

Peninsula Community Concert Association and the Monterey Peninsula Choral Society.

Mrs. Hurlbert was a warm and gracious person who touched so many lives throughout the 20th Century. Her presence will not soon be forgotten, and she is missed by everyone who knew her, especially her son, Jerry Hurlbert of Weaverville, California; her daughter, Jean Jorgensen of Jackson, Wyoming; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

TRIBUTE TO SYBIL AND MANNON  
KAPLAN

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow Adat Ari El congregant's Sybil and Mannon Kaplan. On Sunday evening, June 3, 2001, Adat Ari El—the first Conservative synagogue in the San Fernando Valley—will celebrate the Kaplan's longstanding dedication and service to our temple and community.

The Kaplans have been members of Adat Ari El for more than 35 years and their contributions are legion. They have selflessly involved themselves in a variety of causes. Sybil is a devoted former L.A. Unified School District teacher and community activist. She has served on both the Temple and Sisterhood Board of Directors and is a founding member and past President of the Associates of the Jewish Home for the Aging. She also helped establish the San Fernando Valley Region of the Jewish National Fund and served as President and Chairman of the Board.

Manny, while acting as the managing partner for the last 24 years of the accounting firm of Miller, Kaplan, Arase & Co. LLP, has also found time to devote himself to community service. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Adat Ari El Endowment Fund and he has previously served in many other capacities within Adat Ari El, including the Presidency. He is also the current Chairman of the San Fernando Valley Region of the Jewish National Fund and President of the Valley College Patron Association. He has held many other positions and has served on the Board of Directors of such important organizations as the United Jewish Fund and the University of Judaism. Manny also was the President of Camp Ramah.

I am honored to know the Kaplans personally. I have great respect and admiration for their accomplishments, their integrity, and their civic spirit. It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sybil and Mannon Kaplan for everything they've done and continue to do.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH YEAR  
CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST  
HISPANIC COUNCIL MEMBER  
ELECTED IN HUDSON COUNTY

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th Year Celebration of the First

Hispanic Council Member Elected in Hudson County, New Jersey. The Hispanic Pioneers Civic Association, Inc., will host the celebration on Friday, April 20, 2001.

The Hispanic Pioneers Civic Association, Inc., (HPCA) was formed to promote and honor Hispanic leaders and non-Hispanics who have made significant contributions to the progress of the Hispanic community during the past twenty years. Whether in the field of education, politics, or community development, HPCA acknowledges those who have made a real difference.

And during the past twenty years, in New Jersey and elsewhere, many Hispanics have won elective office. However, the number of Hispanics in elective office does not proportionally reflect the number of Hispanics in America. Nevertheless, we are making great progress, and Hispanic representation will soon reflect our community's growth and our years of hard work.

In my home district, Hispanics have achieved great success in many fields, and politics is certainly no exception. I am an example of that success; and I could not have done it without the support of the Hispanic community. There have been other success stories that demonstrate how far we have come as a community. The following individuals deserve credit for helping to lay the foundation for Hispanic political and civic involvement in America, which they accomplished through hard work and dedication: Benjamin Lopez; Nydia Dávila-Colón; Efrain Rosario; George O. Aviles; Jaime Vazquez; Mariano Vega, Jr.; Fernando Colon, Jr.; Jose O. Arango; and Edwin Duroy.

The 20th Year Celebration presents a wonderful opportunity for the Hispanic community to reflect on the important contributions that Hispanics have made to American society.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 20th Year Celebration of the First Hispanic Council Member Elected In Hudson County.

IN HONOR OF SAINT ELIAS  
MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church. This year, Saint Elias celebrates its centennial anniversary.

For the past one hundred years, Saint Elias has served as an important part of the Northeast Ohio community. A place where people of all faiths can come together to pray for peace in the Middle East, Saint Elias has effectively ministered to a diverse neighborhood. In 1997, the Catholic Church formally presented Saint Elias with the award for the Promotion of Catholic Unity and Inter-Religious Dialogue. The award recognized Saint Elias's years of dedication to ecumenicalism.

