

in their lives, a chapter that we will help them write by giving them every opportunity to have a year of safe and enjoyable memories. Three of the wounded, Valeen Schnurr, Lisa Kreutz, and Jeanna Park, received their diplomas last Spring, and have now begun the important step of continuing on with life after such a tragic event.

This tragedy has caused us as Americans to reevaluate and reflect on our own moral and social values and to reexamine the role that we play as parents, relatives, and family members in the lives of our nation's children. This tragedy has driven many of us to work to bring not only healing, but also a reformation of our way of life. Everyone who lives in America felt what happened to those students. The phrase, "it can't happen in my backyard" is now gone for the residents of the Sixth District.

I do, however, feel hope and inspiration today. I feel a sense of hope when I see and hear the determination and genuine concern that individuals have when discussing our schools and a desire to make them a safe and prosperous environment. I feel a great sense of inspiration in these students and teachers who are walking back through the same doors they ran out on April 20, 1999. In fact, as of August 2, no students had applied for a transfer from Columbine. We are witnessing real courage.

I ask that my colleagues in the United States Congress, any my fellow citizens, pray for the students of Columbine High School as they start a new year. Pray that the smiles of youth return to these students. Pray that we have the power and the faith to do our part to ensure that this horrible violation of innocence is never repeated again.

And, most of all, pray for the families of: Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey DePooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velazques, and Dave Sanders, the twelve students and one teacher who will not be starting school this year.

HONORING ST. BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the St. Bartholomew School in Elmhurst, Queens on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

St. Bartholomew has been in the forefront of providing a quality value-based education to the children of the community for three-quarters of a century. The School, the third largest Catholic parochial school in the entire Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, currently has an enrollment of some 650 students and is accredited by the prestigious Middle States Association.

St. Bart's, as it is affectionately known, first opened its doors in 1923, and has since then been an integral and significant element in the

life of the Elmhurst community. Elmhurst was recently identified in the September issue of National Geographic magazine as "Elmhurst 11373, the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States." Affiliated with St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Parish, St. Bart's School ably reflects that rich diversity of heritage in a most enthusiastic way, welcoming students of many religions and national origins to participate in its outstanding academic program.

In addition to a full schedule of academic subjects, students in all grades receive instruction in computer skills, physical education, and library science, and participate in a host of interesting and informative clubs and extracurricular activities. But most importantly, the religious and lay faculty cooperate in striving for the utmost creativity in education, emphasizing values and excellence in an atmosphere of healthy academic discipline.

Finally, I would like to commend Sister Augusta Conter, o.p., Principal, and Mr. Thomas Straczynski, Social Studies teacher and Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, as well as all of the committee members whose tireless efforts made the anniversary and its many events a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying this 75th Anniversary tribute to a superb institution of learning and to the people who help make it all possible.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE HARRY H. MARGOLIS

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, Pericles said, while speaking at a funeral for fallen soldiers, "If our country should appear great to you, remember that her glories were purchased by brave and valiant men, by men who knew their duty." I rise today to honor one such man, Private Harry H. Margolis. Pvt. Margolis was born on September 8, 1913, and died 30 years later in France during World War II. When he began his active service 10 months earlier, he left behind in New York his wife Isobel, their 17-month-old son Harvey, and his parents.

Many years later, Pvt. Margolis' son began to wonder if his father should have been awarded a medal for his sacrifice that day in 1944. His mother then called my office in response to her son's inquiry. Now, exactly 55 years and 1 day after Pvt. Margolis perished at the Battle of St. Louis, he has been awarded the Purple Heart. He has finally received the recognition he so richly deserves and his family can rest assured that the United States of America is deeply grateful for the life that was given in her name on July 11th, 1944. Such glorious gifts will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE ALBANIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Albanian American Women's Organization (AAWO), "Motrat Qiriazhi." The AAWO is a nonprofit group committed to the advancement of Albanian Women within their families, communities, and society.

