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 with 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.

Rabbi 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 activism. 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 one of only 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 about an innovative, 10-year program to reduce urban and rural poverty and distress. I have seen how effective and well utilized these programs have been and I urge my colleagues to support full funding of current and future Empowerment Zones.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER STONE "KIT" DOVE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kit Dove, an outstanding environmental activist of California's San Mateo County coast who passed away on April 20, 2000, and who will be honored in a public memorial service at Quarry Park in El Granada, California on June 17, 2000.

Mr. Dove was very active in politics since he first moved to the Coastside with his family in 1980. He served as a board member and President of the Granada Sanitary District in the 1980's, and more recently, he served on the San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee. In 1986, he was a co-author of the successful San Mateo County Measure A, a growth control measure for the unincorporated areas of the Coastside. In 1994, he helped pass the Coastal Protection Initiative which closed certain loopholes in Measure A.

I had the honor of working closely with Kit to form the Midcoast Community Council in 1991 and I was always impressed with this passion and tireless dedication to the Coastside and environmental preservation. He was subsequently elected to serve on the first Midcoast Community Council and was chosen to be Chairman.

Kit Dove was not only active in politics, he was also active in getting others to participate in the public arena. Numerous Coastside environmentalists and elected officials have credited Kit with their own activism in politics, environmental issues and public participation in the community. His wisdom and ability to bring together diverse groups of individuals made him a much sought after advisor and a well respected member of the Coastside community.

Mr. Speaker, Kit Dove was a very kind, selfless 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 GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise 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
The history of Santa Paula and promote its development.

Ludue Ortiz has served on the Fine Arts Committee of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. She has also assisted the fundraising efforts of several charitable organizations, including Interface and Easter Seals.

Their tireless commitment to enrich the lives of their family and their neighbors deserves our deep appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong supporter of Interface Children Family Services for more than twenty years. The work of the organization and its volunteers has bettered the lives of countless families in my community. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Leonard and Lupe Ortiz for the honor they so richly deserve and thank them for decades of helping others.

Supporting Child Care Development Block Grants

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of increasing the Child Care Development block grant by $417 million in order to meet the dire needs of our children and families.

How in the world do we expect single women to get a job and become self sufficient if affordable and adequate child care is not available?

Reliable and quality child care is necessary for the healthy development of our children and for parents' productivity at work.

I was in the California State Senate when the Welfare Reform Bill was signed into law. Then, I adamantly opposed the bill because I knew that while most women on Welfare want to work, they do not have affordable and accessible child care.

I was on the Conference Committee in the State Senate that negotiated the California Plan. Over and over again we heard testimony from women who pleaded with us to provide resources for child care so that they could go to work. While we directed additional resources for child care, today there are still over 200,000 families on the waiting list in California.

In many states, parents pay more than 10 percent of their income for child care. Women who make minimum or low wages can not afford it. And, that was in the 70's and 80's.

This country is enjoying an incredible economic boom, and in the dawn of a new century, we can certainly establish children as our priority. We must do whatever it takes to find the resources to ensure the future.

I previously mentioned that in the year 2000 families must choose between food, clothing, housing, or child care. We can and we must do better.

Also, in no way, in the year 2000 should we be reducing the number of children being served in child care centers. This debate really does go to our fundamental values, our most basic priorities. Do we care about our children’s future or not?

Personal Explanation

HON. PETER DEUTSCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber today during rollcall votes Nos. 257 and No. 258. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 257 and “yay” and rollcall vote No. 258.

President Putin’s Visit to Moldova

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, President Putin of Russia continues to maintain a heavy schedule of international visits. Among the several destinations, he is scheduled to visit Moldova later this week.

The Republic of Moldova is located principally between the Prut River on the west and the Dniester River to the east, between Romania and Ukraine. A sliver of the country, the “left bank” or “Transdnestria” region, extends beyond the Dniester River and borders with Ukraine. The 4.3 million population in Moldova is 65 percent ethnic Romanian, with significant Ukrainian and Russian minorities. Gagauz, Bulgarians, Roma, and Jews constitute the bulk of the remainder.

While Moldova and Romania were united between World Wars I and II, following seizure by the Soviets in World War II, Moldova became a Soviet “republic.” When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Moldova gained its independence and is now an internationally recognized sovereign state, a member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and a host of other international organizations.

When Moldova became independent, there were approximately 15,000 Soviet troops of the 14th Army based in the Transdnestria region of Moldova. In 1992, elements of these troops helped pro-Soviet elements establish a separatist state in Transdnestria, the so-called Transnistrian Republic. This state, unrecognized and barely changed from the Soviet era, continues to exist and defy the legitimate authorities of Moldova.

Meanwhile, elements of the former Soviet army, now the Russian army, remained in Transdniestria after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Renamed the Operational Group of Forces, they presently number about 2,500. The Moldovan Government has permitted the troops to leave, and the Russians keep saying they are going to leave. The Moldovan and Russian Governments signed an agreement in 1994 according to which Russian forces would withdraw in three years. Obviously, that deadline has passed. Russia was supposed to remove her forces from Moldova as a part of the Council of Europe accession agreement in February 1996.

In fact, language in the declaration of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit insists that Russia remove its military arsenals from Moldova by December 2001 and its forces by December 2002. This latest OSCE language enhances language included in the 1994 Budapest document and the 1996 Lisbon document calling for complete withdrawal of the Russian troops.

Mr. Speaker, there is no legitimate security reason for the Russian Government to continue to base military forces on the territory of a sovereign state that wishes to see them removed. This relatively small contingent of troops is a vestige of the Cold War. I would add also that the United States Government has agreed to help finance some of the moving costs for the Russian equipment. I would hope President Putin will assure his hosts in Moldova that the Russian forces will be removed in accordance with the OSCE deadline, if not earlier.

Congratulations Michael & Colleen McHugh

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. McHugh of Belmont, California for their actions of good will. Colleena and Michael McHugh were on a weekend visit to Los Angeles when they spotted a van that had been profiled on a news report as belonging to a known kidnapper. Colleena reported the van to authorities on her wireless phone and was asked by the dispatcher to keep a close distance until California Highway Patrol units could take over. The couple kept the van in sight for about 40 miles before police began their pursuit and eventually made an arrest.

Mr. Speaker, I’m proud to honor the McHugh’s for making California safer. Because of their assistance in this emergency situation they are also being honored by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association with the Wireless Samaritan Award. This award is given to individuals from each state across the country recognizing the contributions heroic individuals make to their communities. The McHugh’s have more than earned this award for their exemplary civic service. I’m proud to present them and I salute them for the distinction they bring to California’s 14th Congressional District.