

her husband. "When I found Sofije, I tried to separate her family and take them away, but there were only about 30 people left (alive) from her village and they didn't want to be apart. So I promised to help them too."

Though she was unable to bring Sofije, her husband and their five children back to the United States this time, Mehmetaj rented two apartments for the family and other Kosovars from the village of Skorg. She also bought them food and clothing.

A third sister and her family are still missing. But Ferataj said the minute she finds out where they are, she will be on the next plane to Greece.

"We were all scared for her safety—it was highly risky, but she has her own mind, thank God," said Alenna Hiles, one of Mehmetaj's closest friends who greeted her at Midway Airport. "It's a miracle she made this happen. She not only found them but got them back here before the refugee program was in place."

Most of the Kosovar refugees will begin arriving in Chicago, Detroit, Boston and New York—cities selected because they have substantial Albanian populations—as early as Wednesday, according to a State Department spokesman. The State Department has encouraged people with relatives to assist in refugee resettlement.

The second oldest of nine siblings, Mehmetaj owns the European Touch salon and day spa in Dearborn Station, her seventh salon, and drives a car with the license plate "KOSOV A M." Friends and family describe her as tough and fearless.

Most of her family has left Istog, the town where they were raised. Six months before the war, Mehmetaj convinced her mother, Gjyle, to leave Kosovo and move in with a brother in Switzerland. When Istog fell to the Yugoslav army, more than 15,000 refugees fled to Rozaje, Montenegro.

"(My mother) is very determined to get what she wants," said Mehmetaj's 20-year-old daughter, Linda. "Either way she was going to do it, whether the United States was going to allow it or not."

Mehmetaj, Shefkije and Besarta arrived in New York on Wednesday and spent Thursday in Washington, D.C., meeting with several senators and briefing politicians about the situation in Kosovo. Friday, they were weary but overjoyed to be together.

After stopping at the salon to see family members, they all returned to Mehmetaj's South Loop condominium. There, Shefkije gazed at the stunning view of Chicago from the 25th floor. Both mother and child looked curiously at all the things in Mehmetaj's apartment.

"We're so happy for them to be here. They'll have everything they need from all of us," said brother Rich Ferataj, 37, who also owns a salon and lives in Oak Lawn. "I think for now we'll just try to laugh and talk about old times."

FOUNTAIN CITY POLICE CHIEF
JEFF LIEBERMAN HONORED:
MARCH 1999 NATIONAL POLICE
OFFICER OF THE MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Jeff Lieberman, Police Chief in Foun-

tain City, Wisconsin. Chief Lieberman was honored recently by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund as the National Police Officer of the Month. Chief Lieberman is the first and only small-town law officer ever to receive this honor.

Chief Lieberman was chosen for this honor because of his dedication to children, his phenomenal 99 percent conviction rate and his close ties to his community. At Fountain City, Chief Lieberman established the Police Awareness and Learning Safety (PALS) program. The PALS program gives children at the Cochrane-Fountain City elementary school the opportunity to know and interact with a police officer. PALS is designed to provide children with knowledge, skills and attitudes regarding their personal safety, placing emphasis on decision-making and the choices they make in their lives.

Chief Lieberman's commitment to his community, and especially the children, makes him a model police officer and truly deserving of this recognition. As this nation struggles with problems of violence in our schools and our communities, Chief Lieberman is pro-actively working to prevent problems from developing. We need more police officers like Chief Jeff Lieberman.

The people of Fountain City are fortunate to have an outstanding public servant in Chief Lieberman. I commend Jeff, his wife Kim and daughter Paige, for their love and dedication to western Wisconsin and I congratulate Jeff on this honor.

TRIBUTE TO NUNE YESAYAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nune Yesayan for her outstanding musical talent. Nune is considered to be a "modern-day minstrel" from Armenia, who herself has survived a traumatic personal history, but has emerged to breathe a new life of hope and beauty into the present day Armenian experience.

Nune has been called the "Armenian Madonna," however, love for her music and its message spans generations and cultures. Her extraordinary, emotion-provoking voice, reminiscent of one who has gained life-lessons from a long and tiring journey, and her use of ancient instruments appeals to a wide dynamic of fans, from "hip" Generation Xers to Baby Boomers, and from lovers of traditional music to those with more "eccentric" music tastes. It is her message, however, drawing Armenians world-wide, which provokes a connection to "home," and delivers truths about the identity, language and culture of the Armenian people. They are songs about the beauty of the homeland, (Armenia) and of the people, the strength of the Armenian character, and the nostalgia of what once was with the hope that it can be reclaimed.

At no other time in the modern-day Armenian experience has one performer captured so much attention in such a short period of time. Sold out concerts in Armenia launched

the 29-year-old's career. Nune has performed for Armenian troops near the Azeri border, and in Yerevan, Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. Nune's near-instant stardom led her to California where she performed for mobs of fans. She also appeared at an A.Y.F. picnic, at schools, and in record stores. Nune has produced two CDs and several innovative music videos. She was the only vocalist invited to participate in a 20-hour live broadcast commemorating the tenth anniversary of the December 7, 1988 Armenian earthquake. Adding to this impressive résumé Nune's two Anoush Awards granted to her at the Armenian Music Awards in October, one for "most popular album" and the other for "best female vocalist."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nune Yesayan for doing her part to rejuvenate the "Armenian soul" and bridge generational and cultural gaps, bringing families and strangers together with her music. Nune recently played at a concert in Fresno, in my district, at the Armenian Community Center. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Nune many years of continued success.

WESLEY CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 134th ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the Wesley Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Edwardsville, Illinois upon its 134th anniversary.

On May 6th, the Wesley Chapel held special services to celebrate its 134th anniversary, specifically video taping the proceedings for those members of the church who were unable to participate due to age or other reasons. The celebration featured reflections of the church and its members and featured statements about the church and its impact from the oldest member, 98 year-old Alma Jackson to 12 year-old Terry Bradshaw who represented the youngest members of the church.

Wesley Chapel was founded on the banks of Cahokia Creek at the end of the Civil War. It has been at its current location at 418 Aldrup since 1881 and is currently preparing for the possibility of a new church.

My congratulations go out to Pastor Dwight Bell and Joyce Hariston and Jessie Brown who served as co-chairs of the anniversary committee as well as the entire congregation at the Wesley Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The commitment to and love of faith will make a difference for generations to come.