

activist, my good friend, Ms. Rita Balian. Rita is an extraordinary person who gives significant time and personal resources to see that the rate of cancer in the Country of Armenia is significantly reduced.

Rita is the founder and current president of the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC). The Center has provided mammography screening to over 40,000 women and has been credited with saving the lives of nearly 1,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer in Armenia. Started in April 1997 and originally called the Armenian American Mammography University Center (AAMUC), Rita has worked tirelessly to expand the Center to serve an ever increasing clientele. Before Rita established the Wellness Center in Armenia, not a single mammogram had been performed in the entire country. Instead, women discovered breast through obvious pain and a woman's only treatment option was complete mastectomy.

Along with her commitment to the Wellness Center, Rita was closely involved in the rebuilding of Armenia in the aftermath of the devastating 1988 earthquake. During this time, she worked with the Mayor of Alexandria, VA to establish a sister-city program with Alexandria and the Armenian town of Gyumri. She has also worked with her husband Vartkess to promote their passion for education throughout the country.

Despite her generosity and dedication to her causes, Rita seeks no recognition for her work. However, other groups and organizations have seen fit to commend her giving spirit. Last year, she was honored by the United States Agency for International Development's "Outstanding Citizen" award for her work with the Wellness Center. Today, she is the sole recipient of the "Cancer Advocacy Award" as part of the Washington Hospital Center's Spirit of Life Awards Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join the Washington Hospital Center, USAID, and the patients of the Armenian American Wellness Center and recognize the extraordinary efforts of Rita Balian. It is with great pleasure that I speak about her accomplishments today.

TRIBUTE TO MYRON "MIKE"
GENOVA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a great citizen from my district. Myron "Mike" Genova of Grand Junction, Colorado recently passed away at the age of sixty-one. As his family and friends mourn Mike's passing, I would like to pay tribute to his memory here today.

Mike was born in San Jose, California in 1942, but later moved with his family to Grand Junction, where he graduated high school and attended Mesa College. Mike and his wife, Doralyn, settled in the community and raised three wonderful sons. Throughout his life, Mike was a dedicated and hard-working man, devoting thirty-seven years to his job dealing with high pressure natural gas for Public Serv-

ice/Xcel Energy. Mike was a National Hot Rod Association and NASCAR racing enthusiast. In his youth, he raced competitively, and remained a devoted race fan throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Genova had a tremendous zeal for life. He was devoted to his family and committed to his work. Everyone who knew Mike liked and respected him. He will be greatly missed, and his legacy will certainly continue to live on. I am honored to join with my colleagues in remembering the life of Mike Genova here today.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BENJAMIN
H. ZIMMERMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Professor Benjamin H. Zimmerman of the University of Kansas, who died on September 4th.

Ben Zimmerman was a well known community activist and human rights leader in the city of Lawrence, Kansas, throughout his career with the University of Kansas, where he served as a professor of social welfare for 13 years and was a resident for 25 years. In addition to being active in local, partisan politics, Ben Zimmerman actively supported the causes of civil rights based on race, gender and sexual orientation, child development, equality of economic opportunity, and broader public participation in the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing into the RECORD the obituary for Professor Zimmerman that was carried by the Lawrence Journal-World, as well as an article detailing a few of his many achievements supporting greater social justice in Lawrence, Kansas. All who knew him will continue to be inspired by Ben Zimmerman's devotion to serving his fellow Kansans, and many who never met him will benefit from his energetic, tireless work to expand human rights and individual opportunities for all.

[From the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World,
Sept. 7, 2003]

BENJAMIN HYMAN ZIMMERMAN

Memorial services for Benjamin Hyman Zimmerman, 85, Lawrence, are pending and will be announced by Warren-McElwain Mortuary. Private inurnment will be in Pioneer Cemetery.

Mr. Zimmerman died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2003, in Venice, Calif.

He was born April 25, 1918, in Syracuse, N.Y., the son of Max and Esther S. (Rudevitsky) Zimmerman.

He was valedictorian of his high school class in Syracuse. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Syracuse University in 1940 and was Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and magna cum laude. After serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, he continued his education in anthropology at Columbia University and received honors as a Gilder Fellow and Social Science Research Fellow. He then did fieldwork in Brazil in anthropology, working toward a doctorate degree.

Mr. Zimmerman served on the staff advising or teaching at several universities, including City College of New York, Columbia University, University of Illinois and Yale University. He had been a research director for United Way, executive director for the Mayor's Commission for Youth Inc. and ex-

ecutive director of Crusade for Opportunity Inc., all in the Syracuse area. He also worked on national programs including the Office of Economic Opportunity Community Action Program as chief of program planning and the Day Care and Child Development Council of America.

He joined Kansas University as an associate professor in 1972 in the school of social welfare, where he worked until he became associate professor emeritus in 1984.

A resident of Lawrence for more than 25 years, Mr. Zimmerman was chairman of the Discrimination Hearing Board and faculty adviser for Gay Services of Kansas. He also helped found the Day Care Coalition of Lawrence and Douglas County, Lawrence Alliance, Freedom Coalition, Douglas County AIDS Project, Simply Equal and Lawrence-Topeka P-FLAG. He also served on the boards of the NAACP, Freedom Coalition and League of Women Voters and co-chaired a committee that monitored the changes in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Survivors include a daughter, Anne Zimmerman, Sherman Oaks, Calif., and his partner, David Scheuer, Lawrence.

The family suggests memorials be held until an organization is chosen.

E-mail condolences may be sent at www.warrenmcelwain.com, subject: Zimmerman.

[From the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World,
Sept. 7, 2003]

LONGTIME ACTIVIST DIES AT 85

(By Tim Carpenter)

Ben Zimmerman lived to the age of 85, but never lost the passion of youth when it came to community activism.

"He was quite amazing," said Lynne Green, who, with Zimmerman, co-chaired a campaign to amend the city of Lawrence's discrimination policy. "He had the fire in his belly and the energy of a very young committed activist. He was never an old man."

Zimmerman, a former associate professor of social welfare at Kansas University and longtime Lawrence resident, died Thursday in Venice, Calif.

His fingerprints are on a long list of organizations and projects designed to bring fairness to the lives of unprotected people, said Ann Weick, dean of social welfare at KU.

"He contributed so much to this community in terms of issues of justice and equality," Green said. "He was an eloquent advocate for vulnerable groups and was really a leader in our faculty during the time he was there in focusing attention of the community on pressing issues of the day."

In Lawrence, Zimmerman helped found the Day Care Coalition of Lawrence and Douglas County, Lawrence Alliance, Freedom Coalition, Douglas County AIDS Project, Simply Equal and Lawrence-Topeka P-FLAG.

He was on the boards of the NAACP, Freedom Coalition and League of Women Voters.

Zimmerman was active in social welfare activities in Syracuse, N.Y., before joining the KU faculty in 1972.

It was Zimmerman's role in the mid-1990s campaign to add the words "sexual orientation" to the city's anti-discrimination ordinance that sticks in the memories of many people in Lawrence. He was co-chair with Green of Simply Equal, a coalition of more than 1,000 people that pressed for the change.

In 1995 the City Commission agreed, making Lawrence the first city in Kansas to protect homosexuals from discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodations.

At that time, Zimmerman proclaimed: "Lawrence will not tolerate bigotry."

Mike Silverman, chair of the Freedom Coalition, said Zimmerman was a terrific leader.