

May 22, 2000

SHOVALS HONORED BY B'NAI  
B'RITH

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to my very good friends, Susan and Judd Shoval, from my district in Pennsylvania. The Shovals will be honored at the prestigious S.J. Strauss Lodge of the B'nai B'rith Lincoln Day Dinner on May 24 as this year's recipients for the distinguished Community Service Award. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Judd and Susan Shoval are among the most entrepreneurial and community-minded business leaders in my district. As partners in the Guard Insurance Company, specializing in workers' compensation insurance, the Shovals have expanded the company from its founding in the early 1980s to a sophisticated insuring organization with more than 20,000 customers in 16 states, with three subsidiaries. Just last fall, the couple opened Guard Security Bank, which uses electronic banking procedures, offering select financial products to both individuals and business.

Susan is a native of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She graduated magna cum laude from Cornell University and graduated with highest honors from the College of Insurance in New York City. In 1993, she was honored as the recipient of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Athena Award and was named among Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business in 1997. She is a member of the Committee of 200, a select group of women who head successful firms.

Susan has served the community on the United Way Board and local university boards, but I am especially appreciative of the tremendous amount of time and leadership Susan provided as a director on the board of the Earth Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to reclaiming 16,000 acres of former coal mine land. Among the couple's proudest accomplishments are their four children, Ben, Deborah, Karyn and Rebecca.

Judd Shoval is Susan's life partner and business partner, serving also as chief executive officer and a director of Guard Insurance, its subsidiaries and the Guard Security Bank. He is a past chairperson of Associated Risk Managers International and has been a member of the Young Presidents Organization, comprised of presidents and chief executive officers of medium- to large-sized companies.

He is also very involved in the community, serving on boards of the local universities, the Jewish Community Center and United Jewish Campaign. Born in Austria, Judd was raised in Israel and received his law degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He came to the United States in the early 1970s, finally settling in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the Shovals are dedicated professionals and community leaders. I applaud the S.J. Strauss Lodge's choice of this year's recipients for the distinguished Community Service Award. I am pleased and proud to join with the Lodge and the community in congratulating them and sending my sincere best wishes for continued success.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JOSEPH  
BALCHUNAS AS FLORIDA'S  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a phenomenal teacher, Mr. Joseph Balchunas, recently named Florida's Teacher of the Year. A teacher who realizes the sky is the limit, who understands that knowledge is power, and who enriches the lives of those around him distinguishes Mr. Balchunas. Mr. B, as his friends and family call him, insist that his students raise their ideals, broaden their horizons, but most importantly learn to demand more of themselves. His students regularly test above average standards, a testimony to his tireless efforts and commitment to education. This is the first time in twelve years that a teacher from Broward County has been honored with this achievement.

Joseph Balchunas inspires his students to dream, and not to let anyone get in the way of those dreams. In his five years as a teacher, Mr. B has proven that teaching is not only a job, but a personal commitment, and expects his students to make the same commitment to their future. He is loved by many, but most fortunate are those who have the pleasure of being one of his students. His devotion encourages his students to imagine and create.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Joseph Balchunas for being named Florida's Teacher of the Year. He is truly a great educator, one that all of us should be proud to commend.

## NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

**HON. PAT DANNER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of United States Merchant Mariners who have courageously served our country during times of peace and war. Congress established National Maritime Day in 1933 to recognize the vital contributions of all American seamen throughout our nation's rich maritime history. This day would soon come to hold special meaning in honor of those merchant mariners who served in defense of American freedoms during WWII. On behalf of Kansas City resident Marshall Garry, I feel privileged to honor their accomplishments today.

As legendary Navy Admiral Chester A. Nimitz wrote following the Allied victory in 1945, "Not one of us who fought in the late war can forget—nor should any citizen be allowed to forget—that the national resource which enabled us to carry the war to the enemy and fight in his territory and not our own was our Merchant Marine." The Merchant Marine played a vital role in our nation's greatest victory, indeed almost 7,000 mariners—or one in 32 personnel—would make the ultimate sacrifice in honor of our country.

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Once again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join with me in commemorating the extraordinary, yet often forgotten, accomplishments of these brave individuals. Our nation is forever indebted to their service and I honor them today on this, America's 67th celebration of National Maritime Day.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House floor when a vote was taken on amendment number 204 regarding the School of the Americas. I have always voted in support of any amendment to eliminate and/or drastically change the way this school functions and had I been present in this Chamber when this vote was cast, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING JENNIE SLEGRS ON  
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Jennie Slegers of Artesia, California, who celebrates her 100th birthday later this week.

Mrs. Slegers was born May 26, 1900, in the Netherlands and came to the United States in 1922. Celebrating this occasion with her are her five children, 20 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. By my count that is 66 Americans—many of them my constituents—who are living, working, playing, learning, paying taxes, contributing to our economy, helping build our communities—all because Jennie Slegers decided long ago that she wanted to be an American.

Mr. Speaker, this remarkable woman now enjoys life at the Artesia Christian Home, where she spends her spare time in knitting and what she called "socializing." And, she remains very involved in doing all she can to help fellow residents of the home. I join her family and many friends in wishing Mrs. Slegers a happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CASS BALLENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, I missed rollcall vote 193 (H.R. 4205) because I was conducting a Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing in the absence of the Chairman. Had I been present I would have voted "yea".