

wide Industry Appreciation Week as well, giving the entire Sunshine State the opportunity to realize just how much we all benefit from having the industries that we do.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to represent an area of Florida that started the trend, if you will, of honoring local businesses and recognizing their place in our communities. I ask that you and my colleagues in this body join me in congratulating Citrus County and wishing them well as they conclude their Industry Appreciation Week.

HONORING REVEREND FATHER
KEVORK ARAKELIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Reverend Father Kevork Arakelian on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary of Ordination and Consecration into the Sacred Priesthood of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. Father Kevork will be recognized at an event held in his honor on September 28th in Fresno, California.

Born in 1943, Father Kevork and his family moved from New York City to Pasadena, California, after World War II. He attended Pasadena City Schools and became very active in sports. Father Kevork played baseball, football, and handball both for school and outside local teams. After graduating from Pasadena High School, he attended San Antonio College and received his A.A. degree. He then earned his B.S. degree in Business Administration at California State Polytechnic University, and attended Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1971.

Father Kevork's religious activities have been as far-reaching as they have been significant. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1967 and to the Priesthood in 1973. Father Kevork served as Church School Associate Director in Pasadena for two years; Counselor and teacher at St. Nersess Summer Study Program; Chaplain at Susquehanna Valley home; and held many other positions of great value to churches and schools. He is currently the Parish Priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Fowler, California, where he serves on several different levels.

Father Kevork has served at St. Gregory's since 1980. St. Gregory the Illuminator is the fourth largest Armenian Church in the United States. He has been the Committee member for the 1700th Anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity in Armenia; Secretary to the first Alumni Association of St. Nersess Seminary; Chairman of the first Camp Board of Directors; and has taught various classes at retreats, camp programs, and workshops. St. Gregory's has grown considerably in people and extra-curricular activities since Father Kevork has presided there.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Father Kevork Arakelian for his years of service and to thank him for his dedication to the congregation of St. Gregory and to the Armenian community of the Central Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in extending him best wishes for his future.

HONORING ORCHARD RIDGE REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orchard Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in my Fifth Congressional District. The staff at Orchard Ridge was recently awarded the American Healthcare Association's Quality Award, for excellence in service, performance, and of course quality to patients, customers and communities.

The American Healthcare Association is the trade association for the longterm care industry and, in that role it promotes nursing and rehabilitation centers across the country and recognizes outstanding achievement and quality in that sector.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have such a distinguished nursing and rehabilitation facility in my district and am happy to be able to honor Orchard Ridge before you and my colleagues today.

On October 15, in San Diego, CA, the rest of the industry will have the opportunity to honor Orchard Ridge for attaining this award when they convene for the AHCA's national convention.

I commend Orchard Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and my colleagues in this body to do the same. I am proud to be the representative of many of its patients and employees in Congress.

Congratulations to a hard-working team for a much-deserved award.

HONORING SIERRA TEL
COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sierra Tel Communications Group in honor of California Small and Rural Telecommunications Week. An event was held in Sierra Tel's honor on Sunday, September 14th in Oakhurst, California.

Small and rural telephone companies will be participating in National Small Telecommunications Week from September 15th through September 21st. Rural telephone companies will acknowledge and reflect on the great advancements made in their industry. For more than 100 years small, country telecommunications companies have provided high-quality services to rural America. These companies have long been known for their state-of-the-art technology and superior, cutting-edge services. Over 1,100 small rural companies are in existence serving areas the larger companies choose not to serve due to factors such as topography, population, and profitability.

Independent rural telephone companies, like Sierra Tel, play an important role in the telecommunications industry as well as their local communities. They ensure that large telecom interests do not override the needs of rural America, and they work on behalf of the peo-

ple to keep rates affordable. The local telecommunications company is vital to the economic development efforts of the community, often providing jobs and local leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sierra Tel Communications Group for its commitment and service to their community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Sierra Tel during California Small and Rural Telecommunications Week.

HONORING BOB HINTON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Bob Hinton. Bob bravely served this country in Korea. After his service left him disabled, he continued giving to his community by producing a video warning teen drivers of the dangers of drunk driving.

