

Dr. Kercheval is also a member of the American Dental Association, the West Virginia Dental Association, and the Monongahela Dental Association, the IOOF, and is a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner.

Dr. Kercheval resides with his wife of 59 years in Kingwood, WV and enjoys visits with his daughter, Barbara Kercheval, his son Phra E. Kercheval, Jr., as well as from his three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to pay tribute to such an outstanding citizen as Dr. Phra E. Kercheval, who has been an inspiration to so many other Americans, and I am happy to have the opportunity to wish him many more happy years of fruitful life in his beloved state of West Virginia.

THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO CELEBRATES THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is my personal honor and privilege to rise today and pay tribute to my State's Capitol, my Congressional district which I have served for the past 20 years, and my home; the City of Sacramento on their 150th anniversary.

In January of 1848, James Marshal reached into the American River near Sacramento and retrieved a small nugget of gold. This discovery gave birth to California's gold rush and provided a prosperous foundation for Sacramento to thrive.

At the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers, the City of Sacramento grew quickly, cradled by the fertile land of the Central Valley. On August 1, 1849, Sacramento's City Council convened for the first time and began drafting the City Charter. On March 18, 1850, the City of Sacramento became the first incorporated city in the State of California.

Since that time, Sacramento has developed a national and international reputation for progress and innovation. From its early days as the terminus for the Pony Express and the Transcontinental Railroad, to its current seat of government for the nation's most populous state, Sacramento has embraced its destiny in defining the ever-changing face of California.

Today, instead of Sacramento's riches coming from the surrounding hills of gold, our riches come from the great wealth of people, culture and diversity. As the 7th largest city in California, and the 38th largest city in the Nation, we owe our prosperity to the men and women who have sacrificed and dedicated their lives to the social and economic strength of our City.

Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga bestowed upon our City the name Sacramento, meaning holy covenant with God. As the City of Sacramento begins its 150th anniversary, I encourage the people of Sacramento to make a personal covenant with each other, to honor our history, respect our diversity, and challenge us all to ensure a prosperous future.

This evening, the City of Sacramento will begin a yearlong celebration of its 150th anni-

versary at a special City Council meeting at City Hall. As a former member of the City Council, I would like to personally congratulate the Mayor and the City Council for achieving such an honorable milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Sacramento on their 150th anniversary. Sacramento's golden history is reflected often throughout the City and is a constant reminder of the wealth of opportunity, which continues to grace the people of Sacramento.

IN HONOR OF THE VERY REVEREND FATHER MIKHAIL EDWARD MIKHAIL, D. MIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Very Reverend Father Mikhail E. Mikhail, D. Min who celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination for 25 years of service at the Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church of Cleveland.

The Very Rev. Fr. Mikhail E. Mikhail began his service to God at a young age as a student of several Coptic Orthodox Church leaders in Cairo, Egypt. He excelled in his studies and was fortunate to enter the Coptic Orthodox Theological Seminary in Caro which he came under the patronage of his most influential mentor, H. H. Pope Shenouda III, who was the H.G. Shenouda, Bishop of the Christian Education and Dean of the Seminary.

In 1972, the Very Rev. Fr. Mikhail, then Deacon Mounier, graduated from the Seminary and was assigned to serve at St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church in Masarra Shoubra in Cairo. Shortly after, he became the first consecrated deacon to serve in the United States at the St. Mary & St. Antonius in Queens, New York. Only a year later, in 1974, he was called back to Cairo and on May 11, 1974 Deacon Mounier married Seham Samuel. On August 23, 1974 Deacon Mounier was ordained the Priest Mikhail Edward Mikhail by H. H. Pope Shenouda III at St. Marks Cathedral.

In 1975, Fr. Mikhail and his wife arrived in Cleveland to begin his new ministry as the first resident pastor of the St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church. Here he served a community which was about fifty families large as well as other Coptic communities in Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati in Ohio; and Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

Fr. Mikhail took the lead in the building of a new church in Cleveland in the traditional Coptic style which officially opened in 1988. The Very Rev. Fr. Mikhail has dedicated his life in the past 25 years to the spiritual growth and enhancement of the Coptic community in Cleveland. As a result of his guidance there has been a revived interest in true Coptic Orthodox religious practices that have brought people closer to God. As a father, a teacher, and friend, the Very Rev. Fr. Mikhail has been a blessing to the Coptic community both in Cleveland and abroad.

My Fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the Very Rev. Fr. Mikhail, a man who has

dedicated his life to God, freedom and the well-being of all people.

HONORING STEPHEN JOSEPH MASTO, SANTA BARBARA CITY FIREFIGHTER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the service and pay tribute to Santa Barbara City Firefighter, Stephen Joseph Masto who died in late August while helping battle a wildlife in Los Padres National Forest.

At the young age of 28, Stephen had already devoted his career to public safety. Before serving in the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, he served as an apprentice firefighter in the Brea fire Department in Orange County, as a reserve officer at fire departments in Upland in San Bernardino County, and Los Alamitos in Los Angeles County, and as a volunteer disaster worker in Long Beach, CA. Clearly, Stephen was committed to serving the common good.

In remembering Stephen, we can never repay him for his dedication, hard work, or ultimate sacrifice. Rather, we must honor him by being especially mindful of the brave men and women firefighters he left behind to carry on the selfless work of protecting the lives and safety of their neighbors in times of need. Like Stephen, these are true heroes in every sense of the word.

I know that I speak for the entire community when I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones who will miss Stephen terribly. We only hope that their warm memories of this heroic man will sustain them in this moment of grief.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2684, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to oppose the rule for H.R. 2684, a bill making appropriations for the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies for Fiscal Year 2000, which does not allow a vote on the Edwards/Stabenow/Evans amendment.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment would have added \$730 million to Veterans Health Care. The VA estimates that the adoption of our amendment would have allowed an additional 140,000 veterans to receive the health care they need. Instead, this budget continues the under funding of critical medical care for those who have served our country in the armed services.