian. He teaches at California State University, Fresno in the sociology department, and is campus director of the American Numanics Program. He is currently gathering data on Armenian-Americans in Central California for his Ph.D. dissertation through the University of Southern California. Deacon Matthew enrolled in his father's altar servers class at age nine, later graduated from the St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program, and has been serving at the Holy Altar for 20 years.

Deacon Armen is married to Paula Der Matoian. He is vice president of a construction and development company in Fresno, and is project manager of the New Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall which is currently under construction. In 1996, at the age of 26, he became California's youngest licensed architect. During his tenure as ACYO Central Council chairman, from 1994-1996, he helped establish the ACYO Mission Fund, the ACYO Camp Fund, and the Summer Camp ACYO Scholarship Program. Deacon Armen has been serving at the Holy Altar since 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deacon Matthew and Deacon Armen on their fine accomplishment of spiritual leadership. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these men and their families a bright future and continued growth.

PEACE CORPS ACT
AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 669, the Peace Corps reauthorization bill, I was pleased to vote yes on this legislation that will increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers from today's 6,700 to 10,000 over the next four

years. To achieve this modest number, H.R. 669 authorizes \$270 million for fiscal year 2000.

I do not simply support this bill because I myself was a Peace Corps volunteer. I support this bill because the demand, both internationally and domestically, is real.

In the Caucasus, Central Asia and Africa, burgeoning new democracies are crying out for Peace Corps volunteers. In Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, health volunteers are especially in need to teach sanitary living skills and show mothers how to better nourish their children with available resources. Programs in Africa chronically need more volunteers, especially in HIV/AIDS prevention and girls' education.

The recently created programs in South Africa and Jordan, having proved themselves successful, need more volunteers to expand current programs to meet country needs. Recently agreements have been reached with China, Bangladesh and Mozambique to begin Peace Corps programs. New volunteers ready to take on not only the usual Peace Corps experiences in a country and culture they are unfamiliar with, but also willing to meet the challenges of being the first Peace Corps volunteers in a country are needed.

As we have learned around the world, the best way to support a democracy is to help development at the local level. The Peace Corps is one of the most effective mechanisms for doing just that.

Unfortunately, natural disasters and humanitarian crises continue at an alarming rate, devastating countries just beginning to prosper. In these instances, the international community is quick to provide assistance to save lives, restore hope, and, in the long run, buttress democracy. The Peace Corps has developed the Crisis Corps to use language and cultural knowledge that Peace Corps volunteers possess to assist in these times of need.

An increase in Peace Corps volunteers will allow Crisis Corps volunteers to be sent for hurricane relief missions in Central America and keep open the possibility of sending volunteers elsewhere should they be needed.

Domestic demand for more Peace Corps volunteers is just as impressive. Last year, 150,000 Americans requested information about joining Peace Corps. This is an increase of approximately 40% over the last four years. In the same time frame, Peace Corps has been able to support only a 2% increase in the number of volunteers (this with a 13% decrease in headquarters staffing since 1993, and a 14% drop in support costs per volunteer from FY93 to FY98).

Americans, young and old, single and married, would like to serve their country, humanity and democracy. This is an asset we should not let go to waste. It is my sincere hope that H.R. 669 is signed into law, allowing more Americans the opportunity to participate in the Peace Corps, the hardest job they will ever love