Bob Hinton is an honorable and caring, public servant. However, he is not a public servant in the traditional sense. Rather than seeking acclaim in public office, Bob follows a passion; his greatest pleasure is giving to others.

In August of 1948, Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force where he gallantly served his country and received several accolades in the process. After retiring with 100% disability, Bob moved to Florida. There, he joined the American Legion Post 139 where he volunteered his services, which won him the "Unsung Hero's Award" in 1984.

As an amateur videographer, Bob began covering news events in Hernando County and central Florida for several local and national TV programs including "Good Morning America."

Driven by his continuing zeal to help others, Bob transformed his new found skills into an instrument of service. He has voluntarily created training videos for the Highway Patrol, the Red Cross, and sheriffs' offices in Hernando and surrounding counties. Additionally, Bob has donated copies of his drunk driving videos to various schools hoping to save teenage lives.

Even though Bob has recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer and undergone several radiation treatments, he has continued to film throughout his tribulations and says if he can keep busy helping others he won't feel his pain. Bob is never happier than when he is helping someone. Thus, he is a shining example of what individuals should strive to become.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Bob Hinton a constituent and I ask you to join with me in thanking him for his continued service.

SAVE CANCER CARE

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of cancer patients in my district.

I would like the conferees working to craft a final Medicare prescription drug benefit to

know what the cancer community in the 15th District of Texas is saying.

Mr. Speaker, the cancer community is united in saying that the deep cancer care cuts, in the form of reductions in reimbursements to community-based clinics for cancer drugs, will catastrophically dismantle the cancer care delivery system we have built in this country.

If passed, the cancer community fears these cuts will turn back the clock on cancer care at least 30 years:

Community-based cancer centers nationwide, where 80 percent of patients receive treatment, will be forced to stop seeing Medicare patients or close their doors all together.

This will force cancer patients back into hospitals or large academic cancer clinics—and those institutions have said they cannot handle the influx of patients.

Patients in rural America—like in parts of my South Texas District—will be severely burdened as they will have to travel great distances to receive care.

Family members and friends who would have to accompany a loved one on those long trips, would face the economic burden of missing work as well as the psychological hurdle of helping someone through treatment, if this bill passes in its current form.

These cancer cuts will not only affect today's treatments, but tomorrow's medical cures. That's because more than 60 percent of clinical trials of promising cancer treatments occur in the community-based setting. Without community treatment centers to provide care, patient access to clinical trials—and the hope they represent—would be significantly curtailed.

These cuts appeared at a critical time in the war against cancer. Just last month the National Cancer Institute reported that mortality rates from the four most common types of cancer—breast, colorectal, lung and prostate—appear to have declined. That marks eight years in a row that cancer deaths have declined. But even with that good news, we still face many challenges in the War on Cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, 1-in-2 men and 1-in-3 women will be diagnosed with cancer at some time in their lives.

And an estimated 60 percent of new cancer cases are predicted in people aged 65 years and older.

Prescription drug coverage is a noble cause, and one which I hope we can provide to seniors. But we cannot provide seniors drug coverage on the backs of cancer patients—many of whom are fighting for their lives.

Seniors deserve a Medicare prescription drug bill, not a \$16 billion cancer care cut.

TRIBUTE TO MOE BILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend, Moe Biller, former president of the American Postal Workers Union, who passed away last Friday.

Morris "Moe" Biller headed APWU for more than twenty years, fighting for the workers he represented. From his beginnings as a part-

time clerk to eventually becoming president of the APWU, Moe committed himself to helping those who were underrepresented.

Born November 15, 1915, Moe attended high school and college in New York City. In 1937, he began his postal career on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Making less than one dollar per hour with no vacation benefits or sick pay, Moe was committed to his job and to improving conditions for his fellow employees.

He held several positions including chairman of the Membership Committee, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Executive Vice-President before being elected as president of the Manhattan-Bronx Postal Workers Union in 1959. In 1971, Moe served on the committee that oversaw the merger of the five postal unions that now comprise the APWU. An early supporter of civil rights, Moe championed the cause of greater equality for women in the workplace. He was also a longtime member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the NAACP.

