

## HONORING BEN DIGREGORIO

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Ben DiGregorio is that rare individual, someone who has devoted his life to the service of his country, his city and his community. He came to the Bronx when he was a year old and has lived here ever since. He joined the Navy as a young man and when he was discharged, joined the New York City Police Department. He has a marvelous 34 year career and was named the first commanding officer of the 49th Precinct when it opened in 1985. He retired three years later but was not finished.

Captain DiGregorio was elected to Community School Board 11 and he has served in that capacity for 11 years. But he not only served on the Board but would go to schools to give career counseling and read to the students. He was honored by the Forum of Italian American Educators with their Community Service Award for his work on the School Board.

Ben and his wife Virginia have a daughter, Donna, and two sons, Steven and David. He is retiring from Community School Board and I want to join his friends and colleagues in wishing him and his family all the good that life has to offer. He has certainly earned it.

## NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 1999*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I rise to join my colleagues in supporting National Co-op Month. Across Kansas and across the country, cooperatives form the economic backbone of many communities. Co-ops provide power, purchase the agriculture products, add value to the farmer and rancher, and allow individuals to join together in their local communities.

Across the country, over 70 million people belong to some type of cooperative. Since Ben Franklin formed the first co-op in 1752, co-ops have operated with three basic principles: user ownership, user control, and user benefits. It is with those three principles that individuals can work together to add value and compete in a world where mergers and concentration are often the stories of the day.

In Kansas, farmers and ranchers have joined in innovative cooperative projects aimed at moving them from being producers, to being processors and providers of wholesome food products in the grocery store. Kansas' 21st Century Alliance has taken risks to move farmers into grain processing, beef processing, high-volume dairying, and even dry-edible bean processing. All of these ventures have been cooperatives, allowing producers ownership, control, and, hopefully, the benefits.

The challenge for Congress is to support and encourage more opportunities for farmers

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

and ranchers to add value and gain a greater portion of the food dollar. Cooperatives provide that opportunity, and I look forward to pursuing new ways to assist cooperatives as they grow and advance on behalf of their member-owners.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating cooperatives on their first century and a half, and wish cooperatives success in these and other ventures for the next century.

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 764, the Child Abuse and Protection Act of 1999—the CAPE Act.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 764, I would like to extend my gratitude to Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE for her hard work on this important measure.

Today at least 500,000 children in the United States are enrolled into foster care or institutions because living situations are so bad, they must be removed from their homes.

In 1997 alone, there were 3 million reported cases of child abuse and neglect.

The challenge for this Congress was to craft legislation which would alleviate this suffering by our children while giving states and localities the resources combined with the flexibility to deal with the child abuse problems in their own communities.

The CAPE Act meets this challenge beautifully.

H.R. 764:

(1) Allows state and local officials to use existing law enforcement grants for child abuse prevention.

(2) Allows state and local officials to use existing Identification Technology Act grants to provide child protection agencies access to criminal history records.

(3) And what I like best about this bill, is that it increases direct funding for child abuse related services in the Crime Victims Fund—all of which comes from forfeited assets, bail bonds, and fines paid to the government by criminals—Not the Taxpayers!

The CAPE Act is an effective piece of legislation that gives those who know how to help abused children the resources they need to do their job, as they see fit.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

## JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 1999*

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two significant events in the cultural life of my home city of Jacksonville, Florida: the 50th Anniversary of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and the much-anticipated arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, Fabio Mechetti.

Mr. Speaker, either of these things would be something to celebrate under any circumstance. Coming together as they do, however, they represent a unique milestone for the Symphony and for the people of Northeast Florida.

Founded in 1949, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra has developed from what was essentially a pick-up group doing seven or eight concerts a year into a full-fledged professional orchestra with a nine-month season and a budget of nearly \$7 million. In the process, it has become one of the finest and most respected orchestras in its class in the United States and gained a new home in Jacoby Hall—the only dedicated symphony hall in the state of Florida and one of the few in the nation.

This season, the Symphony will reach more people than ever before, with the advent of innovative new education and outreach programs, and with performances throughout the state and in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition to the stellar array of programs and guest artists including cellist Lynn Harrell, pianist Leon Fleisher, and guest conductors like Philippe Entremont and Joseph Silverstein, the orchestra will also highlight its own by featuring a number of orchestra musicians as soloists, including concertmaster Philip Pan, principal trombonist Richard Stout, and the redoubtable Charlotte Mabrey, one of the world's few female principal percussionists. In a milestone 50th Anniversary Festival, orchestra patrons will be treated this year to a look at the Symphony's past and a taste of its future, including the sponsorship of the first-ever Florida Composers Competition.

The icing on top of this anniversary cake of great music and great community service is the arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, distinguished conductor Fabio Mechetti. Born in Brazil, Maestro Mechetti is one of the most respected young conductors in the U.S. today, garnering consistent praise from critics and colleagues for his artistry and knowledge of the repertoire. Chosen as Music Director in 1999 after an intensive, two-year search process, he comes to Florida's First Coast from the West Coast, where he has been Music Director for the Spokane Symphony for 6 years.

Maestro Mechetti, who just finished a 10-year tenure as Music Director of the Syracuse Symphony and was recently appointed as Music Director of the Rio de Janeiro Opera, has also served as Resident Conductor of the San Diego Symphony and Associate Conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., where his children's programs won the National Endowment for the Arts