The good nature of Saint Elias has not been limited to the neighborhood which houses the parish. Starting last year, the parish has sponsored children in Lebanon by helping to provide needed medical supplies and clothing. The goodwill and love of the people of Saint Elias has been demonstrated by these acts of sharing and concern.

Saint Elias Church has always stayed true to its Melkite roots. Always stressing fellowship and service, Saint Elias has assumed important roles in its neighborhood. Most recently, Saint Elias created its first Mens Club, which has shown a deep dedication to the promotion of spiritual and material projects. They have organized countless benefits, and have raised funds for scholarships, provided relief to the poor and sponsored religious activities. The Men's Club has become a fixture in the neighborhood, bring people together to help one another.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church as they celebrate their one hundredth birthday.

THE HEART OF COLUMBINE DAY

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to give honor to efforts by Governor Bill Owens and the Jefferson County Board of Education in declaring April 20th "The Heart of Columbine Day," in support of the Heart of Columbine organization.

Last week, the Littleton community and everyone across our state of Colorado came together to quietly mark the second anniversary of the shootings at Columbine High School.

In January, in remembrance of this terrible tragedy, the Heart of Columbine organization was created by Gerda Weissman Klein and students and staff members of Columbine to encourage community involvement. The organization is actively recruiting other schools across the country to follow their lead and, already, schools in Illinois and Arizona have started their own programs.

This year, Columbine chose to focus its efforts on hunger prevention, has worked in soup kitchens, sponsored a child in the Philippines and collected more than 7,200 cans of food. Heart of Columbine also hosted a community day in the school's parking lot to involve the community in their project.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring this extremely outstanding organization, which has done such a tremendous job of turning tragedy into triumph.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
CAREER OF ROGER E. FARRELL,  
TEACHER, THOMAS W. BURGESS  
SCHOOL, HAMPDEN, MASSACHU-  
SETTS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hereby recognize the outstanding career of one of Hampden, Massachusetts' finest educators, Roger E. Farrell. Mr. Farrell has taught social studies at the Thomas W. Burgess in Hampden for thirty-four years. During that span he has instilled in Hampden's young people an appreciation of our government and of the many facets of our world. Also, he has done exceptional work in organizing award programs, student videos, and

educational trips to New York and to our nation's capital. Mr. Farrell and his classes have always been welcome visitors to my office.

Even more important than this Mr. Speaker, is the fact that Mr. Farrell has significantly contributed to the molding of fine character of those he has taught over the years. The up-standing character displayed by his students on their yearly visits to Washington serves as testament of this.

Mr. Speaker, the Thomas W. Burgess School, the entire Hampden community, and myself are extremely grateful of the dedicated service that Mr. Farrell has provided his students. I congratulate him on his retirement and wish he and his wife Barbara the best of luck in all their endeavors.

HONORING WILLIAM L. GRAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special tribute to a good friend, close advisor, and leader of the Santa Barbara community, Mr. William L. Gray. After twenty-eight years of service, Bill recently retired from Pacific Bell.

Bill started his career at Pacific Bell in 1972 as a customer service representative. His commitment to serving the customers of his company and the members of his community has been Bill's trademark ever since.

I have come to know Bill professionally over the past several years in his capacity as Director of Pacific Bell's External Affairs for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Of course, Bill was an effective advocate for the positions of his company on legislation pending in Congress. But more important, Bill was a tireless proponent of the limitless potential that communications technology has to benefit our society. I learned a tremendous amount from Bill about the range of technology choices consumers can and should expect in the years ahead. His counsel was particularly helpful to me in my role as a member of the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, there are few institutions in Santa Barbara County that have not benefited from Bill Gray's substantial and generous community activism. He served on the Board of Directors of the Goleta Valley and Santa Barbara Region Chambers of Commerce, the Kiwanis club, the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, Santa Barbara Partners in Education, Santa Barbara Family YMCA, the Red Cross, and the United Way. He has also contributed significantly to business and civic groups in Santa Maria, Lompoc, Carpinteria, and Solvang.

Although Bill may have retired from his job, I know that he and his wife Cindy will not retire from their commitment to improving the quality of life in our community. I will miss working directly with Bill on issues involving Pacific Bell, but I know that I will continue to witness the wonderful contributions he makes to Santa Barbara County. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bill Gray on his lifetime of accomplishments and achievement.

