overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect. The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel website at http://uscode.house.gov/cod. Interested parties are invited to submit comments to Tim Trushel, Assistant Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2–304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515–6711, (202) 226–2411, as well as to the Committee.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize one such individual, Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, a survivor and a remarkable woman, who lives in my district and who I am privileged to represent.

Fanya’s presence here represents the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, and of the human spirit over the inhumanity of the last generation of Holocaust survivors. With the survivor population growing older, with most in their 70s, 80s and beyond, there is an urgent need to record the events of this most tragic period in human history.

Fanya grew up in a tiny village on the Polish-Ukrainian border called Skala. Prior to the war, the Jews, Poles and Ukrainians lived in different worlds with very little interaction. The Nazis were able to take advantage of this lack of communication and centuries’ old hatred to turn average citizens—shopkeepers, doctors, lawyers and teachers—into willing participants in the war against the Jews. They brainwashed the public with a media campaign of lies, at a time when there were no jobs, no money and no food. People wanted someone to blame and Hitler took advantage of this anger and frustration and convinced the entire nation to wage a genocidal war against the Jews.

A Polish peasant farmer named Sidor, one of the poorest in the village of Skala, risked his life and that of his wife and young daughter to save Fanya. He dug a cave for them under his chicken coop, where Fanya, along with her parents and little brother, hid and remained in a crouching position for nearly two and a half years. They had little air and no light and subsisted on whatever meager rations Sidor was able to share with them. Lice and rats were their constant companions.

Jan, a Ukrainian shoemaker who became a militant during the war, was the only other person to help them. Jan had taken a particular romantic interest in Fanya and, because of his love for her, throughout this entire period, he risked his life—hiding them at times in the attic of his family’s barn—to save their lives. He brought them food and bits of news from the warfront whenever possible.

Because of the help he gave Fanya’s family in hiding, Jan was teased and called a “Jewish Uncle.” His own mother turned him in to the Nazis, who in turn beat him mercilessly in an attempt to find the Gottesfelds.

Fanya’s contributions to the community are multifaceted. She has raised a wonderful family, three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In 1998, the New York State Board of Regents awarded her the Louis E. Yavner Citizen Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to teaching about the Holocaust and other assaults on humanity.

Fanya holds a master’s degree in psychology from the New School for Social Research and honorary degrees from Yeshiva University and Bar-Ilan University. She serves on the boards of numerous institutions and charitable organizations, many of which focus on Jewish education and the empowerment of women.

She is the author of Love in a World of Sorrow, a candid memoir of her experiences during the Holocaust and a public record of one woman’s witness to the Holocaust. After publication, Fanya also began to teach. Speaking to young people, mostly not Jewish, Fanya puts a face to the suffering they had read about in their textbooks, providing a message of hope and an emotional connection that can only come from hearing a first person account.

There is also a study guide published alongside Fanya’s book to help educators present the issue of genocide.

Fanya is committed to helping others understand the power of goodness in a world of evil, the power of just one person, of each individual—that individuals can and must make the right choices instead of remaining bystanders in the face of evil. To that end, Fanya wants to insure that these and future generations better understand the tragedy of the past and work to make sure that, in each lifetime, fairness, justice and love will win out over indifference, evil and hatred.

HONORING JIM SAXTON FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Saxton for his service to the United States House of Representatives. I was pleased to have the opportunity to previously honor Mr. Saxton at a dinner in Cherry Hill on March 15, 2009.

Since his time as an elementary school teacher and a small business owner, Representative Saxton has worked tirelessly to help the people of New Jersey. He served in the New Jersey General Assembly and the New Jersey Senate. He served the State of New Jersey in the House of Representatives for more than twenty-three years. He became the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee. He has been instrumental in efforts to keep military bases in New Jersey, to stop beach erosion, and to support New Jersey hospitals.

Hanover Hospital: Madam Speaker, Jim Saxton has a proud record of service to the State of New Jersey and I am proud to call him my friend. I congratulate Mr. Saxton for all his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.