

IN HONOR OF CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY OF GERALD (JERRY) KOPEL AND 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERRY AND DOLORES KOPEL

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dual celebration for two distinguished members of the First Congressional District. This week the Kopel family of Denver celebrates the 80th Birthday of Gerald (Jerry) Kopel and the 56th Anniversary of the marriage between Jerry and Dolores Kopel.

Jerry and Dolores have led an interesting and engaged life together, balancing careers in journalism, law, politics, and policy. They were the original "power couple" long before dual careers were more outwardly prevalent and socially acceptable. What is truly admirable is the Kopels managed to pursue these accomplishments while raising a family and contributing to the broader well-being of our community.

Dolores and Jerry met at the University of Colorado when Jerry was city editor of the Silver and Gold newspaper and Dolores was a reporter. Jerry graduated from the University and Dolores transferred to the University of Denver College of Law. They married at the end of her first year of law school, while Jerry was working for the Rocky Mountain News.

Dolores graduated from law school cum laude in June 1954. Jerry enrolled in law school in January 1955 but continued for a while to pull night shifts at the Rocky Mountain News as a copy editor. In 1958, Jerry graduated cum laude from the University of Denver. The Kopels had the unique experience of practicing law together until 1979, when Dolores was appointed U.S. Trustee for the District of Colorado and Kansas.

As part of his life-long dedication to giving back to the community and preparing the next generation for careers in law, Jerry directed a review course for law students preparing for the Colorado bar exam from 1958 through 1985.

In 1964, Jerry combined his background in journalism and his law degree to become an influential member of the Democratic Party. He served as State representative for a total of 22 years, spanning 2 decades.

Jerry was known as the consummate legislator, reading every bill and every amendment that came before the House chamber. He successfully carried 110 bills as chief sponsor, including the Nation's first sunset law.

Jerry's 22 years in the State Legislature and his extensive involvement in community issues and Colorado politics are encapsulated in "The Gerald Kopel Papers", which are housed in the Denver Public Library's Western History Collection. The papers are perhaps the most extensive archive of the public career of any American state legislator from the 20th century.

After retiring from the Legislature in 1992, Jerry continued to produce a printed newsletter, titled "Jerry Kopel's Report" until 1998. However, for many years, Jerry prepared weekly reports for House Democrats and suggested amendments to bills being debated on the House floor.

Since retirement, Jerry has returned to journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Col-

orado Statesman and other newspapers and has joined the technological age with an extensive Web site chronicling his columns and exhibiting his extensive knowledge of Colorado politics, law, and history.

Over the years, Jerry has won numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association, most recently in 2006 in the Public Service writing category. All of his 600-some columns were edited by his wife, Dolores. Both Jerry and Dolores have received recognition from the Denver Bar Association for 50 years of practice. Their son, David, is an attorney and author who is a columnist for the Rocky Mountain News.

Jerry is also an accomplished cocktail pianist, and has entertained at many local functions. He has issued several fine CDs, which are in my personal collection.

I have personally known Jerry and Dolores for many years, eagerly accepting Jerry's sage advice on politics and I am an ardent reader of his weekly columns. Jerry and Dolores have had a distinctive lifetime at the forefront of Colorado politics, policy, and history and their commitment to public service and the betterment of the their fellow Coloradans serves as a sterling example for younger generations and those entering public policy careers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Kopel and his wife Dolores a wonderful 56th Anniversary and Jerry a healthy and prosperous 80th birthday and pay tribute to their longstanding service and dedication to the City of Denver and the State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY H. LICHTER

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, Sidney H. Lichter, upon the completion of his term of office as Commander, Department of New Jersey, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for he has served countless others throughout his lifetime.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Lichter enlisted in the Air Force in 1966. He served two decades in the armed forces where he was able to see much of the world and was awarded many honors. Mr. Lichter was stationed all over the globe including: Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon; Alabama; Taiwan, and Germany. When he retired in 1986 as a Master Sergeant, he had been awarded such honors as the Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Force Commendation Medals, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with four campaign stars, along with both the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Presidential Award.

Mr. Lichter decided in 1991 to continue his service to others, but this time remaining close to home. He brought his commitment and expertise to the volunteer sector. His time with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States has proved to be as rewarding as his time in the Air Force. Over his 17 years of membership, he has served as Post Scholarship

Chairman; Post Commander; Commander, Essex County Council; Department of New Jersey Adjutant; both Junior and Senior Vice Commander, and this past year he has served as Commander of the Department. I am proud to represent a man who has spent his lifetime serving his country and community, a commitment I am sure he will continue for years to come.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing individuals like Sidney H. Lichter.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Sidney's friends, the Department of New Jersey, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., and me in recognizing Sidney H. Lichter.

APPLAUDING THE MARK THAT AUGUSTA SOUZA KAPPNER LEAVES ON BANK STREET COLLEGE AND EDUCATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a visionary in the field of education has left her post at a premier New York institution after championing the cause there for over a decade. Augusta Souza Kappner, endearingly nicknamed "Gussie," has stepped down from the helm at Bank Street College of Education—a one-of-its-kind, independent graduate school, set beside its own K8 day school, that offers dynamic programs in professional development and community service. She came to Bank Street 13 years ago with unimpeachable, history-making credentials, having served as the first African-American woman to preside over the City University of New York, and afterwards, as the assistant secretary for vocational and adult education in the Clinton Administration's Department of Education.

Besides the obvious heft, intellect, and insightfulness a woman of her caliber inarguably brought to the position, those around her cite a contagious sense of humor, an aura of accessibility, and a profound loyalty to the institution as her defining assets. During her tenure at the college, Kappner launched a series of innovative programs, ones dealing with teacher preparation, early childhood education, leadership development, and dropout prevention and college preparation for adolescents. She oversaw as the college developed a new center to advocate for high quality literature for all children, led efforts to universalize pre-k for New York students, and built partnerships with hundreds of public schools, creating in one instance a project that trained more than 400 principals and assistant principals in the city. She was committed to the Bank Street mission, motivated by its push to address every and any contemporary challenge in American education, guiding the institution through a strategic planning process to affirm and interpret its ambitious aims and increasing its endowment sevenfold through its capital campaign.

Kappner's unrelenting work ethic can be traced to her modest beginnings, raised a poor kid in South Bronx, looking after her dependent mother. She went on to earn a degree from Barnard College, a master's degree