

Since graduating from the California University of Pennsylvania with a degree in education, Judith Mehal has continued to make a positive impact on students in Pennsylvania and Virginia school districts. Ms. Mehal began teaching in the Penn Hills and South Allegheny school districts of Pennsylvania, but she has spent the vast majority of her venerable career in Fairfax County. After a brief stint at Cardinal Forest Elementary School, Ms. Mehal found her niche at Lanier Middle School where she was able to pursue her passion for teaching mathematics. During her time at Lanier Middle School, she earned a masters degree from Virginia Tech and became a teacher of technology education. In her 22 years at the school, she has become an integral part of the Lanier community, and her presence will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

Ms. Mehal's distinguished career is exemplary of the high standard to which public school teachers hold themselves. Her willingness and ability to teach a variety of disciplines is highly commendable, as is her own commitment to pursuing higher education while continuing to teach in the Fairfax County school system.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Mehal on her retirement as a technology education teacher from Lanier Middle School. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Judith Reed Mehal and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. NICK
MANCINI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that thousands of St. Paul friends and neighbors, along with me, mourn the passing of Mr. Nick Mancini. At 80 years of age, Nick died on May 29, 2007, and Minnesota lost a very special person.

Nick Mancini, a man of exceptional kindness, generosity and warmth of spirit, was the owner of Mancini's Char House and Lounge, a St. Paul landmark since the 1960s. For those who have never visited Nick Mancini's restaurant, it would be difficult to understand the deep sentiment and fondness we in St. Paul feel for Nick and his family. For those of us who have frequented Mancini's, we were always made to feel at home and Nick, his sons and the entire staff made us feel special—like we were part of the family. In a fast food era when the tradition of hospitality is increasingly lost in America, St. Paul is blessed with a special place—Mancini's Char House—where every customer is made to feel welcome and comfortable, and that is before you started eating a delicious steak dinner.

Hospitality and generosity were the hallmark of Nick Mancini's career and calling. He was a restaurateur, a neighborhood anchor, a St. Paul legend and a very, very caring man who I will miss and always remember. For me, visiting with Nick was always special. This was

because being Nick's guest was to be enveloped by his warmth, sincerity and kindness. It didn't matter whether you were a Member of Congress, a U.S. Senator, the Mayor of St. Paul, a carpenter, a teacher, or a truck driver, to Nick you were his guest. Everyone was treated special and with respect, and everyone left his restaurant a little heavier and happier.

Along with remembering Nick, I would like to acknowledge his family and express my condolences to Nick's wife, Maryann, his sons Pat, John and Nick, Jr., and his grandchildren.

The work of Nick Mancini will not disappear with his passing. Mancini's Char House will continue to be a St. Paul landmark and an oasis of hospitality. Pat and John Mancini are carrying on the tradition of hospitality and community leadership that so many of us in St. Paul admire and appreciate. For this lasting tradition St. Paul, Minnesota, and our Nation has Nick Mancini to thank.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Friday is World Oceans Day—a day we celebrate the vast waters that cover two-thirds of the surface of our planet.

A small, but biologically important part of the Blue Planet is offshore of my 6th Congressional District, a stretch that encompasses the entire coastline of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

If you've driven the Marin-Sonoma coast you know how beautiful it is. Most of it is undeveloped or sparsely populated. Its sparkling waters, curling waves, pristine beaches, moon rocked cliffs, surging tide pools, and its soaring seabirds and breaching whales inspire and delight. Thanks to nutrient rich upwelling which provides a bounty of phytoplankton at the bottom of the food chain, our waters support 33 species of marine mammals, including blue and humpbacked whales and elephant seals, at the top of the food chain.

That's not to say that even here there are not problems. Today the commercial fishing fleet of Bodega Bay is just a remnant of past days. Last year, because of a water allotment that devastated the Klamath River fishery, our commercial salmon fishing season was slashed. Meanwhile, native coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout are on the endangered species list.

These tragic depletions of our fisheries are symptomatic of many things: global overfishing; inland habitat destruction; and water diversions; climate change; pollution, coastal development—all of which were addressed by reports from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, and all of which need to be seriously dealt with.

But the ocean is amazingly resilient. Aquatic populations can come back, if we take positive actions.

All of our oceans need enlightened governance and protection, but there are places that are so rich, so vitally important to sustaining marine life that we need to immediately take special measures.

The northern California coast is one of those places, and that's why I have introduced

legislation, H.R. 1187, to expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to include the entire Sonoma and with the support of Representative MIKE THOMPSON and the Mendocino County board of supervisors, the southern Mendocino coast.

The current northern boundary of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries is Bodega Head. Yet research shows that the rich marine geological area of the Gulf of the Farallones actually extends to Point Arena, about 100 miles north of Bodega Head.

The Sonoma and southern Mendocino coast has two great estuaries, the Russian and Gualala Rivers. The Russian River watershed is especially burdened by multiple threats caused by human development. My bill protects these estuaries by banning increased polluting discharges into their waters. And, it will ensure that changes in flow or salinity do not harm marine life.

Marine sanctuary protection will also ensure that the Bodega Marine Laboratory will be able to continue 50-years of studies in these pristine waters—research that will help us learn how to live with an ocean that is not so endless that it cannot be despoiled.

The people of Sonoma and Mendocino love their coast, and because we will bring to it permanent protection, ecosystem management and the vital research that the marine sanctuary program provides, we will pass it on to our children, unspoiled and thriving with life.

That's my commitment as we celebrate World Oceans Day.

HONORING MAITHREYI
GOPALAKRISHNAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan, an eighth grader at Peak to Peak Charter School in Superior, Colorado. She recently made the semifinals at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. She has been to several spelling bees and 2 years ago, finished at an impressive 37th place. At this year's National Spelling Bee, Ms. Gopalakrishnan beat out opponents by spelling the word *salinelle*, a mud volcano erupting saline mud—solidifying her chance to win the contest. The winner of the National Spelling Bee receives \$35,000, a \$5,000 scholarship, a savings bond of \$2,500 and a set of reference works.

Two hundred and eighty-six extraordinary students from across the Nation train vigorously in preparation for this annual event held at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. Students are expected to be able to spell words such as *protoplasmis* and my personal favorite, *bewusstseinslage*, which means a state of consciousness—something my critics occasionally accuse me of losing.

The skills and values that Ms. Gopalakrishnan already displays will help her with many challenges that she may face in the future. Furthermore, her commitment to learning and competitive drive makes her a strong student who is sure to excel in her academic career. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan in all of