

time social justice advocate, Ho'oipo became involved in local health care after seeing the effects that disease and drug addiction have had on the people of her own community.

Troubled by the number of Hawaiian women with breast cancer, DeCampra pioneered the Women's Cancer Research Project, now called the Women's Health Network. The program teaches women and their families about breast and cervical cancers through "kokua" or help groups. The original study employed Hawaiian women with breast cancer in data collection and analysis.

Ho'oipo DeCampra has since turned her talents and energy to helping people who suffer from drug addiction. She directs a substance abuse treatment program, Ho'omau Ke Ola, that uses traditional Native Hawaiian healing methods in concert with the very latest clinical practices to treat the largely Hawaiian population of the Wai'anae coast of the island of O'ahu. Ho'omau Ke Ola also provides transitional shelter and distributes food to residents in the community.

Ho'oipo DeCampra previously served as chair of the board of the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. She is a founding board member of Ke Ola O Hawai'i, an academic community partnership organization. She also sits on the board of the Hawai'i Health Foundation, which promotes a traditional Native Hawaiian diet, and serves on an ad hoc committee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Women's Health, Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts. Ho'oipo is also a published poet.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate Ho'oipo and to thank her for devoting her considerable talents and boundless aloha to improving the lives of the people in her community and throughout the state.

ST. THOMAS SYNAGOGUE—A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the St. Thomas Synagogue, formally, the Synagogue of Beracha Veshalom Vegemiluth Hasidim, or in English, "the Synagogue of Blessing and Peace and Acts of Piety," located on Synagogue Hill overlooking Charlotte Amalie Harbor in the Federal Historic District of Charlotte Amalie, the capital of the United States Virgin Islands.

Today, September 12, 2000, marks the 167th Anniversary of the consecration of the St. Thomas Synagogue. This synagogue, a well-preserved structure, built 167 years ago today in 1833, is indeed rich in history, culture and architecture. It is the second oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere and the oldest in continuous use under the American flag.

For many Virgin Islanders, the St. Thomas Synagogue is a reminder of tolerance and equality, as well as of European expansion into the new world during the Spanish Inquisition of 1492. Practicing Jews were expelled from Spain during that period. As a result of

this exodus, many Jewish families established themselves in the then Danish West Indies which are now the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some of the surnames which date back to that time are still present in the Virgin Islands today such as: Maduro, Castro, Sasso, Levin, Bornn, and Monsanto.

The St. Thomas Synagogue is also revered as among one of the most architecturally interesting buildings on St. Thomas. This one story, three-bay front building measures forty feet by fifty feet, is rectangular in shape. Its foundations, made of masonry with lime mortar and plaster, and its walls, made of brick and cut stone load-bearing masonry walls with lime mortar and plaster, are still strong and sound. Its interior is immaculate with preserved artifacts and furniture centuries old. The most fascinating aspect is its flooring—13" marble tiles and covered with one inch of loose sand, a poignant reminder of the time when they had to worship in secret. The sand on the floor is a remnant of the days of the Marranos, Jews during the Spanish Inquisition who were forced to convert to Christianity but who secretly practiced their Judaism. Since practicing their faith was punishable by death, they met in cellars with sand covering the floor in order to muffle the sounds of their prayers.

On Friday, September 15, 2000, the United States Department of Interior will honor the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas at a ceremony formally designating the St. Thomas Synagogue as a National Historic Landmark.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I congratulate the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas on attaining this honor and salute them for their dedicated service and contributions to the United States Virgin Islands.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN M. O'LAUGHLIN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a noteworthy resident of the Third Congressional District of Kansas, Brian M. O'Laughlin, who lives in Prairie Village, Kansas, with his wife, Mimi, and their four sons.

Mr. O'Laughlin recently was named "Man of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors for his service and leadership to his industry, community and clientele. He has been in the insurance and financial services industry in the Kansas City area for the past 17 years, where his practice specializes in insurance.

Mr. O'Laughlin is a past president of the Kansas City Life Underwriters Association [KCLUA] and currently serves on its board. KCLUA awarded him its highest honor in January 1999, as the "Herbert Hedges Man of the Year." He also has served his community as president of the Rockhurst High School Alumni Association and as the assistant coach and general manager of the Junior Blues High School Rugby Club. He was awarded the

American Red Cross "Certification of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action" in July 1977 for resuscitating a two year old boy in a 1976 swimming pool accident.

Mr. O'Laughlin is: a charter member of the Serra Club of Johnson County, Kansas; past school board member of St. Ann's School and former PTA co-president, with Mimi O'Laughlin. He currently serves on the finance council for St. Ann's Catholic Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He has been involved with organizations such as: the Leukemia Society; the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City; the Salvation Army, the Heart Association; Friends of the Arts and Friends of the Zoo; and the "Leave a Legacy" Foundation.

Finally, Brian O'Laughlin has coached over twenty five seasons of soccer, basketball and rugby. He also is a certified "International Doping Control Officer" for various international sports organizations and tests world class athletes for steroid use to ensure fair competition and the safety of the athletes.

Mr. Speaker, Brian O'Laughlin is the kind of concerned citizen whose selfless dedication to others binds our communities together. I commend him on his recognition as "Man of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly commend his good works before the House of Representatives.

HONORING SISTER CATHERINE MORAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in New York and missed the opening ceremonies of today's session. Accordingly, I deeply regret not being here in person to greet Sister Catherine Moran, who delivered the opening prayer earlier this afternoon.

In recent years, while there have been other clergy women who have had the honor of leading this body in its opening prayer, I understand, however, that Sister Catherine Moran is the first person who has never been ordained to be afforded this honor. Truly, this was an historic occasion.

However, Sister Catherine's entire life has been one of breaking precedent. Born in Brooklyn, she entered the convent on September 8, 1945, receiving a Masters Degree in Education from St. John's University, and advanced certificates in Administration from both Hofstra University and the State University of New York in Plattsburgh.

From 1975 until 1983, Sister Catherine Moran was the Principal at Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia, New York. Albertus Magnus has long been one of the most prestigious and respected high schools in my Congressional District, and its luster is due in good part to the outstanding leadership which Sister afforded during her eight year tenure as its Principal.

Although she is still affiliated with the Dominican Convent in Sparkill, New York, for the