The Albanian American Women's Organization was founded in 1993 by a small group of Albanian immigrants in New York City. "Motrat Qiriazhi" is named for sisters Qiriazhi, the first Albanian women educators who dedicated their lives to the empowerment of Albanian women. The organization is composed entirely of volunteers and numbered more than 1,200 in 1998.

When the situation deteriorated in Kosovo, the AAWO began to focus its attention on helping the people in crisis. In 1999, the AAWO raised \$54,000 and developed strong ties with organizations like the International Rescue Committee. The leadership of the AAWO met with First Lady Hillary Clinton at the White House on August 2, 1999. They are currently involved in giving support to recent immigrants and refugees, including providing host families and job placement.

Once again, I offer my most heartfelt commendation to the AAWO for their hard work and commitment to helping people both in the United States and throughout the Balkans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent and unable to vote due to my recovery from heart surgery, August 2, 1999—August 6, 1999.

On August 2, 1999: I would have voted in favor of the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2488 (Rollcall number 356). I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 747 (Rollcall number 357). I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1219 (Rollcall number 358). I would have voted against the Andrews amendment to H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 359).

On August 3, 1999: I would have voted against the Paul amendment to H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 360). I would have voted against the Paul amendment to H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 361). I would have voted in favor of the H.R. 2606 (Rollcall number 362). I would have voted in favor of the engrossment and third reading of H.R. 2031 (Rollcall number 363). I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2031 (Rollcall number 364). I would have voted against H.J. Res. 58 (Rollcall number 365). I would have voted against H.R. 987 (Rollcall number 366).

On August 4, 1999: I would have voted in favor of approving the journal (Rollcall number

367). I would have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1907 (Rollcall number 368). I would have voted against the H. Res. 273 (Rollcall number 369). I would have voted in favor of the Serrano amendment to H.R. 2670 (Rollcall number 370). I would have voted in favor of the motion that the Committee Rise (Rollcall number 371). I would have voted in favor of the Scott amendment to H.R. 2670 (Rollcall number 372). I would have voted in favor of the DeGette amendment to H.R. 2670 (Rollcall number 373). I would have voted in favor of the Coburn amendment to H.R. 2670 (Rollcall number 374). I would have voted in favor of agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 1664 (Rollcall number 375).

On August 5, 1999: I would have voted in favor on approving the journal (Rollcall number 376). I would have voted against H. Res. 274 (Rollcall number 377). I would have voted in favor of the motion to recommit H.R. 2488 (Rollcall number 378). I would have voted against agreeing to the conference report to H.R. 2488 (Rollcall number 379).

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT ACT OF 1999

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today along with approximately 20 other Members, I am introducing legislation entitled the "New Markets Tax Credit Act of 1999." The legislation is designed to spur \$6 billion of private sector equity investments in businesses located in low- and moderate-income rural and urban communities.

We should all be pleased with the economic growth that this country is experiencing. However, our current economic boom is not being enjoyed by all areas of the country. Many urban and rural low-income communities continue to have severe economic problems. Businesses in those areas often do not have access to the capital they need to grow and provide job opportunities for the residents of those areas. The residents of those areas lack access to basic businesses, such as grocery stores and other retail facilities, that all the rest of us take for granted.

Unfortunately, business investment capital tends to flow to those areas of our country that already are experiencing rapid economic growth. We need to develop policies to direct some of that business capital to low-income communities. I believe that targeted tax credits can play an important role in this area by enhancing the economic return to the investor. The low-income housing tax credit is a very good example of how targeted tax credits can direct capital to needed investments.

I am very pleased that the President's budget contains several proposals to promote efforts to attract business capital to low-income areas. The bill that we are introducing today is the tax portion of the President's proposal. He also has made other proposals designed to promote growth in emerging markets in this country, just as this Nation, through entities like the Overseas Private Investment Corpora-

tion, helps to promote growth in emerging markets overseas.

The President's budget proposals this year are a continuation of the efforts of this administration in community development. I am very pleased that we have been able to enact several important community development tax initiatives with the President's support. The Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community tax incentives and the brownfields tax incentives are important tools in assisting community development. I believe that the bill we are introducing today is another important tool needed to expand economic opportunity to all areas of this country. I look forward to working with the President and Members of this House and the Senate in enacting this important initiative.

