

neighbors—as “a nice person,” “a great guy” and “a great neighbor.” Police Chief Edward Brymer has stated that Sergeant Dingwall “had a distinguished career and was well respected by all of us at the Middletown Police Department.” Lt. David Gervais, who joined the force with Sergeant Dingwall, commented that “he would drop everything to help family and friends.” Sergeant Dingwall was also well-known as a loving husband and father.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest sympathy to Sergeant Dingwall’s family and friends, members of the Middletown Police Department, and residents of Middletown and Haddam. Sgt. George Dingwall is an American hero and he exemplifies the qualities of an extraordinary public servant—dedication to community, courage and selflessness.

HONORING CHARLES M. BURT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles M. Burt for being named the Irrigation Person of the Year by the California Irrigation Institute. Dr. Burt is currently a professor in the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department at the California Polytechnic State University, as well as the Director of the university’s Irrigation Training and Research Center. Dr. Burt is being honored on January 24th at the California Irrigation Institute’s 38th Annual Meeting.

Charles M. Burt is being recognized for his many contributions to education and the advancement of irrigation knowledge and practice. In addition to his roles as a professor and the Director of the Irrigation Training and Research Center, Burt is a member of several related organizations. He belongs to the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the Water Resources Engineering Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Irrigation Association. He is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Office of Water Conservation, the American Society of Agronomy, the United States Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (USCID), and numerous others.

Dr. Burt began his irrigation career in 1975, when he designed several large drip systems in the USSR and Iran, as a Keller Engineering Irrigation System Designer. He worked on this through 1976 until he worked as an Irrigation System Designer for Wren-Oneal Co. in Fresno. In 1981 and 1982 Dr. Burt worked on irrigation design and project planning as the Chief Engineer and partner of JM Lord, Inc. Since that time, he has continued his commitment to irrigation and education at the California Polytechnic State University.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Charles M. Burt for being named Irrigation Person of the Year. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Burt many more years of continued success.

HONORING COUNTY
COMMISSIONER RALPH JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a man who surpassed personal challenges to give fully to his community. Mr. Ralph Johnson passed away on December 28, 1999. He was 51.

Ralph served as a County Commissioner in Elbert county since 1996. He was a rancher who spent most of his life in the small town of Agate, Colorado. Before he was elected County Commissioner, Ralph served on the Agate School Board. In his younger days, he was a rodeo rider. In 1974 he was involved in an accident that nearly took his life. Ralph lived, but he lost the use of his legs and the accident caused health problems that eventually lead to his death.

Ralph was a soft-spoken cowboy who brought dedication and a sense of humor to his public service. He was always committed to his community. He will be remembered for his dedication and his readiness to do anything it took to serve the people.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer tribute in memory of Ralph Johnson, a cowboy’s cowboy and a great American.

THE SHANGHAI SYNAGOGUE: A
VERY SPECIAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this past December, Congregation B’nai Emunah in San Francisco marked its fiftieth anniversary. This Saturday, the congregation will celebrate this important milestone. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this very special Jewish community on its longevity, unique history, and contributions to our city.

The name of the Congregation—B’nai Emunah—means “Children of Faith,” and its history is truly unique. After Jewish businesses and synagogues were destroyed by the Nazis in 1938, many countries closed their borders to Jewish migrants who sought to flee the racism, terror and persecution they found under Nazi rule.

One stunning exception to this was the city of Shanghai, China. There threatened remnants of the Jewish community from Germany and Austria found refuge. Shanghai was a free city governed by the international Shanghai Municipal Council. The city and the Chinese people had already welcomed thousands of Russian Jewish refugees after the Soviet revolution of 1917. In 1938 Shanghai required no visas or other formalities for the more than 20,000 Jewish immigrants from Germany and Austria who flocked to that safe haven.

Mr. Speaker, immediately upon arriving in Shanghai, the German and Austrian Jewish

community rebuilt in camps the sanctuaries that they had watched the Nazi mob destroy in their homelands. When the war in the Pacific broke out in 1941, the community was ghettoized in a dilapidated Chinese slum, but their synagogues continued to function. They survived and flourished even under Japanese occupation and occasional mistaken bombs from U.S. Air Force planes.

Following World War II and the outbreak of the Civil War in China, the entire Jewish community in Shanghai left China and dispersed. Thousands relocated to San Francisco, the nearest American port. In 1949 a group of dedicated Jews met with one of the rabbis from Shanghai and made the decision to reestablish the synagogue they had twice lost. The new congregation embraced all the elements of the late Shanghai community—Russian, Sephardim and German/Austrian—and was named congregation B’nai Emunah, although it has always been known as “The Shanghai Synagogue.”

In the last fifty years, Congregation B’nai Emunah has expanded and flourished. A new generation has emerged to whom the Shanghai story is as important to their own identity as it was to the preceding generation. This jubilee fiftieth year will see the building of the “Shanghai Center,” which will house a museum, library and archive. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Congregation B’nai Emunah on this very important occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO SONIA SANCHEZ

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman who has become a living legend in Philadelphia and around the world, Sonia Sanchez. Sonia Sanchez deserves our praise for reasons more numerous than can be listed here. Her leading roles as a mother, activist, professor, and poet have made her a beacon of hope to people who have traditionally been marginalized in our society, including people of color, homosexuals, women, the poor and the young. A petite, African-American woman born into a poor family in Alabama, Sonia Sanchez transcended what most would consider a modest existence to become one of Temple University’s most cherished professors. It is with a hint of sadness that I reflect on her accomplishments today, for last month Sonia decided to retire from Temple University, after 22 years of service.

To realize the significance that Sonia has had on our community, one need look no further than her resume, which serves as a testament to Sonia’s courage and the strength of her convictions. She is the author of 16 books including Homecoming, We a BaddDDD People, and Homegirls and Handgrenades, for which she won the American Book Award in 1985. Sonia has also edited two anthologies; We Be Word Sorcerers: 25 Stories by Black Americans and 360 Degrees of Blackness Coming at You. She was furthermore a contributing editor to The Black Scholar and The