Moe's other achievements include serving on the New York City Central Labor Council, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, the labor federation's Public Employee Department, and the Executive Committee of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International. He also served on the boards of several charitable and civic organizations, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, United Way International, the National Advisory Council to the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, and the Federal Executive Committee of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Among his many accolades were the 1979 Community Service Award from the New York City Central Labor Council, the 1982 Spirit of Life Award from the City of Hope National Medical Center, the 1999 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the 1999 Lower East Side Tenement Museum Urban Pioneer Award.

Moe's spirit will always be strong in those who knew him, and in those whose lives he touched but who never had the opportunity to meet him. Through Moe's life, we all benefit from his tireless efforts to help those who could not help themselves.

I express my deepest condolences to his family during this difficult time.

Thank you.

MURDER OF UKRAINIAN HEORHIY GONGADZE STILL UNSOLVED AFTER 3 YEARS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the murder of Ukrainian investigative journalist Heorhiy Gongadze remains unsolved—three years after he was murdered. On September 16, 2000, Gongadze, editor of "Ukrainska Pravda", an Internet news publication critical of high-level corruption in Ukraine, disappeared.

Ukrainian President Kuchma and a number of high-ranking officials have been implicated in his disappearance and the circumstances leading to his murder. Audio recordings exist that contain conversations between Kuchma and other senior government officials dis-

cussing the desirability of Gongadze's elimination. Over the last three years, the Ukrainian authorities' handling, or more accurately, mishandling of this case has been characterized by obfuscation and stonewalling.

Last month, a prime suspect in the case, former senior militiaman Ihor Honcharov, who allegedly headed a gang of ex-police accused of several kidnappings and murders, died in police custody under mysterious circumstances. His posthumous letters—which give a detailed account of events surrounding Gongadze's death and which name names—are now being investigated by the Prosecutor General's office. A few days ago, Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun indicated that some facts in the letters have proved to be true. Reportedly, warrants have been issued for two suspects in the killing.

Mr. Speaker, a credible investigation of this case by Ukrainian authorities is long overdue. At the same time, it is important to stress that not only those who committed the actual crime, but those who ordered it—no matter who they may be—need to be brought to justice.

Unfortunately, the Gongadze case is not an isolated one. The murder, and deaths in suspicious car accidents, of journalists and opposition figures, have become commonplace. Earlier this year, Ukraine's Ombudsman Nina Karpachova asserted that journalism remains among the most dangerous professions in Ukraine, with 36 media employees having been killed over the past ten years, and many more have been beaten, including several within the last few months. This past July, Volodymyr Yefremov, a journalist critical of president Kuchma who worked with the press freedom group Institute of Mass Information (11/41), died in a suspect car accident. Just two weeks ago, Ivan Havdyda, who was head of the Ternopil region branch of the democratic opposition "Our Ukraine", was found murdered in Kyiv under questionable circumstances.

Over the last three years, the Helsinki Commission, Members of the House and Senate, Department of State, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other international institutions repeatedly have raised the Gongadze murder case and urged the Ukrainian authorities to undertake a serious investigation into the this case. The response from Ukrainian officials has done nothing but cast doubt about the Ukrainian Government's commitment to the rule of law. Last year—just to cite one example—Ukrainian authorities blocked FBI experts from examining evidence gathered during the initial investigation, even after promising to accept U.S. technical assistance in the matter.

I also hope that the Ukrainian parliament will take determined action in encouraging governmental accountability for solving the Gongadze and other murders, and bringing those involved to justice.

The lack of a resolution of the Gongadze and other cases of those who have perished under suspicious circumstances has tarnished the credibility of the Ukrainian authorities in dealing with fundamental human rights.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and in the strongest possible terms, I once again urge Ukrainian authorities to take seriously the many enduring concerns regarding the circumstances that led to Heorhiy Gongadze's murder and the subsequent investigation.