

his family owned the local print shop. The printing business became his vocation as well, and he gradually built his own successful printing corporation based in New York, where he produced record album jackets and direct mail advertising for manufacturers of records, tapes, and CD's. However, if printing was his business, his passion since his childhood days has been great jazz music. Phil often said that his fantasy of the perfect life would be to own a little saloon where he would invite the great jazz musicians in the country to play and he could listen all day long.

But Mr. Speaker, we pay tribute to Phil because he is not just a listener—he is a “doer.” While establishing his career in the printing business, he and his wife, Norma, raised three sons just a few miles away from his boyhood home. He served on the Board of Trustees of Temple Beth Miriam; he chaired committees for Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey; he served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Monmouth County Arts Council; he currently sits on the Monmouth Beach Planning Board. In the 1960's, when my district was experiencing the racial tensions prevalent throughout the country, Phil was an outspoken advocate for civil rights and racial harmony. He is a life member of the NAACP.

Perhaps his most noteworthy achievement was to find a way to share his love of music and theater with the citizens of Monmouth County. After selling his business and “retiring,” Phil devoted his energy and enthusiasm to the transformation of a run-down movie house in Red Bank into the Count Basie Theatre, now a newly-renovated and vibrant cultural center. Under his presidency of the theater, he has helped bring music, plays, and other arts to the children of our district, and he has helped create a showplace for great jazz. He also helped establish a jazz scholarship to a leading school of music, which will be presented on an annual basis to deserving young jazz musicians in our district. He continues to serve as a trustee of the theater.

Phil and his wife, Norma, a classically-trained pianist, a former high school music teacher, and now a family law attorney, live in Monmouth Beach. They have three sons, David, James, and Eric, and three grandchildren. All of their sons learned from Phil and Norma the importance of building their adult lives around giving service to others.

Mr. Speaker, when we think of a life well-lived, we think about dedication to family, to community, and to place of worship. We think about balancing hard work with a love and passion for our culture's highest forms of expression— theater, art, and music. Phil Rosenbloom certainly embodies, and continues to embody, the meaning of a well-lived life. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Phil Rosenbloom and celebrating with him his 75th birthday.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE GRAMERCY PARK BLOCK ASSOCIATION AND ITS FOUNDERS, ARLENE HARRISON AND TIMOTHY COHEN

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2000*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to The Gramercy Park Block Association and to its founders, Arlene Harrison and Timothy Cohen. The Gramercy Park Block Association is an invaluable organization that works tirelessly to improve the safety, security, and quality of life of those New Yorkers who live in and around Gramercy Park.

In the fall of 1993, Mr. Cohen, who was only fifteen years old at the time, was savagely beaten in an unprovoked attack by a neighborhood gang. After his recovery, Mr. Cohen and his mother, Ms. Arlene Harrison, began a campaign to improve the quality of life in the area in which they live.

Ms. Harrison and Mr. Cohen have pioneered the development of innovative, community based techniques to combat crime and improve the day-to-day quality of life for fellow Gramercy Park residents.

Ms. Harrison and Mr. Cohen created and implemented Operation Interlock, an emergency police radio network and have successfully campaigned to improve community ties with their local police precincts. The Block Association's partnership with the Police Department's 13th Precinct has received national media attention as a model of how a police-community partnership can work to reduce crime in a neighborhood. Other police forces from around the nation are currently exploring the possibility of implementing Operation Interlock in their own respective jurisdictions.

In addition, the Association has successfully lobbied to increase both the wattage and the number of street lights around Gramercy Park and the Consolidated Edison energy plan. They have thereby made the neighborhood an increasingly safe place to walk at night.

Mr. Cohen and Ms. Harrison have also pioneered the development and implementation of many other local programs that promote community service and safety, for example, Operation ID, Block Watcher Training Sessions, Senior Citizen Escort, and Project Kidcare. Each of these programs serves a vital purpose in bringing the community together for a safer neighborhood.

In particular, Ms. Harrison and Mr. Cohen mobilized the community in support of the Kenmore Rehabilitation Plan to clean up the notoriously drug and crime-ridden Kenmore Hotel. They worked tirelessly with local organizations to rehabilitate the facility, providing a safer community and a more positive environment for a previously underserved group of tenants. Ms. Harrison now serves as the chair of the Kenmore Hall Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the work of the Gramercy Park Block Association and its founders, Mr. Timothy Cohen and Ms. Arlene Harrison, and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing their contributions to the New York community and to our

*July 27, 2000*

country. I take pride in the fact that I have such model citizens living in my district.

BELLE DEMBY, 106 YEARS YOUNG

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Belle Demby as she celebrates her 106th birthday.

Ms. Demby is a native of North Carolina who moved to Brooklyn as a teenager when her father got a job building the Fourth Avenue subway line. When she first arrived in Brooklyn, you could still find fresh chickens in open air markets on Third Avenue and Myrtle Avenue. She worked for \$1.50 a day sweeping the platforms of the BRT subway line and probably never earned more than \$12 a week throughout all of World War I.

For entertainment, she listened to music. As she recently told a New York Times reporter, “I listened to the radio. What do you call them, Victrola? All I can tell you is it was a big box that had music in it.” When the stock market crashed she and her husband both lost their jobs. To make ends meet, Ms. Demby worked in factories, laundries and anywhere she could get a job. She recalled recently how “long-shoremen were walking back and forth to the waterfront to see if a ship came in so they could get work.”

Belle Demby now lives near the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the Ingersoll Houses. Family and friends take turns reading her passages from the Bible. Although she is blind, she is still able to attend Bethel Baptist Church every Sunday with her daughter who is 87 and a grandson who at 69 is a grandfather himself.

Please join me in acknowledging the remarkable life of Belle Demby on her 106th birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE KENMORE HOTEL RESTORATION PROJECT

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2000*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first anniversary of the complete restoration of the Kenmore Hotel. The hotel's story is a remarkable tale of cooperation between many different levels of government, NPOs, and private industry in the name of helping those citizens who most desperately need our assistance.

In 1927, the Kenmore Hotel was built by the family of Nathaniel West as an apartment hotel for working single New Yorkers. Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s the Kenmore became known as a hotel for the “down and out” and the community witnessed its decent from modest respectability to complete squalor. By the middle 1980s, the Kenmore's elderly and mentally ill tenants