

Mabank Economic Development, and a supporter of a number of charitable programs including Kids Across America, the Special Olympics, and the Make a Wish Foundation.

As a father, a husband, a devout churchgoer, and a community leader, Mr. Larry Teague has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As his representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor him today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF  
"A GIRL'S PLACE" IN FAIR-  
FIELD, CA

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the March 24, 2005 dedication of "A Girl's Place," the Fairfield Facility of the Girl Scout Council of Napa-Solano.

This facility symbolizes a commitment from the community to ensuring that girls have a place to feel safe and to call their own. In June 1931, the residents of the City of Fairfield and Solano County came together to dedicate a building for the Girl Scouts of their community. Today, 75 years later, they have joined together again to reaffirm their pledge to the Girl Scouts and to dedicate a new facility. This new building replaces the old, which made way for modernization and offers the community hope and vision for the future.

"A Girl's" Place" will stand as an icon in the community, offering a safe haven for girls ages 5–17 and a place for adults who give freely of their time and love to come together to gain knowledge of our ever-changing young women.

The Girl Scouts of Napa-Solano serve 4,500 girls and 1,300 adult volunteers; nearly 1 in every 10 girls is a Girl Scout. Today Girl Scouts are reaching out into the community to provide a solid foundation for every girl, everywhere. Girls are participating in Girl Scouting in homes, schools, boys and girls clubs, juvenile halls, low-income housing complexes, emergency women's shelters, foster care programs, and churches. Girl Scouting helps girls mold their values and teaches self-confidence, leadership, teamwork and pride in her community. This collaboration inspires us all.

As the Girl Scouts' Honorary Congressional Co-Troop Leader, I am honored to recognize "A Girls' Place" as a proud addition to our community and I look forward to the generations of strong women who will spring from its steps.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF INCREASED HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS, FAIR LENDING LAWS, AND FAIR HOUSING LAWS IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that supports the goal of increased homeownership in the United States and recognizes the importance of homeownership programs, fair lending laws, and fair housing laws in achieving those goals.

This resolution specifically urges the President to designate April 2005 as National Fair Housing Month. It also urges the House of Representatives to recommit itself to making fair housing and homeownership a legislative priority in the 109th Congress.

We owe it to our constituents and the American people to support first-time homeownership programs, which help families who have never owned a home experience the benefits of home ownership.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution contains the importance of first-time homeownership, combating disparities in minority home ownership, and fighting the scourge of predatory lending. As the land of opportunity, we must ensure that all U.S. citizens are given a fair opportunity to achieve the American Dream, a significant component of which is homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. As Members of Congress, it is our moral responsibility to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to purchase a home, no matter their ethnicity, race, or religion. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this promising resolution forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY AND 50TH YEAR AS RABBI

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a tireless public servant, friend to all New Yorkers and one of our Nation's foremost spiritual leaders. On Sunday, March 20, 2005, Rabbi Schneier will celebrate his 75th birthday and 50th year as Rabbi at a dinner benefitting the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs at Yeshiva University, which was established in 2004 to promote international peace and the exchange of ideas across cultural divides.

As a young man, Rabbi Schneier was a resident of Nazi-occupied Bucharest, where he experienced firsthand the depths of mankind's capacity for evil. Throughout his distinguished

career, Rabbi Schneier has turned his experience as a Holocaust survivor into an incredible drive to stamp out hatred and intolerance throughout the world. In 1965, Rabbi Schneier founded the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which works to foster religious freedom and human rights and to end ethnic conflicts.

During the long and bloody war in the former Yugoslavia, Rabbi Schneier convened the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia in Switzerland and the Conflict Resolution Conference in Vienna, Austria, mobilizing religious leaders to help end the ethnic violence plaguing leaders to help end the ethnic violence plaguing the region. Additionally, in Sarajevo, Rabbi Schneier met with top government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation among the Serbian Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic and Jewish communities.

Rabbi Schneier has also served our Nation in an official capacity as an Alternate U.S. Representative to the U.N. General Assembly.

Additionally, as Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Rabbi Schneier was one of three American religious leaders appointed by President Bill Clinton to initiate a dialogue on religious freedom with Chinese President Jiang Zemin. Recently, Rabbi Schneier was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Stockholm International Forum for the Prevention of Genocide.

Rabbi Schneier's accomplishments here at home have been equally impressive. He is the Senior Rabbi of the Park East Synagogue, established in 1890 to serve the Jewish community of the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Centered in the heart of the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, the Synagogue has expanded significantly under Rabbi Schneier's leadership and is an invaluable part of New York City's spiritual and cultural life. Additionally, Rabbi Schneier, recognizing the growing desire among the American Jewish community to provide their children with a strong Jewish education, initiated and led a successful effort to establish a Jewish day school in New York. In 1977, both the Minks Cultural Center and the Park East Day School opened, furthering the Synagogue's ability to meet the Upper East Side's educational and social needs.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Arthur Schneier and wishing him a wonderful 75th birthday celebration. Rabbi Schneier's dedication to tolerance and international peace serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER WELDON P. CUDE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Commissioner Weldon P. Cude.

A seventh generation Atascosa resident, Mr. Cude started his career as a Texas water well driller in 1984. In 1988 he became Pleasanton's "Young Citizen of the Year," and later became the youngest person elected as an Atascosa County Commissioner.

Commissioner Weldon P. Cude is no stranger to the needs of his community. In 1996, he was elected Pleasanton's "Business Person of the Year," and has served as Director of "The County Bank," the "Atascosa County Economic Development Corporation," and the "Atascosa County Appraisal Board."

