

faced bankruptcy, but by 1993, she was the head of a multi-million dollar corporation. Ninfa's Inc. now operates 34 restaurants and employs 1,300 people . . .

"Finally, no discussion about free enterprise can be complete without addressing the importance of competition. Competition is the force that prohibits market anarchy. Competition does this by allowing businesses to enter and leave the market as they wish. When businesses are in a market together, they keep that market moving and improving. This improvement allows the customer to have the best product at the best price. Without competition, the monopolistic business can decide what the customer should have in addition to being able to set the price."

Mr. Kinsey concludes that, "American society would be very different if our Founding Fathers had not established a government in which free enterprise could thrive. Fortunately, we live in a system that allows us the freedoms of economic choice, voluntary exchange, private property, and profit motive. It is these freedoms that have helped make the American economy the greatest and most coveted in the world."

A TRIBUTE TO E. TUNNEY MAHER,
JR.

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize E. Tunney Maher, Jr., an outstanding resident of my constituency who will be honored by the Hastings-on-Hudson Chamber of Commerce as its Hastings-on-Hudson Citizen of the Year on April 9th.

Tunney Maher is a lifelong resident of Hastings-on-Hudson who is retiring after 23 years as the director of St. Matthew's Christian Youth Organization basketball program. However, Mr. Maher has contributed significantly to the community in many other ways. For the last 19 years, Tunney has been employed in the Rehabilitation Department at St. Cabrini Nursing Home. In 1991 he was awarded the Archdiocesan of New York Parish Volunteer Award. He also has been named a Suburban Hero by Gannet Newspapers and was honored by St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Parish at its 1994 Annual Dinner.

Although Tunney has devoted himself to helping the citizens of Hastings-on-Hudson, his pride and joy has been his work with the CYO basketball program. There are currently 150 youths in the program now, and over 800 children have been a part of the program since its inception. However, Tunney has made certain that the program is not strictly basketball. He has made it a policy to have the youngsters give something back to the community by helping to feed the homeless, clean up the environment, and other projects that reflect a dual responsibility. Tunney reflects on his experience with the youth basketball program: "It's a time-consuming thing, but it's worth it. There's a great deal of satisfaction when you've worked with these kids and you've done something positive for them."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating Tunney Maher, Jr. on receiv-

ing the citizen of the Year Award from the Hastings-on-Hudson Chamber of Commerce. I am confident the lessons he imparted to the youths of his village will assist them in developing into solid, productive citizens.

HONORING MR. ROBERT EUGENE
ELLEDGE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero. Last week, I had the opportunity to present Mr. Robert Eugene Elledge, of Pomona, CA, with the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit.

This event was truly special because Mr. Elledge is a Korean war veteran who served our Nation nobly and honorably. Unfortunately, Mr. Elledge had to wait 49 years to be honored for his sacrifices.

On May 9, 1951, Mr. Elledge and his division marched throughout the night in pouring rain to reach the hill they were ordered to capture. Early the next morning, the Communist Chinese Forces and North Korean Forces began their May offensive. This operation was designated "The Second Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive," also known as the Battle of Soyang or as Mr. Elledge recalls it, the May Massacre.

The May Massacre began with planes overhead, dropping leaflets. Mr. Elledge heard pilots talking over loudspeakers in a foreign language. His division ate a hot breakfast, and then they were ordered to attack.

As Mr. Elledge began to crawl up the hill, his helmet was cracked into pieces by enemy fire, rendering him unconscious. He awoke disoriented, and found himself crawling down the hill, where he found a medic. The medic began bandaging the wounds on his head and neck, treated his pain, and placed him on the ambulance. Then, they told Mr. Elledge that his company had been annihilated—only four had survived.

Mr. Elledge received treatment for these wounds in South Korea, Japan, and at Fort Custer, MI. A hometown hero, Mr. Elledge was featured in an article in the Quincy Herald Whig. He received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Service Star. However, he never received the medal that is most frequently associated with individual sacrifices to our Nation—the Purple Heart.

The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is the oldest military decoration in the world presently used, and the first award made available to the common soldier. This honor was begun early in our Nation's history by another soldier, Gen. George Washington. General Washington, although considered a stern commander, was always appreciative of the troops who served him so loyally. His order permitting meritorious soldiers to wear the figure of a heart on purple cloth over the left breast began the tradition of this combat decoration.

Today, the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit may only be awarded to a member of the Armed Forces who is killed or wounded in action.

Forty-nine years ago, Mr. Elledge felt that his experience fell within this definition, and he

began to inquire about when he might receive this honorable award.

But, it seems that the paperwork requesting the medal was lost. In fact, back in 1951, the Army told Mr. Elledge that his service records were missing, and that he would most likely have to wait several years to receive his Purple Heart.

Last Friday, 49 years after surviving the May Massacre, tears came to Mr. Elledge's eyes when he received the medal he had waited for so patiently.

The Korean war is often referred to as our "forgotten war". While his paperwork may have been forgotten, the sacrifices that Mr. Elledge made for our country in Korea will always be remembered.

This year, we mark the 50th anniversary of the Korean war, a time to commemorate not the war, but rather the veterans thereof and the sacrifices they made to preserve democracy on the Korean Peninsula almost 50 years ago. My colleagues, I encourage you to take the time to recognize the American heroes in your district, and to ensure that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ROMANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable woman from my district, Mary Romano of Maplewood, New Jersey, who was feted on Sunday, April 2, 2000 at Cryan's Beef & Ale in South Orange, New Jersey to mark her retirement as Maplewood Democratic Chair. Due to her many years of service and leadership, it is only fitting that we gather here in her honor, for she epitomizes a strong spirit of caring and generosity.

Born in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, Mary is one of four children of the late Sarah and John Melillo who came to the United States from the Province of Avellino, Italy. When she was five years old, her parents moved from Pennsylvania to the Roseville section of Newark, New Jersey. She was educated in the Newark School system and graduated from Central Technical and Commercial High School.

Mary continually touches the lives of the people around her. She is an active member of many organizations including, Maplewood Seniors, St. Joseph Rainbow Seniors, Maplewood Service League and Maplewood Women's Club. In addition to her duties as municipal Democratic Chair she has held numerous other leadership positions including, Treasurer of Immaculate Heart of Mary Rosary Altar Society, Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the South Orange BPOE 1154 and Executive Board Member of the John J. Giblin Association. She is currently the corresponding secretary of the Giblin Association. She retired in 1987 from the Essex County Office of Public Information, where she was Secretary to the Director.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Mary has devoted much time and energy to numerous Democratic organizations. Her many duties include, Vice Chair and Current Chair of the Maplewood