June 13, 2000

L.E.N.S (Leadership Exchange for Network Students) program.

John’s students have said: “Through the years you have always come to our games to cheer us on, to applaud our plays, to sing along with us at our concerts; wherever we look you were there to support us. If we were involved, you were involved. You have shown this affectionate concern with us and the Nanuet community. Our parents trust you and believe that we children are safe with you. We thank you for your invisible warm hands.”

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join in extending a warm thank you to John Burke for his dedication, his support, faithfulness, and love for his students, community, and his job. Well done John!

RABBI DR. H. JOSEPH SIMCKES AND CHANA SIMCKES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Rabbi Dr. H. Joseph and Chana Simckes on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of their association with the Hollis Hills Jewish Center. It is with great pride that I pay tribute to two people who I have known closely, and with whom I have worked on numerous issues critical to the Jewish community and beyond. Joseph and Chana Simckes have made the Jewish sage Hillel’s ancient dictum, “Do not separate yourself from the community;” a living guide for their lives and the basis for their continuing efforts to promote social justice and human dignity from within and beyond the walls of the synagogue.

Simckes has been an exemplary spiritual leader, teaching Jewish values and providing moral guidance by his personal example, and I confidently expect that he will continue to be a source of leadership, learning and compassion for his congregation. Rabbi Simckes came to the Hollis Hills Jewish Center from a pulpit in Massachusetts and has been an energetic community leader in Jewish philanthropy, Jewish education and pro-Israel advocacy. Holding a doctorate in Pastoral Counseling, with experience in psycho-therapy, Rabbi Simckes has been a source of counsel and comfort for hundreds of my constituents, sharing his great wisdom and boundless compassion.

Equally, Chana Simckes has won the hearts and respect of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, and the larger Jewish community beyond, through her commitment and involvement in sustaining Jewish continuity and values. A refugee from Nazi Germany, Chana Simckes has embodied the American dream; graduating from Columbia University, succeeding as a professional in Jewish education, and rising to the leadership of numerous Jewish community organizations, all while raising a growing family.

Joseph and Chana Simckes have elevated and improved the lives of their community, providing those around them with guidance, education, support and leadership. stalwart advocates of social action, tireless champions of the Jewish people and the values of the Torah, I am honored to share with this House their marvelous example, and to hold them up for the recognition they both so richly deserve.

REGARDING THE SMALL BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON EMPOWERMENT ZONES

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Empowerment Zones, and strongly encourage my colleagues to support this worthwhile program. Recently, the Small Business Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Business Opportunities and Special Small Business Problems, of which I am a member, held a hearing to discuss the benefits of Empowerment Zones and the need to authorize funding for Round II EZs. The EZ and Enterprise Communities (EC) program, target federal grants to distressed urban and rural communities for social services and community redevelopment, and provide tax and regulatory relief intended to attract and retain businesses in these areas.

The enacting legislation designated 104 communities as either EZs or ECs. As a part of this program, each urban and rural EZ receives $100 million and $40 million, respectively, in flexible Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funds. In addition, qualifying EZ employers are entitled to a 20% credit on the first $15,000 of wages paid to certain qualified zone employees.

The district I represent in Southern Illinois is home to the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone (SIDEZ). SIDEZ is the only one of eight rural empowerment zones in the United States, and provides a much needed economic boost to Southern Illinois. Currently, SIDEZ is working on community and economic development in seven areas. Those seven goals are: infrastructure, Economic Development, Tourism Development, Stronger Unity/Sense of Community, Life-long Learning and Education, Housing and Health Care.

The enactment of EZ/EC legislation brought the EZ and Enterprise Communities (EC) program, target federal grants to distressed urban and rural communities for social services and community redevelopment, and provide tax and regulatory relief intended to attract and retain businesses in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, Kit Dove was a very kind, self-less man dedicated to his family and his community. Anyone who ever came in contact with him gained a greater appreciation for the environment. He lives on through his two children, through his devoted wife Mary and through all of us who were fortunate to have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a wonderful man who lived a life of purpose and to extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Freeman Dove and the entire Dove family.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD AND LUPE ORTIZ

HON. ELTON GALLEGGY
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. GALLEGGY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard and Lupe Ortiz, whose devotion to the people and culture of Ventura County, CA, in my district, will be recognized this weekend at the Interface Children Family Services’ Tribute Dinner.

Leonard and Lupe Ortiz have lived in Ventura County their entire lives and are close personal friends. They raised four children here, three of which continue to live in Ventura County. In 1952, the Ortiz family launched Ortiz Trucking, which flourished. While building and running a successful business and raising and nurturing a fine family, Leonard and Lupe Ortiz also made time to dedicate themselves to their community.

Leonard Ortiz has served on the boards of Interface, the United Way, Easter Seals, and Community Memorial Hospital. He has been a member of the Sheriff’s Posse, which is involved in search and rescue operations. He is now a member of the newly formed La Voz—Voice of Santa Paula. Its goal is to preserve