

the Salvadoran American/Latino Community in the United States.

In 1996, Randy joined the California League of Conservation Voters as a new voter organizer, working to increase Latino voter turnout and educate new voters on environmental issues. He also became a regular editorial contributor on educational, environmental and political dealings to *La Opinion*, the largest Spanish newspaper in the United States.

After gaining considerable experience with the Southern California media industry, Randy joined my staff last year as the Communications Director. Given his personal knowledge with immigration issues, he also tackled this important issue for my Congressional office, including serving as my staff liaison to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

For the past eight months, Randy has helped to ensure that immigrants in the 31st Congressional District are afforded the rights to which they are entitled. He has also worked to make sure that all of the residents of my district are informed about the important work that we do here in Washington, D.C. Now, I wish him the best of luck as he returns to Los Angeles, to his community and to his dear fiancée.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MEZZALINGUA
AND CENTRAL NEW YORK BASED
PPC ON ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT
MILESTONES

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, this month, one of the pioneering firms in the field of telecommunications equipment productions, PPC, will celebrate the completion of its 60th year in operation and its owner and founder, John Mezzalingua, will celebrate his 97th birthday on August 30th.

As an infant, John Mezzalingua immigrated to Central New York with his mother from Italy. At the age of 17, Mr. Mezzalingua began to work in an iron foundry with his father and soon expanded the family greenhouse and floral business to include a trucking service. During the Great Depression, Mr. Mezzalingua saved enough money to purchase automatic machinery and headed a production products company known as PPC. It grew to become one of the world's largest producers of cable connector products.

When the Magnavox Corporation purchased PPC, Mr. Mezzalingua retired. When the Netherlands-based North American Philips Corporation bought Magnavox in 1974, it decided to exit the connector business. Mr. Mezzalingua, nearing the age of 80, and his son Dan repurchased the company to keep its jobs in Central New York.

Today, John Mezzalingua Associates, Incorporated, the parent company of PPC, is headquartered and operates three plants in Central New York where it designs and manufactures connectors, traps and filters, and fiber optics products for telecommunications firms worldwide. It has additional manufacturing plants in Denmark and St. Kitts and maintains research operations in Switzerland.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Mr. John Mezzalingua on his 97th birthday and PPC on its 60 years in Central New York. We wish the very best for Mr. Mezzalingua, his family, and his company.

CONGRATULATING SAM AND SHIRLEY SHEFTS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sam and Shirley Shefts as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Sam was born in 1929, in the midst of the Great Depression in the Bronx, New York. At the age of 19, he married the beautiful girl next door, Shirley Yshoel. Both having been raised in poverty by immigrant parents, their marriage started out with nothing but love and the traditions of family.

Together they built a life of countless successes. Sam served in the National Guard for 12 years. Shirley maintained a warm and nurturing home, first in the Bronx, then in East Meadow, NY as they raised their three daughters, Janet, Mindy and Nancy. They both taught the girls, mostly by example, the values of hard work, religion, education, charity and appreciation of the goodness of life and nature. Though they could not afford to attend college themselves, they made it possible for all three of the girls.

Working side by side with his brothers, Sam provided for the family in the business and craft of carved glass. The "Shefts" signature could be found on glass murals throughout the country, including fine restaurants such as Tavern on the Green and the Russian Tea Room in New York City and the Old Ebbitt Grill in Washington DC. Once the children were grown, Shirley worked at an art gallery. She also was a volunteer with honors with the United Order of True Sisters, an organization that provides support to families affected by cancer.

Now living in Boynton Beach, Florida, Shirley and Sam Shefts continue to be active and vibrant members of their community and their synagogue. This year, their daughters and son-in-law will proudly honor their golden anniversary with a party, bringing together their brothers and sisters, nieces & nephews, cousins and dear friends in a wonderful celebration of their 50 years together.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues in this House join me in paying tribute to this wonderful couple on this happy occasion.

IN HONOR OF DR. JIM D. ROLLINS

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jim D. Rollins, the Super-

intendent of the Springdale Public School District in Springdale, Arkansas.

On August 23, 2001, the Springdale School District will hold its annual back-to-school celebration and rally. This year's celebration is particularly special as it will commemorate the beginning of Dr. Rollins's 20th year as Springdale Schools Superintendent.

