

leaves the Illinois Senate and wish her success in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LIBERA PILLA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Libera Pilla—beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to many.

For forty-nine years, Mrs. Pilla was the devoted wife of George Pilla, who died in 1978. Together they raised their two sons, Bishop Anthony Pilla and Joe Pilla. As immigrants from Italy, Mr. and Mrs. Pilla understood the importance of family, faith, and hard work. Although they were not formally educated, Mr. and Mrs. Pilla coveted the educational opportunities for their sons, and ensured that they both received an excellent education. Moreover, they instilled in their sons the value of service and compassion toward others—clearly evidenced in their sons' chosen vocations—Bishop Anthony Pilla's vocation of spiritual leader; and Joe Pilla's commitment to public service in law enforcement.

Mrs. Pilla was the light, warmth and center of the Pilla family. Mrs. Pilla was known for her deep sense of compassion and concern for others, and she consistently reached out to others with grace, kindness and dignity. Mrs. Pilla took great pride and joy in caring for her family and friends, especially through her culinary talents. She delighted many with her wonderful recipes from her Italian homeland, and enjoyed planning and preparing for family and friends during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Libera Pilla—a remarkable woman who, along with her dear husband George, rose above the hardships of assimilating into American culture, sculpting a wonderful life for herself and her family, filled with love, warmth, encouragement and support. Although Mrs. Pilla will be deeply missed, her life was joyously lived—and is a life worthy of celebration. I offer my deepest condolences to Mrs. Pilla's sons, Bishop Anthony Pilla and Joe Pilla; to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and to her extended family and many friends. The light and love that Mrs. Pilla so freely gave to others, especially to her family, will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved her well.

HONORING GLORIA STRAIT FOR 50
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CAP-
ITOL HILL CLUB

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gloria Strait for the fifty years of service, dedication, and loyalty she has given to the Capitol Hill Club.

Gloria moved from Syracuse, New York to Capitol Hill in 1952. She began her tenure at the Capitol Hill Club on February 5, 1953,

when it was located at 214 First Street. Although she was hired as a cook, she worked as a dishwasher when business was slow. For close to twenty years, Gloria cooked breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the numerous Members of Congress and guests of the Club. During this time, the majority of which was spent in the Club's second home at 75 C Street, she also supervised the kitchen, managed menus, and handled orders. When the Club moved to its current location at 300 First Street in 1972, Gloria was promoted to Purchasing Manager and took on responsibility for handling inventory and vendor relations.

Since a child in New York, Gloria has had the opportunity to meet innumerable celebrities through her involvement in the restaurant industry. And in the fifty years of her employment at Capitol Hill Club, she has met six United States presidents, one dozen governors, countless Congressmen and women, and renown business leaders. She keeps a scrapbook to remember her many friends.

Gloria has helped countless Members of Congress who were far from home to feel at home by cooking favorite meals or baking birthday cakes. It is that type of personal attention and commitment to her job that makes Gloria a vital and welcomed part of the Capitol Hill Club family. For fifty years, Gloria has brightened the Club with her youthful vigor and soaring spirit. As a member of the Club, I thank her for being a part of our extended family and look forward to seeing her in the many years to come.

BEST WISHES TO SALT RIVER
PROJECT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a venerable Arizona institution that celebrates this month its 100th anniversary as the nation's oldest multi-purpose reclamation project. I speak of the Salt River Project, an organization with nearly 800,000 electric customers and responsibilities for supplying water to some 1.5 million people in the Phoenix metro area.

While my own Congressional District 8 spans areas outside of SRP's service territory, one cannot live long in Arizona without learning something of the history of this unique public power and water utility. Founded on February 7, 1903, SRP marked the formalization of hopes for transforming a fierce desert into a productive agricultural area.

Eight months earlier, the Reclamation Act of 1902 had been signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt. Critics maintained the act would be a boondoggle, saddling the federal government with useless burdens. But Roosevelt and his supporters were optimists and had faith in the American spirit of determination.

The fruits of their convictions were borne out.

A federal reclamation loan was approved to help SRP and central Arizona's landowners build a great water storage system to supplement the area's small and unreliable system of ditches and canals. By 1911, using horses, hawsers and hand-tools, workers had com-

pleted Roosevelt Dam—then the largest masonry dam in the world.

With new and dependable sources of water, farms flourished. Local towns and cities grew. More dams were built. And, by the 1930s, SRP with state enabling legislation entered into the power business to ensure repayment of its federal loan obligations.

Today, SRP ranks among the largest public power providers in the nation and an authority on water management. And, at the core of the company's culture is the same durable spirit of community partnership and involvement that was there a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I offer best wishes to the Salt River Project as it moves ahead in its second hundred years of service—a century certain to bring many new benefits and progress.

FIREFIGHTING RESEARCH AND
COORDINATION ACT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act. I am proud of this legislation for what it seeks to accomplish on behalf of our Nation's firefighters. This bill has three primary objectives: support the development of voluntary consensus standards for firefighting equipment and technology, establish nationwide and State mutual aid systems for dealing with national emergencies, and authorize the National Fire Academy to train firefighters to respond to acts of terrorism and other national emergencies.

In large part, the genesis of the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act came after the September 11th attacks. After the tragic events of that day, fire departments throughout America began to grapple with new concerns over how to best train for and respond to terrorist acts. The needs of the fire service continue to grow as new threats emerge. As a result, Congress has a responsibility to assist and protect our firefighters. That is the goal of the Firefighting Research and Coordination Act.

The first objective of the bill focuses on equipment and technology standards. The bill would allow the U.S. Fire Administrator, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and Inter-Operability, national voluntary consensus standards development organizations, interested Federal, State, and local agencies, and other interested parties to develop measurement techniques and testing methodologies, and support development of voluntary consensus standards through national standards development organizations, for evaluating the performance and compatibility of new fire fighting technology. Examples of new technologies include: personal protection equipment, devices for advance warning of extreme hazard, equipment for enhanced vision, and robotics and other remote-controlled devices, among others. Equipment purchased under the Assistance to Firefighters grant program must meet or exceed voluntary consensus standards.

Establishing standards for firefighting equipment and technologies will help safeguard the