Gotlieb strengthened his bond with the Jewish community as an undergraduate and graduate student through his involvement with the Jewish Student News at New York University. Gotlieb is a tireless worker for the people of Brooklyn and Queens.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the members of Brighton-Atlantic Unit #1671 of B’nai B’rith for recognizing the achievements of Brian Lance Gotlieb, a tireless worker for the people of Brooklyn and Queens.

Gotlieb is a member of Community Board 13 and serves on the Board of Directors in Section 4 of Trump Village and as an Executive Board member of the Brighton-Atlantic Unit #1671 of B’nai B’rith.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the members of Brighton-Atlantic Unit #1671 of B’nai B’rith for recognizing the achievements of Brian Lance Gotlieb, a tireless worker for the people of Brooklyn and Queens.

CONGRATULATING THE PASCACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pascack Historical Society on the recent restoration of its museum, and for all the work the Society has done to preserve the heritage of the Pascack Valley. The Pascack Historical Society Museum, located in Park Ridge, New Jersey, is a wonderful collection depicting life in the region from the 18th Century through the early 20th Century. It is a popular destination for tourists and natives alike, and is a treasure-trove of archival information for scholars of local history.

Special recognition must go to a number of key individuals involved. The project was ably guided by Historical Society President Katharine P. Randall, Vice President Francesca Moskowitz, Secretary Ellen Kramer and Treasurer Richard Ross.

The renovation would not have been possible without the generosity of the late Ellen Berdais, a long-time member of the Historical Society who died of cancer in 1995, just after the project began. In her honor, the annex will be named the Ellen Berdais Hall. In addition, the main museum building will be named in memory of its longtime curator, Wilma Uder.

The museum is housed in the 19th century former First Congregational Church of Park Ridge. During the three-year, $275,000 renovation, the church building was substantially restored and a dilapidated barn was replaced with an 18,000-square-foot addition. Its exhibits include the facade of a country store, a turn-of-the-century parlor, and a recreation of rooms from a small, Colonial-era home. Artifacts include items the Leni-Lenape Indian tribe and early settlers used for trading, farming and manufacturing. A machine for making the “wampum” ornaments Native Americans once used as currency is part of the collection, along with a printing press from a local newspaper and a wooden horse used by a saddle maker.

The Historical Society was founded in the 1930s by John C. Storms, publisher of the Park Ridge Local, and was formally incorporated in 1942. A small group of area residents dedicated themselves to collecting and preserving artifacts and written accounts of Pascack Valley history, and sharing the collection through exhibits, lectures and a quarterly newsletter. The society’s collection was housed in various locations until it found a permanent home in 1952 with the purchase of the church, which had been a Park Ridge landmark since 1873.

During its nearly half-century of operation, thousands of school classes, civic organizations, researchers and individuals have visited the museum and attended the Historical Society’s lectures. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the museum has depended on the generosity of its members and friends for financial support.

It became obvious in 1994 that the adjacent bar—used as a meeting room, research center, storage area and workroom—was in such a dangerous state of disrepair that its demolition was ordered by the borough. With the loss of this facility, it was necessary to temporarily close the museum and begin a major fundraising campaign to rebuild. Supports worked for five years to make the dream a reality.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the Pascack Historical Society and all its members on the hard work and dedication that have preserved this American historic treasure for the benefit of all.

THE BICENTENNIAL OF MONROE, NEW YORK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note to our colleagues that the Town of Monroe, New York, in my congressional district is currently celebrating its 200th anniversary. With its population estimated in 1996 to be nearly 26,000, the Town of Monroe has long been considered one of the major hubs of our Hudson River valley. Within the boundaries of the Town are three incorporated villages: the Village of Monroe, incorporated in 1814; the Village of Harriman, incorporated in 1914; and the Village of KIRyas Joel (incorporated in 1977).

The Village of Monroe sprang up along a mill pond created by the construction of a dam and grist mill constructed prior to the Revolutionary War. Soon, stagecoach routes, inns, and taverns grew along Monroe's Mill Pond, and soon the community became the economic and social focal point of the area. The Village of Harriman was the site of a creamery and cheese mill. Soon after it was incorporated in 1814, the Village of Harriman (incorporated in 1914), and the Village of KIRyas Joel (incorporated in 1977).

The Village of Monroe proudly holds the Monroe Cheese Festival. 'The Village of Monroe is a thriving community dedicated to celebrating its heritage, and Monroe Cheese is just one of its many traditions. The Festival is held every year on the Saturday of the third weekend in September, and attracts thousands of visitors of all ages to the community.

Interestingly, the Monroe Cheese Festival is the biggest and most successful event held annually in Monroe. Conceived by Village Mayor Robert Bonney—who tragically passed away soon after he "sold" the festival idea to the community—the cheese festival annually attracts thousands of visitors of all ages to the community from far and wide.

In 1997, a local newspaper reporter wrote that: "There are few places where a kid can wear a giant foam cheese wedge on his head and still look pretty cool. A Green Bay Packer game may be one. Another, most definitely, is the Monroe Cheese Festival."

Other long time traditions which permeate Monroe are the Mombasha Fire Department, over 100 years old, and the Museum Village, which preserves for tourists and scholars a typical colonial community. The legendary showman, George M. Cohan, was a resident of Monroe. When in his declining years the classic motion picture biography of his life, "Yankee Doodle Dandy," was released, he was too ill to travel to New York City for the grand premiere. So a special screening for Cohan and his family was arranged to take place at the Mombasha Fire House. Mr. Cohan applauded the portrayal of his life story by the legendary Jimmy Cagney.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of a new millennium, the Town of Monroe and the three Villages within its boundaries all look forward to the third hundred years with a sense of confidence that the challenges of tomorrow will be met.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join me in saluting the town of Monroe, New York, on this milestone occasion.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN M. MELTZ

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stephen M. Meltz on his sixtieth birthday. Stephen will gather with his friends and family to celebrate this momentous occasion just after Thanksgiving. Stephen was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 15, 1939. He married Nadine (Greenberg) Meltz and has two sons: Davis and Gary. Stephen has lived in Chicago his entire life. He attended college at