Dr. Rollins has a long and distinguished career working to educate the youth of Arkansas. He began teaching science to students at Ridgeroad Junior High School in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Eventually, he moved across town to take the helm as Principal of Lake-wood Junior High School. Years later, he accepted a position in Springdale as Director of Secondary Education, before becoming Superintendent, a position he has held since the early 1980's.

Along with the aforementioned accomplishments, Dr. Rollins has held executive positions in a number of professional organizations including the Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Board of Directors of Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative. He was selected to be a member of the Arkansas Governor's Task Force on Youth at Risk and received the Arkansas Superintendent of the Year Award in 1992.

I congratulate Dr. Rollins for his 20 years of dedication and service to the students of the Springdale School District. I am confident that he will continue to be successful in molding the lives of our nation's future.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE MARRIAGE OF MICHAEL
AND ROBYN SHAHEEN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, on June 30, 2001 Robyn Horner and Michael Shaheen joined together into the blessed union of holy matrimony, and;

Whereas, they began on that day, witnessed by God, a journey together that will lead them to the path of all of life's joys,

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them and wishing them the very best that life has to offer.

THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. ANDREI
SAKHAROV

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 21 of this year human rights advocates in Russia and all over the world marked the 80th anniversary of the birth of celebrated scientist and human rights advocate, Dr. Andrei Sakharov.

As a Soviet scientist and citizen of the world, Andrei Sakharov combined a brilliant intellect with a deep concern for humanity. He

was the youngest member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. After World War II, Sakharov worked as a theoretical physicist and received the Soviet Union's highest award three times for his scientific accomplishments in the field of thermonuclear weapons development.

By the late 1960s, however, his protests against nuclear testing and calls for greater intellectual freedom had made him a pariah to the Kremlin. The publication of his seminal essay, "Progress, Coexistence, and Intellectual Freedom," brought him international attention and respect. In 1970, Sakharov and fellow activists Valery Chalidze and Andrei Tverdokhlebov founded the Moscow Human Rights Committee to help Soviet citizens secure the rights theoretically granted to them under the Soviet Constitution. As journalist David Remnick wrote recently, "his modest apartment on Chkalova Street in Moscow seemed the moral center of an immoral empire."

In 1975, as a result of his human rights advocacy and his work toward genuine detente between the West and the Soviet bloc, Dr. Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In the words of the Chairman of the Nobel Committee:

Sakharov's fearless personal commitment in upholding the fundamental principles for peace between men is a powerful inspiration for all true workers for peace. Uncompromisingly and with unflagging strength Sakharov has fought against the abuse of power and all forms of violation of human dignity, and he has fought no less courageously for the idea of government based on the rule of law. In a convincing manner Sakharov has emphasized that Man's inviolable rights provide the only safe foundation for genuine and enduring international cooperation. In this way, in a particularly effective manner, working under difficult conditions, he has enhanced respect for the values that rally all true peace lovers.

True to form, Moscow would not allow Dr. Sakharov to travel to Oslo to receive the honor. Dr. Elena Bonner, his energetic wife and partner in the human rights struggle, accepted the prize in his stead and delivered his Nobel lecture, "Peace, Progress, and Human Rights." Ironically, on the same day that Dr. Sakharov was receiving by proxy the Noble Peace Prize, December 10, 1975, the recipient himself was in Vilnius, Lithuania attending the political trial of Sergei Kovalev, a fellow scientist and colleague in the struggle for human rights.

By 1980, the Kremlin and KGB had decided that this soft-spoken scientist who kept talking about human rights violations and political prisoners, as well as criticizing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, could no longer be allowed to speak his mind freely and to meet with foreign journalists. He was picked up on the streets of Moscow and, without a shred of judicial process, sent into "internal exile" in the city of Gorky about 300 kilometers east of Moscow. Even at this distance he could not be silenced, although the KGB did its best to harass him. Through Dr. Bonner, Dr. Sakharov continued to appeal for justice for the victims of human rights violations and to call on the international scientific community to work together for peace and disarmament.

By the late 1980's, however, Soviet authorities understood that the Soviet system could

not compete with the rest of the world by repressing its best minds and criminalizing dissent. In December 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called Dr. Sakharov and invited him to return to Moscow "to resume his patriotic work." What Gorbachev had in mind is unclear. Nevertheless, in April 1989, in the first genuinely contested national elections since Lenin dissolved the Constituent Assembly in 1918, Sakharov was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies where he resumed his "patriotic work" advancing the ideas of liberty and human rights for the Soviet people.

