

endearing spirit, she was an inspiration and mentor to many in her life, including a very close family member and a dear friend and colleague of mine Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Houston, Texas.

A matron of the family, she dedicated her life to keeping her family together and instilling exemplary values in those she influenced. Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE can attest to this because that same dedication has made her what she is today, a compassionate and honorable public servant.

Ms. Bennett was not only active in providing for those she loved in her own household, but she was deeply involved with the many institutions and people in my Congressional District in New York where she resided for almost 50 years. She was a prominent member of her community church in which she served as an Elder always welcoming strangers into the fellowship and assisting in serving their spiritual needs. She is remembered for her belief in and practice of fervent prayer.

With many years of experience connecting with young people in the community she has influenced my lives. Ms. Bennett has accomplished this through the use of certain outreach programs that get to the core of problems within our inner cities. Ingrained with the caring spirit that only a mother has, she was responsible for many of the great initiatives aimed at keeping young people off the streets.

With high admiration I enter into the RECORD a tribute to Ms. Valrie A. Bennett, for I know that Ms. Bennett's heart of gold has touched someone in the community; whether it is a person of youth, vibrant with life and spirit, or a person of age with greater life experience. All who knew her benefited from her active counsel and example. Even though Ms. Bennett has gone on her strong spirit and commitment live on in each and everyone of us. She will truly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, May 18, 2006, I missed a series of votes because of a commitment to give a commencement address at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. If I had been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 160, On ordering the previous question and agreeing to the resolution, "aye"; roll No. 161, On agreeing to the resolution, "aye"; roll No. 162, On the motion to suspend the rules, "aye"; roll No. 163, Weiner of NY amendment, "aye"; roll No. 164, Poe of TX amendment, "no"; roll No. 165, Pallone of NJ amendment, "aye"; roll No. 166, Beauprez of CO amendment, "no"; roll No. 167, Hinchey of NY amendment, "aye"; roll No. 168, Chabot of OH amendment, "aye"; roll No. 169, Oberstar of MN amendment, "aye"; roll No. 170, Putnam of FL amendment, "aye"; roll No. 171, Hefley of CO amendment, "no"; and roll No. 172, On final passage, "no."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAMERON STAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cameron Stay, a young man who exemplifies what it means to be a noble citizen.

Cameron, who is 29 years old, was recently involved in a life changing motorcycle accident. I had the pleasure of visiting Cameron while I was in Las Vegas and can personally attest to his courage and his character.

Cameron is a history buff, who graduated from Green Valley High School in 1994, and subsequently attended Community College where he earned a degree in criminal justice.

His strong work ethic and commitment to the greater Boulder City community serve as an example and an inspiration. Having met Cameron, I was struck by his magnetic personality and extremely friendly demeanor. Cameron is an enthusiastic and positive individual. As the eldest son, he has set a good example for his younger brothers and has always been a positive influence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Cameron Stay, a young man who personifies what it is to be a civically minded individual and a good man. I wish him a speedy recovery.

TRIBUTE TO THE STANLEY F. ROMANOWSKI POST 6896 VFW

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the 60th Anniversary of the Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski Post 6896 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Westland, Michigan.

On May 12, 1946, the founding members instituted this Post in the Gymnasium of Munger Intermediate School and dedicated its mission to serving the citizens of Wayne County, Michigan. Named after Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski, a decorated soldier of World War II who gave his life for his country, the Romanowski Post 6896 courageously pays tribute to the deceased by helping the living.

Each year, the 6896 members of the Romanowski Post 6896 launch charitable initiatives to assist the needy, aid the ill, support the students, and recognize the educators of our community. Among the many notable programs, these veterans host the Christmas Needy Basket Program, which provides food for underprivileged families; a Muscular Dystrophy Drive; a Diabetes Drive; a Cancer Drive; a \$50,000 scholarship fund for students; and a Teacher of the Year program.

In memory of Sgt. Romanowski's birthday, members hold an annual December memorial service in remembrance of United States fallen veterans. This summer, the Romanowski Post 6896 will also hold the first monthly memorial service at Westland City Hall dedicated to Prisoners of War, Soldiers Missing in Ac-

tion, Blue Stars Mothers, and Gold Star Mothers. These deeds serve as a constant reminder, to ensure the bravery of our soldiers, the fragility of our needy, and the heroism of our fallen will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of his exemplary love for the United States and our citizens, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these veterans for their bravery and in thanking the Romanowski Post 6896 for 60 years of loyal and unrelenting service to our community and our country.

RABBI BRIAN MICHELSON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Brian Michelson of Berks County for his service to the Jewish Community Center and surrounding community.

Rabbi Michelson grew up in the New York City area and went on to pursue a bachelor of arts degree from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. After earning his BA, Rabbi Michelson received his MAHL from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, California and then his Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. Recently, he completed a graduate certification in Healthcare Ethics from Rush University.

In 1998, along with his wife Holly and their daughters Naomi and Gabriella, the family moved to Reading, Pennsylvania where the Rabbi joined the Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Before moving to Pennsylvania, the Rabbi chose to help spread the faith in Melbourne, Australia.

Rabbi Michelson is extremely active in the community. He is the Chair of the Chaplin's Advisory Committee of the Reading Hospital and is also an Associate Chaplain for the health community. Additionally, he is a Board member of Home Healthcare Management, serves on its Medical and Professional Advisory Committee, and is Vice-Chair of its Ethics Committee. In his quest to pursue development of interfaith relations, the Rabbi is also a member of the core group for the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

When not working in the medical arena, the Rabbi is active in the Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom where he teaches adult education programs. He is also an instructor with the Reading Area Community College's Department of Continuing Education, where he teaches an Introduction to Judaism course.

Rabbi Michelson's philosophy of action is to simply do what needs to be done. When not spending time on inter-faith and healthcare issues, the Rabbi manages to spend time cooking, drinking coffee, sailing, and watching movies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Rabbi Brian Michelson for his outstanding dedication and service to the Jewish Community Center, the Reading Hospital, and the entire Berks County community.