

has been recognized for her work instructing developmentally challenged adults in the study of the Jewish texts and music, and in ritual and Torah cantillations.

Frank Biordi, President of Biordi Construction Company, has long been involved in community and business affairs in Queens, and has been a strong supporter of various local and national civic organizations. Frank has been a generous benefactor of the SIDS Foundation, Cancer Care Society, Deepdale Gardens Boulevard Bank Drive, Bayside Little League, and New Hyde Park Little League.

Joanna Laba is the Executive Director of Savoy at Little Neck, a world-class assisted living facility which opened in the fall of 2000. Her responsibilities include: developing and maintaining operational systems, maintaining a maximum census, developing initiatives consistent with resident-care needs, maintaining the memory support program, and supervising admission criteria practices. Joanna has also developed and managed support groups for seniors and their caregivers, including those concerning Alzheimer's and other memory-impairing diseases.

Mohammed Saleh was born and raised in Bangladesh, and received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Dhaka. Mr. Saleh has served his community in several capacities: as President of the Long Island Muslim Society, Former President of the Empire State Pharmaceutical Society, and Founding President of the Bangladesh-American Pharmacists Association. He currently owns three pharmacies in the New York Metropolitan Area and is an active member of the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York and the National Community Pharmacists Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these exceptional Americans as they are honored by The Eastern Queens Democratic Club, for their outstanding service and tireless dedication to the community.

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO
JONATHAN FRIEDMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual and a good friend, Jonathan Friedman, who is celebrating his 50th birthday on June 3, 2001. Jonathan is a wonderful person, full of integrity and honesty, dedicated to improving the world around him, and an all-around good guy.

Jonathan and I have been friends since the early 60's when we worked together in the California Federation of Young Democrats. He was only in high school, but even then he was extremely interested in politics. In the Young Dems, he was a master debater on the Resolutions Committee and was known for providing a fresh and interesting insight which challenged previous policies of the Young Democrats. Jonathan's contributions to the Democrats for Israel Club and the California Democratic State Central Committee are equally impressive and indispensable.

Jonathan has enjoyed a distinguished career since receiving his M.B.A. at Wharton

Graduate School, where he majored in finance. His educational background, which includes a B.A. from UCLA, enabled him to enter the business world in 1975 as a securities analyst and later as an Assistant Vice President at Equitable Life. His interest and acumen in the financial arena continued to grow and led to a position with the Ford Foundation in New York. He made his way back to Los Angeles to serve as an investment consultant at the J. Paul Getty Trust. After a successful stint there, he turned his skills and savvy to the retail market by starting his own jewelry business, Miller Gems.

I frequently turn to Jonathan for analysis of legislative proposals in tax and financial matters. His counsel in these areas (and many others) has been invaluable to me.

Jonathan also finds time in his busy schedule to be of service to the Jewish community in Los Angeles and nationwide. He serves as a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council which fosters equal protection and justice for all, and he is a long-time member of the American Israel Policy Action Committee. Jonathan is also a volunteer board member of the Friends of the UCLA Library.

So it is with special joy that I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing my good friend, Jonathan Friedman, a very happy 50th Birthday and many happy returns. His friendship has added immeasurably to my life.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR STEWART
H. HOLMES, USMC

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Marine Corps Officer, Major Stewart H. Holmes, who served with distinction and dedication for two and a half years for the Secretary of the Navy, Commandant of the Marine Corps and under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as the Marine Corps Appropriations Liaison Officer in the Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the United States Marine Corps, the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our nation.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in December of 1998, Major Holmes has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Marine Corps plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Marine Corps to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped marine forces attainable for our nation's defense.

Mr. Speaker, Stewart Holmes and his wife Deborah have made many sacrifices during his marine career, and his distinguished service has exemplified the Marine motto "Semper Fidelis." As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Marine adventure, I call upon colleagues to wish them both every success.

HONORING LILLI PEREZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate Lilli Perez Iyechad on the publication of her new book entitled *An Historical Perspective of Helping Practices Associated with Birth, Marriage and Death Among Chamorros in Guam*.

A native of Guam, Lilli earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Guam. She holds a masters degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and was awarded a Ph.D. by the Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research in Pennsylvania. Her areas of concentration include mental health, family dynamics and the significance of cultural explication. For almost two decades, she closely worked with numerous Native American community groups focusing particular attention on Pacific Islanders.

Lilli is currently employed as an extension agent by the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Guam. She is a member of the Guam Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Social Workers, the Council on Social Work Education, and the National Network for Collaboration. On a part-time basis, she also provides services as an individual, marriage, and family therapist—concentrating her efforts on "at-risk" populations.

The sociological discussions brought about by Lilli in this book will bring about knowledge and understanding about Guam's culture and traditions. This goes a long way towards getting the professional and academic communities acquainted with the unique situation and needs of Chamorros in Guam. I applaud her efforts and urge her to keep up the good work.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER
AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the "First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act." This legislation is identical to H.R. 1333 from the 106th Congress.

This bill is a pro-homeownership initiative, based on the principle of empowering families and individuals to use funds in their own retirement accounts to buy a home.

The "First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act" unlocks the more than \$2 trillion currently held nationwide in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) for homeownership use. It does so by allowing individuals to borrow up to \$10,000 from their own IRA (or from their parent's IRA) to use as a down payment on a first-time home purchase. Since funds are borrowed, rather than withdrawn, the homebuyer does not incur federal taxes or a premature withdrawal penalty.

This bill is a targeted effort to narrow the arbitrary disparity between treatment of 401(k) retirement plans and IRA retirement plans. Under current law, individuals may borrow