Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Kevin Dykema for his quiet yet firm hand in navigating Bay County, Michigan, on an unalterable course that will lead to further economic prosperity and perpetuation of the city’s reputation as a welcome port-of-call for friends and visitors alike.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA SPEZIALE
RICHARDS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a longtime Syracuse journalist who passed away as a result of a sudden brain aneurysm while visiting family in Florida.

For over 20 years, Donna Speziale Richards covered breaking news in Syracuse and Onondaga County as both a radio and television news reporter. Born in Syracuse, she was a graduate of Solvay High School and Onondaga Community College. She worked as a radio reporter for both WFBL--AM and WHEN--AM, where she also served as news director.

She then went on to cover local stories for WTVH-TV5 as a television news reporter for eleven years. In 1988 she won an Emmy award as a member of a team of reporters covering the bombing of Pam Am Flight 103. During her tenure as a journalist, Donna’s work was recognized by the Associated Press Broadcasters Association, the state Broadcasters Association, and the Syracuse Press Club.

Most recently, Donna had left broadcasting to serve our community as a public relations specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration office in Syracuse. Through her work in that position, she was known as an informative and helpful source for local media and business people and a committed federal employee.

Donna leaves her husband, Donald; two stepsons, David and Paul Richards; her mother, Mary Speziale; and a brother, Skip Speziale. She was 43 years old.

Throughout her career, Donna was not one to seek special recognition or the spotlight. On a personal level, I had the pleasure of working closely with Donna. She set a strong standard of ethical behavior that led her to raise tough questions about legislation before the Senate. She rose to become chairman of the Senate Banking and Commerce Committee, a position that allowed her to advocate on behalf of Valley agriculture.

She also tirelessly shepherded construction of Highway 41 in Fresno, which she considered her proudest accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 50TH BIRTHDAY OF ELLEN RATNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

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

Whereas, Ellen Ratner was born August 28, 1951 and will be celebrating her 50th year surrounded by admiring friends and family; and,

Whereas, Ellen has much to be proud of as she reflects on her accomplishments and anticipates her future endeavors; and,

Whereas, Ellen has achieved respect and notoriety among Presidents, Members of Congress, and foreign leaders as she has successfully navigated and illuminated the ever changing tide of American politics; and,

Whereas, Ellen is also an accomplished writer, authoring “The Other Side of the Family: A Book for Recovery from Abuse, Incest, and Neglect” as well as “101 Ways to Get Your Progressive Ideas on Talk Radio”; and,

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ellen Ratner as she celebrates 50 years of achievement. I am honored to be a close friend with a woman whom I hold in the highest esteem.