Mr. Speaker, at one point during a session of the Congress of People's Deputies, General Secretary Gorbachev turned off Dr. Sakharov's microphone in an effort to silence his arguments against the privileged position of the Communist Party under the Soviet Constitution. At that time, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I compared Dr. Sakharov's actions with those of former President John Quincy Adams who, as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, absolutely refused to be silenced on the subject of slavery despite the existence of the so-called "gag rule."

Tragically, Dr. Sakharov succumbed to a heart attack on December 14th, 1989, eight months after his election to the Congress of People's Deputies.

Some 50,000 people, along with foreign dignitaries and fellow members of the Congress of People's Deputies, gathered at the Palace of Youth to say farewell to their hero and colleague. And, yes, the KGB was also in attendance. Chairman Kryuchkov filed a report to the Party leadership that can now be found on the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, through the kindness of Dr. Elena Bonner, today Dr. Sakharov's papers are available to researchers and the public at the Sakharov Archive at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. This archive is an invaluable contribution to world literature on human rights and international peace, and I hope that it will find generous support from the American people.

May Dr. Sakharov's example inspire us in the years to come.

A SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Italian American community in this nation remains deeply interested in tracing and maintaining their family connections in Italy. Each year, family members of all ages visit the small towns and villages where their loved ones lived before emigrating to the United States.

I recently became aware of one such trip by the grandson of one of the more prominent and successful Italian American families in our country: the Pope family. Paul David Pope, a successful businessman and philanthropist who lives in Florida, traveled to Italy in June to honor the memory of his grandfather, Generoso Pope Sr. While doing so, he rekindled the spirit of benevolence which his grand-

father had bestowed on the villages of Pasquarielli, Terranova and Arpaize in the southern province of Benevento.

In 1906, at the age of 15, Generoso Pope left his poor farming village and arrived in New York City with little money and a dream of success. He labored in the sand pits of Long Island for five years while going to night school. Following that, he went to work for the newly formed Colonial Sand and Stone Company and by 1926 he was the company President.

In 1928, Pope purchased *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, the nation's largest Italian language daily newspaper. He later bought 3 other large Italian language newspapers in New York and Philadelphia.

Generoso Pope became an advocate and a champion for the new Italian immigrants who came to the United States. A patriot who helped to raise funds for the Allies War effort, Pope urged his readers to learn English, become citizens and vote. Pope later became the sponsor of the now world famous Columbus Day celebration in New York.

In 1929, Pope returned to Arpaize, Italy, with his wife and sons. He paid for a municipal power plant to bring electricity to the poor and isolated community, and in subsequent years, helped other local villages construct buildings like churches, schools and municipal structures. He also financed scholarships for worthy students.

More than 70 years later, Paul Pope followed his grandfather's path home to Arpaize, to learn more about his grandfather's impact on the small towns where he lived. Paul also emulated his grandfather by making a significant contribution to fund several urgently needed civic improvements in the town. The emotional highlight of the trip occurred when town leaders and citizens honored Paul Pope with a magnificent Festa. It came 65 years after a similar Festa was held for his grandfather. Mayor Armando Cimmino bestowed Honorary Citizenship on Paul Pope for his work and philanthropy on behalf of Arpaize. Paul Pope also received the prestigious Magna Grecia Award by the International Association of Magna Grecia and an award from the International Association of Marguttiani. Paul Pope concluded his historic visit with a private mass with His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

While in Italy, Pope announced the establishment of the Pope Medal to be presented annually to an individual who makes significant contributions in promoting their cultural initiatives, as well as his intention to sponsor an annual conference on the Italian-American experience, dedicated to the memory of his grandfather. The annual conference will be held under the auspices of the Calandra Institute of Queens College, City University of New York. The first conference will be held in 2002 and will focus on the Italian language press in America from its origins in the 19th century through today. Mr. Paul also hopes to hold additional forums at selected American colleges and universities with leading Italians in business, government, education and the arts.

Paul Pope's experience proves once again that the ties between the United States and Italy are strong and enduring. I salute Paul Pope and the distinguished Italian Americans