women who have displayed an exceptional commitment to helping other women succeed in the field of government relations, and who have also achieved notable personal success in that endeavor. Previously, only Members of Congress have been awarded this honor.

Judy is a dedicated public servant who is committed to making a difference in the lives of others. I am proud to represent her in the U.S. Congress and to have the benefit of her wisdom, insights and experience.

I commend Judy Schneider on her accomplishments and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING BAR MITZVAH OF CHARLIE DANN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bar Mitzvah of Charlie Dann, on June 4, 2005. Here is Charlie's speech entitled "Memory is Powerful."

There were many, especially some of my former Hebrew teachers, who would have doubted my commitment to Judaic and Hebrew studies.

At times, to be honest, I've doubted myself.

But I stand here today honored to join in a tradition that has meant something to so many in our world, our community and our family. And means so much to me. I am still not sure of exactly who I am in a large context, but I continue working on that with the help of so many.

Thank you Rabbi Schonberger. And thank you Mrs. Kessler. And thank you Mr. Zevor and thank you Mr. Zaltsman and yes, thank you Mr. Grabiner and thank you Mrs. Schonberger. More thank you's later.

Now I want to talk about why I decided to go ahead with a Bar Mitzvah.

For those of you who know my parents, you probably realize that they did not force me to go through with this Bar Mitzvah. It was my choice.

I chose to do this for many reasons. But many of them center around five men and five women. Four of the men aren't here in a physical sense. And two of the women aren't here either. So, now before I explain more, I'd like to ask my grandfather Bentley Lenhoff to stand. Next, I'd like my great-grandmother, Eva Dann to stand. Now my grandmothers, Hope Ellis, Michelle Dann, and Nancy Lenhoff and even though she denies it, I'd also like Barbie Hodros to stand as she too has been a grandmother to me. Thank you for everything that you've taught me and thank you for loving me and believing in me.

Now I will explain more.

The men that can't be here today—those that I knew and one that I never met—have given me an incredible legacy. Phil Arian, Stuart Dann, Julie Dann, Dean Cribbs and the men after whom I'm named, Charlie Lenhoff and Phil Oxman, valued tradition and doing the right things in life. None of them led a conventional life. But their lives have taught me the importance of being connected to a larger community and of making contributions to the family.

And my great-grandmothers—Jessie Gorsline and Bess Lawrence Oxman—you were real pioneers in life. From you, I have been given drive and determination. I sometimes wish I had more of your scholarly dedication. But perhaps that will come in time. Like my grandfathers and great-grandfathers, you also valued community and being connected to larger goals that extended beyond your own universes.

I stand up here today to pay tribute to my family, of course. And to Rabbi Schonberger who suffered through my occasional—OK frequent—obstinence and poor study habits. And I would be remiss not to thank my mom and dad, Alyssa Lenhoff and Marc Dann. And my aunts and uncles, Frank and Maddy Joseph, Ken and Marilyn Steinback, Kathy and Robert Leb, Scott and Priscilla Dann, Dan and Nan Arian, Mark and Ellen Arian and Lyndean and Myron Brick and my wonderful cousins—all of you—the little ones and the big ones—Big Emily, Meg, Robin, Amanda, Sylvie, Benji, Molly, Harte, little Emily, Mickey, Jillian, Jordan, and Jackson.

And there are two others who I must mention—my sisters. Mavilya, Mia—who is studying somewhere in Italy or at least that's what she told her mom. Dr. Gulnara Tarpe who is a lot like a second mom to me as well. And of course my younger sister, Jessie—Pishur to me. I love you.

But I also stand up her to talk about my thoughts about our community—the Mahoning Valley.

I'm a politician's son. You didn't expect me to be brief, did you?

I believe our community is at a crossroads and I further believe that we—as individuals—have the power to determine its future.

As a graduate of Akiva Academy, it is painful for me to see the school suffer enrollment declines year after year after year. It is even more painful to drive to downtown Youngstown or over to Girard and see the remnants of what once was. It makes me sad to think of how we—as a community—have allowed our economy and our population to decline.

Of course I realize that the steel mills can't come back. And I realize that there is no magic bullet for the economic development problems that plague our community.

But I truly believe that some of our problems could be cured with a little bit of the ideas that are presented in today's Torah portion.

Today's Torah portion talks about a census—counting people.

Counting people involves more than just lining them up and ticking off numbers.

Surveying the population of a town, a community, a state or a nation is something that is critically important as the Torah portion explains. But when you count them, it is important to realize the value inherent in every human being. We are more than numbers. I think this message is extremely important to us as a community and can help us better address the problems that we face.

For too long, we have been intimidated by the declining census. We have allowed ourselves to believe that we are on a slippery slope down because our population has fallen.

If we do what the Torah portion seems to advise and count people as more than just numbers, our census will swell to incredible proportions. We will see that among us are people of immense talent and incredible energy and great values. We will see that our census is among the best in the Nation.

I am ready to join the community and to help so many of you who have been working so diligently to preserve what's left and to try to recapture what once was. I will join as a person of a lot of energy, a lot of creativity and a great deal of dedication to the values and morals that we as Jews have inherited from the prophets. I believe in honesty. I believe in hard work. I believe in compassion. I believe in solving and not creating problems. I am sure of all of this. But other questions still linger for me. What will I be? A politician? Perhaps. A football player? Doubtful. A journalist? Maybe. What I do know for certain is that—guided by my faith as a Jew—I will be a good person. I will be a person who knows right from wrong and who practices it. And, I will be a person who thinks and who cares and who draws on faith, memory and tradition in daily life.

We can't forget who we are. We can't forget what we were. We can't lose sight of what we could be.

Memory is powerful.

And they say, past can be prologue. It is up to us to decide which past we choose.

A TRIBUTE TO YOLANDE I. NICHOLSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Yolande I. Nicholson.

Ms. Nicholson obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Journalism at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Then she earned a Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law, where she was actively involved in the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law. As a student, she received the Harry S. Truman Congressional scholarship, George B. Dealy Journalism Award, and a Distinction in Political Theory for academic excellence. In 1994, she received the Mayoral Special Achievement Award for commitment to economic development projects involving small businesses and entrepreneurial activities in New York City.

Ms. Nicholson began her admirable career as a legal assistant at Bozeman & Trott, P.C. in Mount Vernon, New York, and subsequently held executive roles in several prominent financial institutions, including Vice President and Transaction Execution Manager at J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Chase Manhattan Bank. She now holds the position of Executive Vice President and General Counsel at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation in Brooklyn, where she has served since June 2004.

Ms. Nicholson has continually shared her talents and experience to help others. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize Ms. Yolande I. Nicholson, an asset to the community.

IN SUPPORT OF MAIN STREET AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of robust funding for two important Small Business Administration programs: the 7(a) Lending Program and the Microloan program.

Small business owners take huge risks to try to realize their dreams of owning their own business which fuel U.S. economic growth. If