HONORING ELIZABETH HARTWELL  
EARTH DAY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a friend of Northern Virginia, Mrs. Elizabeth Hartwell, who dedicated her life to protecting the environment. I want to recognize her life and all of her contributions to the Eleventh District of Virginia.

Mrs. Hartwell began her quest to protect the environment in 1966, when she learned of plans to rezone part of Northern Virginia, Mason Neck, a wildlife habitat. She made modest films of the wildlife that thrived there and showed it to civic organizations around the region. She even gave tours by boat along Mason Neck's waterways. She formed a committee and, with the backing of local officials, saved 5,000 acres of Mason Neck for use as park land.

She served on many boards to help care for the environment. She was a member and vice chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Mrs. Hartwell also served as secretary and vice president of the Conservation Council of Virginia and chairman of the Citizen's Council for a Clean Potomac. Some of her time was spent with the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Mrs. Hartwell was the organizer of "Friends of Mason Neck." Due to her efforts, the 2,277-acre Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge was formed, making it the first area established for the protection of bald eagles. Also created were the 1,804-acre Mason Neck State Park and the 1,003-acre Pohick Regional Park.

During his term, former Governor Linwood Holton appointed her to the Virginia Board of Agriculture. Later she was appointed to the board of Fairfax County Wetlands for seven years. Former Governors Charles Robb and Gerald Baliles both appointed Mrs. Hartwell to the Northern Virginia Potomac River Basin Committee.

Her efforts to protect the environment were rewarded with dozens of honors and awards. In 1976, Mrs. Hartwell was named the Virginia Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year. In 1990, she won the Fairfax County Park Authority's Elly Doyle Park Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Mason Neck State Park as they honor Mrs. Elizabeth Hartwell on April 21, 2001 in Fairfax, Virginia. She dedicated her life to nature and helping the environment and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating her remarkable life. Because of her efforts, Northern Virginia today is an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

SMALL BUSINESS INTEREST  
CHECKING ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 974, "the Small Business Interest

Checking Act of 2001." This bill will repeal the prohibition against banks paying interest on checking accounts.

When this bill was considered in the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, I expressed my concern that this legislation could be interpreted in a way that would effectively eliminate the financial benefits and checking services that large depositors now receive from banks in lieu of interest. These services are now provided in accordance with substantial interpretive guidance that has been issued by the Federal Reserve under Regulation Q. Current law states that the provision or the receipt of such services and benefits does not constitute interest.

I am pleased that Chairman OXLEY agreed to modify the bill by including a new section and accompanying report language. These provisions clarify that the current provision of services by banks in accordance with Regulation Q will be continued. This legislation will not alter the legal definition of interest for real estate closing escrow transactions and provides that current Regulation Q Federal regulatory interpretations regarding the definition of interest on deposits will continue to stand.

Title companies and agents currently receive bank services that defray the overall cost of maintaining real estate settlement escrows. These services subsidize settlement service operations, ultimately lowering the cost of closing and settlement services to the public. As a highly developed financial system, Federal banking law and regulations have consistently operated to facilitate the smooth and efficient flow of real estate transactions and promoted American homeownership.

I am grateful that the Committee included a clear statement of congressional intent with respect to this issue in relationship to the proposed changes in the bill and I fully support H.R. 974.

HONORING THE EIGHTH GRADE  
CLASS OF GATES-CHILI MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the eighth grade class of Gates-Chili Middle School, who arrived in Washington today.

These outstanding students have come to our nation's Capitol not only to experience first-hand our government and history, but to show their respect and gratitude to America's World War II veterans. While here, they will be presenting a donation to the American Legion to help build the World War II Memorial.

More than two generations removed from the Second World War, these young men and women dedicated their time and their energy to raise \$1,000 for the memorial fund. Through a mass production project, the Team 8C Coolaids (as they called themselves), produced CD racks that were sold in school and throughout the community, with the help of the Parent-Teachers Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these students for their hard work, and for their commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices endured, and the triumph ensured by our nation's World War II veterans will forever be remembered. I ask that this entire Congress join