

loved to accompany his energetic uncle, Kevin Soulsby, in swimming in the irrigation channels and in agricultural work on the family farm. When Matt died at the age of seventeen in a tragic car accident on October 30, 1994, he left a glowing example of how to truly appreciate the gift of life.

Matthew's funeral was attended by so many hundreds of people that even the church grounds were overflowing. In the moving funeral Mass, Matt's grandparents, aunts, uncles, and great-uncles all assisted in the celebration of his life by performing some of the readings, by singing, by distributing the Holy Eucharist, and by serving on the altar as acolytes.

Matthew O'Leary was a credit to his upbringing. He was the second, beloved son of Margaret and Terri O'Leary, and was the devoted brother of Sean, Haydn, and Emily, all of whom he cherished dearly. He is survived by his loving grandmothers, Pat O'Leary and Alice Soulsby; his affectionate grandfather, Jack Soulsby; his sister-in-law, Renee O'Leary; and nephew, Ryan Matthew; as well as his many loving aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Owen O'Leary.

Matthew O'Leary seized life and reveled in it. It is privilege to honor the memory of a young man who truly lived by the "Golden Rule" of treating others fairly.

TRIBUTE TO ART AND SANDY GINSBURG

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friends, Art and Sandy Ginsburg. Art and Sandy are the owners of Art's, one of the best delicatessens in Los Angeles. In addition to their skills as restaurateurs, Art and Sandy are known for their dedication to assisting others. They never seem too busy to help another worthy cause, or to provide much-needed support to another outstanding organization.

This year, Art and Sandy Ginsburg are being honored by Women's American ORT, in recognition of their service and generosity over many years. Sandy, in fact, has been a member of Women's American ORT for 34 years! The Ginsburgs are committed to ORT's goal of providing technical training to students around the world and preparing them for good jobs in the emerging global economy. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and teenagers have benefited from the education provided by ORT schools.

Closer to home, the Ginsburgs are tireless in their support of the activities of the Jewish community. They have helped to establish a program at Temple Beth Hillel that has integrated disabled and handicapped people into the mainstream of Jewish life and Art's Delicatessen has consistently provided food for the Shabbat dinners that are sponsored by this program.

Art and Sandy's generosity extends to other programs and organizations as well. Art's Deli

donates food to Chandler House, which provides alcohol rehab services, and also participates in a program that feeds the poor and homeless throughout the Southern California area. Art has also served his community as Vice President/Board of Directors of the Studio City Improvement Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce.

As the parents of three grown children, Art and Sandy have also spent a good portion of their lives helping such organizations as the Girl Scouts, as well as a variety of schools in the San Fernando Valley. They contributed to the athletic program at Grant High School, and to this day they invite kids from a local junior high school to tour the Delicatessen as part of a careers program.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Art and Sandy Ginsburg, devoted parents and grandparents, successful business people, and great friends of our community. Their altruism and compassion inspire us all.

THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES ACT OF 1999

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the National Cemeteries Act of 1999. This legislation requires the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to establish three new national cemeteries. Each of these new cemeteries will be established in an area of the country determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be most in need of Cemetery space to serve veterans and their families.

VA statistics show that demand for burial benefits will increase sharply in the near future, with interments increasing 42% from 1995 to 2010. Unless new national cemeteries are established soon, VA will not be able to meet the need for burial services for veterans in several metropolitan areas of the country.

I am concerned that too many veterans lack access to the final—and for many, the only—veterans benefit they will receive from our grateful nation. The number of veterans who lack adequate access to burial in a national cemetery will increase during the next decade, and the Department of Veterans Affairs has not demonstrated a commitment to establishing obviously-needed new national cemeteries. I was deeply disappointed that the Administration FY 2000 budget for VA failed to include a request for the funding required to initiate new national cemeteries. When we on the Veterans Affairs Committee finally agreed last year to enact legislation requested by the VA to enhance the State Cemetery Grants program, it was only after we were assured by the Department that this program would continue to simply supplement the national cemetery system—not replace it. In view of this, I expected the Department to demonstrate its commitment to the expansion of the national cemetery system by including funding for at least one new cemetery in the FY 2000 budget request. It is because that funding was not in the VA's budget request that I am introducing this legislation today.

Accordingly, my bill would require the Secretary to establish a new national cemetery in the three areas of the country that are determined by the Secretary to be most in need of burial space. Additionally, this legislation would require the Secretary to provide Congress with a report 4 months after enactment of the National Cemetery Act of 1999. This report will identify the three areas where new national cemeteries are to be established, a schedule for cemetery construction, and an estimate of the costs associated with establishment of these cemeteries.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation authorizing the purchase of "cemetery grounds" to be used as national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." The fourteen cemeteries that were established that year were the beginning of what has become the National Cemetery System. Today, more than 130 years after the first national cemeteries were established, the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for more than 2.2 million gravesites at 115 national cemeteries in 39 states. Of these 115 cemeteries, 57 are open to all interments, 36 can accommodate cremated remains and family members of those already interred, and 22 are closed to new interments.

On May 31st of this year, many of us will attend Memorial Day observances at our national cemeteries during which we will, with humility and thanks, pay sincere respect to those whose sacrifices and dedication have protected the ideals on which America was founded. We will remember the more than 42 million patriots who, through two centuries and too many wars, have taken up arms to defend America and to guarantee that the blessings of liberty are secure. Remembering, however, is not enough. We as a nation must also meet our historic commitment to provide health care, compensation, and readjustment assistance to the living—and provide a hallowed resting place for our American heroes when they die.

I urge Members to support the National Cemeteries Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO CLYDE MADDOX

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, to pay tribute to Clyde Maddox, a Vietnam veteran, who was elected Commander of the 110,000 member Disabled American Veterans, Department of California, last year.

Clyde Maddox was born in Americus, Georgia to a family which included eight other brothers and sisters. He spent the first 18 years of his life in Americus. He graduated from Sumter County High School in 1968 prior to beginning a career in the United States Marine Corps where he spent 21 years serving his country.

Clyde Maddox served a tour of 13 months in Vietnam. He has also served in two tours