Following is a brief description of the bill:

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT PROPOSAL

The bill provides an annual nonrefundable credit to taxpayers who make qualified investments in selected community development entities. The amount of the annual credit is 6 percent of the amount of the investment and it is allowed for the taxable year in which the investment is made and the succeeding four taxable years. The credit is allowed to the taxpayer who made the original investment and to subsequent purchasers.

An investment in a community development entity would be eligible for the credit only if the Secretary of the Treasury certifies that the entity is a qualified community development entity and only if the entity uses the money it receives to make investments in active businesses in low-income communities. Low-income communities are communities with poverty rates of at least 20 percent or with median family income which does not exceed 80 percent of the statewide median family income (or in the case of urban areas, 80 percent of the greater of the metropolitan area median income or statewide median family income).

The Secretary of the Treasury would certify entities as being qualified community development entities if their primary mission is serving or providing investment capital to low-income communities and they maintain accountability to residents of the communities in which they make their investments.

The amount of investments eligible for the credit is limited to \$1.2 billion for each of the years 2000 through 2004. The Secretary would allocate that limitation among the qualified community development entities.

#### ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLARENDON HILLS, ILLINOIS

### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the community of Clarendon Hills, Illinois, as it commemorates its 75th anniversary. Clarendon Hills has accomplished much in the past 75 years, creating a congenial community that exemplifies the finest traditions and values of the American people. I, for one, take great pride in the legacy of Clarendon Hills and wish to share some of its history with you today.

The legacy of Clarendon Hills extends far beyond its 75-year history, and as all those who live in close-knit communities can appreciate, the strongest roots always run deepest. This town of nearly 7,000 originated from the far-sighted endeavors of ambitious men and women as early as the 1850's, seventy years before its incorporation as a village. Clarendon Hills emerged in progressive times, and the echoes of those times resonate today within the community.

Just as every New England town is centered around a church, every midwestern town is born of the railroad. As the railroad moved west of Chicago, men and women established Clarendon Hills as their home. They were people on the move, people looking to move westward, to create, and to progress.

Clarendon Hills was not simply "settled." It was nurtured and molded into the town we know today, one of the towns I am honored to represent in Congress as a Representative from the 13th District of Illinois. The earliest inhabitants did not wish merely to live on the land we now know as Clarendon Hills. They made the land their own not by tilling fields and cutting trees—though farming and lumber were two of Clarendon Hills' industries. Instead, this town's earliest residents fostered the sense of community we enjoy today by sowing fields and planting trees. Henry Middaugh, who arrived in 1854, did both. As streets were designed to wind with the contours of the land, Middaugh planted 11 miles of trees, which now support children's swings, shade our streets, and grace our homes.

Middaugh was also unintentionally responsible for the origin of Clarendon Hills Daisy Days. He ordered fine grass seed for his field and got daisies instead. Middaugh no doubt initially was disappointed, but, true to the spirit of those pioneers, he turned adversity into a blessing.

Clarendon Hills is a community that turns peat bogs into parklands—such as Prospect Park. It is a community that retains its small, locally owned businesses—with mom and pop stores as well as chain stores. It is a community that celebrates its distinctiveness together year-round—be it during the festive Christmas Walk in December or the carefree Daisy Days in July.

Those who call Clarendon Hills "home" are at once blessed with the atmosphere and fellowship of a small town and the vitality, creativity, and enthusiasm of a major city. It is the home of young and older families who live together, work together, and volunteer together. The best example of its public spirit comes at the Christmastime Lumanaria, where over 20,000 candles are lit, producing such brilliance that they are clearly seen from airplanes flying overhead. People drive from distant communities to see this show of lights. The celebration, however, is more than just a display of civic pride. The town raises over \$200,000 for the Chicago Infant Welfare Society through the sale of the candles.

And through it all, the Burlington Northern Railroad rushes by daily; and Henry Middaugh's mansion still overlooks the meandering shaded streets. It's been said that Middaugh would stand on his cupola and look out over the town. Were he to do so today,