

growth and urbanization. Governor Ridge has proclaimed the week of October 21–27, 2001 as World Population Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I would like to support the Governor in this effort by entering his proclamation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, PROCLAMATION, WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK, OCTOBER 21–27, 2001

Whereas, the 21st Century offers enormous environmental and societal challenges for governments at all levels; and

Whereas, these challenges call for innovative leadership to ensure resource conservation, protection of open space, waste prevention, sanitation management to provide quality of life. These challenges are inextricably linked to patterns of considerable demographic change; and

Whereas, world population is projected to increase by almost 80 million per year with 98 percent of population growth predicted to occur in the least developed countries of the world. This growth can lead to disease, hunger and starvation; and

Whereas, demographic problems are not limited to the under developed nations. These problems are also a reality in the United States in other industrialized nations.

Therefore, I, Tom Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 21–27, 2001, as World Population Awareness Week in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to reflect upon these challenges and seek rational, humanitarian and community-based solutions.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Government, at the City of Harrisburg on this eleventh day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and one of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

Tom Ridge, Governor.

HONORING HOLY TRINITY
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church for their 101st anniversary. Holy Trinity Church has been a cornerstone of Fresno's Armenian community since its inception in 1900.

For over 100 years, the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church has served as the spiritual, cultural, and social landmark for Armenians throughout Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley.

Armenian Apostolic Church services were held in Fresno as early as 1895 in a rented hall by the Rev. Aharon Melkonian, who had arrived from Erzerum 1 year earlier. As the parish grew so did the need for a church building. Construction began soon after the church held a general meeting on February 25, 1900, at which a board of trustees was elected. Then, on March 2, 1900, a building committee was appointed and it was decided that the church would be named Holy Trinity.

The foundation of the church was blessed on April 1, 1900, and on October 14, 1900,

the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church was consecrated by the Primate of the Armenian Diocese, Rev. Bishop Hovsep Sarajian. It was the second Armenian Apostolic Church in the United States.

In the beginning many Armenians found themselves in a strange new land and turned to the church for support. Still today, those who are no longer strangers to this country continue to view the church as their focal point for spiritual guidance, thus enabling the church and its members to withstand the test of time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church on the occasion of the 101st anniversary celebration. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church on this special day of recognition.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HARRY
THOMPSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Harry Thompson, a national hero who gave his life to save many others during the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Captain Thompson, a long-time court officer, was a resident of Parkchester in the Bronx for over 30 years. "Selfless" is usually the first word to come to the lips of those neighbors and coworkers asked to describe Captain Thompson. They were saddened, but not surprised, to learn that his gallantry and dedication to helping others led him to save the lives of 150 people on that fateful morning in September.

We are all aware that on that morning, heroes abounded and many came from unlikely sources. Mr. Speaker, anyone who knew Captain Thompson considered him the most likely source of heroism. His youngest son, Raahsaan, explained that when he heard of the tragedy, he just assumed that his father was there "helping out." He took for granted that his father was there guiding others to safety while putting himself in harm's way. Captain Thompson was not a fireman or a police officer, yet he felt a call to duty not unlike those brave men and women and he went into a building that people were desperately trying to escape simply because he knew that he could help.

Captain Thompson's two sons say that their father took great pride in the fact that he had climbed the ranks to make Captain, a position that made him responsible for training court officers. Captain Thompson ingrained the value and necessity of hard work into his two sons who both went on to obtain college degrees and pursue successful careers. Both sons recall their father constantly helping people out, whether it was physically supporting an elderly or debilitated person in some task or running an errand for a busy neighbor. I want Raahsaan and Michael Thompson to know that we realize that their father did not come home that day so that 150 other fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, sisters, and brothers could.

Mr. Speaker, we lost so many in such a short time on the morning of September 11, it would be difficult for Congress to mourn and honor each individual life. However, I must ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Captain Thompson, he sacrificed his life in order to save others, not because it was his job, but because it was his nature.

"DEATH OF AN INNOCENT" BY
ELISABETH CERCEK

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in light of the sobering events that took place on September 11, now more than ever, the young people of this country must remain vigilant, accountable for the actions taken in everyday life. One young American in particular realizes the importance of accountability and expresses these convictions in a poem she has written entitled, *Death of an Innocent*. Elisabeth Cercek of Ocala, FL, deposits the reader amid the chaos of a drunk driving accident. A young girl's life slowly ebbs away as the drunk driver can do nothing but "stare." With violent realism, Elisabeth brings us into the sorrowful world that thousands of Americans face each year when their loved ones are taken from them by alcohol related accidents. I applaud Elisabeth's steadfast resolve in her fight against drunk driving, and with that Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD her poem "Death of an Innocent."

DEATH OF AN INNOCENT

I went to a party, Mom.
I remembered what you said.
You told me not to drink, Mom.
So I drank soda instead.
I really felt proud inside, Mom.
The way you said I would.
I didn't drink and drive, Mom.
Even though the others said I should.
I know I did the right thing, Mom.
I know you are always right.
Now the party is finally ending, Mom,
As everyone is driving out of sight,
As I got into my car, Mom,
I knew I'd get home in one piece.
Because of the way you raised me,
So responsible and sweet.
I started to drive away, Mom,
But as I pulled out into the road,
The other car didn't see me. Mom,
And hit me like a load.
As I lay there on the pavement, Mom.
I hear the policeman say,
"The other guy is drunk," Mom.
And now I'm the one who will pay.
I'm lying here dying, Mom.
I wish you'd get here soon.
How could this happen to me, Mom?
My life just burst like a balloon.
There is blood all around me, Mom.
And most of it is mine.
I hear the medic say, Mom.
I'll die in a short time.
I just wanted to tell you, Mom.
I swear I didn't drink,
It was the others, Mom.
The others didn't think.
He was probably at the same party as I.
The only difference is, he drank