Since 1983 Mr. Cude has served as a pillar of the business community. As an independent business person, he has contributed as President of both Premium Well Drilling Incorporated and the Fat Cowboys Steakhouse. He has also served his community as Vice President for Goldwell Investments Incorporated. Employing over 150 employees, he understands the values of hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Weldon P. Cude lives in Atascosa with his wife Gayla Cude, and his five daughters: Aubry, Stephanie, Jennie, Lindsey, and Jessica.

It is a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Commissioner Cude, his dedication to the community has helped to make Atascosa a better place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, County Commissioner Weldon P. Cude is an exemplary public servant. I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL ESPISITO

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Michael Espisito, U.S. Army. On March 18, 2004, SGT Espisito made the ultimate sacrifice for his Nation—he gave his life while fighting on the frontiers of freedom in the small town of Miam Do, Afghanistan.

Referring to heroes of World War II, Sir Winston Churchill once stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." I believe that Churchill's sentiments reign truer than ever when applied to today's historically small contingent of service men and women. The challenge facing us is similarly great: the defeat of terrorism. But the number bearing that burden has never been so small.

Michael Espisito not only recognized that challenge, he embraced it. He volunteered to serve, to bear that burden, and he loved it. In a letter to Michael's parents, Captain Jorge Cordeiro, Michael's Company Commander, reflected back on the first battle he fought in with Michael. Captain Cordeiro wrote, "I can recall him telling me it was the best day of his life and how proud he felt to have fought for his country."

Assigned as a Team Leader in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division, Sergeant Espisito took each word in his title to heart.

Team: Sergeant Espisito never cared as much about himself as he did about the men surrounding him, his brothers in arms. He put their interests first; he put their safety first; he put their success ahead of his own. But Michael Espisito's team extended beyond those

he fought with. His team was the Army, his family, his Nation and, in many ways, the people of Afghanistan. Just before Sergeant Espisito was mortally wounded in Afghanistan he successfully evacuated two women from the same building in which he was fighting. Those women were on SGT Espisito's team and they were saved because of it.

Leader: In the U.S. Army infantry there is a short slogan that is often repeated: "Follow me!" Michael Espisito didn't just say "follow me," he lived it. He led his men from the front in every combat maneuver they took part in. In so doing, he earned the trust, the respect and the confidence of all around him. As his Battalion Commander wrote of him, "He was a shining example of a soldier and non-commissioned officer to the end." SGT Espisito was leading from the front when he breached a door in an enemy compound and was mortally wounded in an exchange of fire.

Michael Espisito was a special human being. He was different. He was a hero. You get the feeling he was put on this earth to serve. He knew his mission, he understood his roll and he embraced it. And he lived his life, did his work and executed his missions with dignity, vigor and excellence. Our world is better because of his sacrifice but it is poorer because of his loss.

Churchill reminds us how much we owe to those few men and women like Michael Espisito. We owe Michael our commitment to a better world. We owe Michael our commitment to living better, more principled, more service oriented lives. And we owe Michael the memorializing of his life and his sacrifice, best completed by living the lives he would have wished for each us. Michael is gone but he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JAY B. CUTLER

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jay B. Cutler—a dedicated public servant, a champion for mental health parity, a gifted attorney, and a dear friend. Mr. Cutler passed away on March 4 at the age of 74.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Cutler's accomplished career includes service as administrative assistant to former U.S. Senator Jacob Javits and minority counsel and staff director to the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee. From 1977 to 2003, he directed government relations efforts for the 35,000-member American Psychiatric Association. He will be remembered as a passionate and trusted advocate who fought to improve the quality of, and access to, America's mental health system.

All who were fortunate enough to be lobbied by Jay Cutler recognized that he was so much more than a lobbyist. Over the years, his name became synonymous with the cause of mental health parity. Because of his untiring efforts, millions of Americans received better, more compassionate care. His unwavering commitment to protecting patient confidentiality, broadening coverage for psychiatric and substance abuse treatment, and improving patients' rights will continue to serve as an inspi-

ration to those of us who fight for these causes today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing condolences to Mr. Cutler's wife, Randy, his two daughters, Hollie S. Cutler and Perri E. Cutler, and his granddaughter, Makayla Lipsetts. We are deeply saddened by his death, and we are warmed by the memory of his remarkable life.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNA ANDERSON  
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Donna Anderson. For many years, Donna has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Donna instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others.

Donna was born in Glendale and grew up in the Glendale/Burbank area along with her 11 sisters and brothers.

As a young mother of Angela and Mark, Donna volunteered as a teacher's aids at Mountain View Grade School, as an office worker at Our Lady of Lourdes Grade School, and visited patients twice weekly at Queen of Angeles Hospital in Los Angeles. She was a co-leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop and a co-leader of her son's Cub and Boy Scout troops for many years.

Donna began working for the City of Burbank in 1986, and in 2001 was elected as Burbank's City Treasurer, a position she holds today. She returned to college during this time and received her Bachelor of Arts in Business Finance. A long-time board member of the Burbank National Management Association, she is active in the Burbank Sunrise Kiwanis Club, where she is currently Vice President-Elect, and in the Zonta Club of Burbank, where she will become President in May of 2005. In 2001 Donna received the Hixon Fellowship Award from the Burbank Sunrise Kiwanis Club for her service to the community.

Ms. Anderson actively participates in the annual Burbank Police Officers' Relay for Breast Cancer Walk and walks for the ALS Foundation of Los Angeles. Other organizations that Donna supports are the Guide Dogs of America, the Burbank Family Service Agency, Friends of the Griffith Park Observatory, and the John Burroughs High School Vocal Music Association.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Donna Anderson. The entire community joins me in thanking Donna for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.