

Richard Christmas of Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Christmas has been writing letters for over forty years to government officials in an attempt to set aside a day dedicated to space exploration. Over the years his letter writing campaign has payed great dividends. Ten Michigan cities, sixteen cities in other states, and a few states have dedicated a day, and sometimes a week for space exploration.

Mr. Christmas has always had an interest in space ever since he was a young boy. However, due to a severe accident he was forced to put his space ambitions on hold. After his recovery he started to write letters to government officials. At first there were few replies but as the United States Space Program gained momentum so did his letter-writing campaign. He has received several letters from mayors and governors commending him on his continuous effort and dedication to space exploration.

Today, Mr. Christmas wants more cities to become involved with making space exploration a national holiday. With the National Air and Space Museum's 25th anniversary around the corner, this would be a perfect time to promote Space Day across the country and I encourage my colleagues to support the efforts of my civic-minded constituent, Mr. Richard Christmas.

HONORING PAUL POLO FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Connecticut business leader and my dear friend, Paul Polo, who has been honored by the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven with their 12th Annual Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven honors members of Connecticut's Italian American community for their service and dedication. The Distinguished Service Award is a reflection of their commitment to the Society and to it's mission—preserving the culture and heritage of Italian-Americans. Throughout his life, Paul has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service in both his professional and philanthropic efforts.

Paul's contributions to the Italian-American community are innumerable. For over four decades, Paul has been a member of the Order Sons of Italy in America, serving as president of the nation's largest and oldest Italian American organization for two years. Under his leadership, the organization raised millions of dollars that was contributed to education, medical research, and social awareness issues. Paul now serves as the president of the Sons of Italy Foundation, where he has again played a crucial role in fund-raising efforts on behalf of a variety of service organizations. In addition to his work on the national stage, Paul is also involved in several organizations in Connecticut. A member of the

Knights of Columbus, Elks, Mount Carmel Society, the Chamber of Commerce, and as an organizational representative of the American Society of Association Executives, Paul has dedicated much of his life to making a real difference in the lives of others.

An avid political activist, Paul has long been a figure in Washington as well as Connecticut. In 1991, Paul met with former President Bush as a representative from the Order Sons of Italy in America during an Oval Office meeting to discuss initiatives for social equality. In addition, he served on President Bush's policy round table. Former President Bill Clinton named Paul an alternate delegate to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Currently serving as the chairman of this year's Democratic National Convention and co-vice chairman of the Italian American Democratic Leadership Council—an organization which he helped to establish—Paul remains an active participant in public affairs.

As a respected business leader, volunteer, an political activist, Paul has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut. His commitment and dedication has gone a long way to enrich our communities and strengthen the bonds we share. It is with great pride that I rise today to join his children, Paul Jr., Daniel and Michael; grandchildren, Daniel Jr., Anthony, Philip, Nicole and Emily; family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere appreciation and congratulations to Paul Polo for his outstanding service to Connecticut and our great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote 85, on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. Con. Res. 83, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, I would have voted "nay." Rollcall vote 86, on H.R. 428, concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, I would have voted "yea."

COMMEMORATING THE 2600TH
BIRTHDAY OF LORD MAHAVIR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to praise the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Vajpayee, in declaring this year as the year of nonviolence. April 6 commemorates the 2600th birthday of the greatest prophet of Jainism, Lord Mahavir.

Jainism is a beautiful religion originating in India over two millennia ago, built on the principles of nonviolence, working on the self, and realization of multiplicity of truth through our

varying perspectives of life. Lord Mahavir worked tirelessly all his life until he reached Nirvana, and then embarked barefoot to spread his message of truth across the great nation of India.

Lord Mahavir practiced and preached environmental protection to safeguard trees, plants and animals for the living. The observation of the nonviolent practices of the Jainis was a major influence on the philosophy of the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. The same principles of nonviolence and respect for life were practiced more recently by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the United States, as he led the struggle for civil rights for all Americans.

Mahavir's principles are extremely important today as well. Mahavir or The Great Soul taught us liberation of soul by right knowledge, right faith and right conduct. We must all bring this into our lives to make this world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

April 6th marks the beginning of pioneering celebrations throughout the world for nonviolence, and thus I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the year 2001 as the year of nonviolence worldwide.

LETTER CARRIERS DELIVER HOPE
TO FAMILIES IN NEED

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 12, 2001, the largest one-day food drive in the country will take place. Letter carriers from across the nation will join together and collect nonperishable food items from their customers and the supplies will be taken to food pantries for distribution. In Milwaukee, last year's food drive benefited the community by providing a total of over 376,000 pounds of donations for more than 100 local food operations.

These contributions come at a critical time when donations to food pantries traditionally fall. During the summer months, demand for food to feed school-aged children typically peaks as access to school breakfast and lunch programs is restricted. Students suffer as their parents struggle to provide well-balanced meals. It is because of this that the National Letter Carriers Food Drive is so important to the health of our communities.

This project has been made possible by the generous sponsorship and efforts of the National Association of Letter Carriers, U.S. Postal Service, AFL-CIO, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Covenant Healthcare, and Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to ask that my colleagues lend their support to the letter carriers' food drives in their own hometowns and districts. To my neighbors in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, I ask that they look deep in their hearts and pick up a few extra non-perishable items while doing their weekly shopping. As all food collected remains in the community, these essential donations will benefit those that we work and live with.

Together we can make a difference in the fight against food shortage. May 12, 2001, the

National Letter Carriers' Food Drive provides a practical step in the march to stamp out hunger.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU RAYNES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mary Lou Raynes, who will retire from Central Missouri State University on July 31, 2001, after more than 31 years of devoted service to the Army ROTC Fighting Mules Battalion.

Mrs. Raynes began her service to the Fighting Mules Battalion in August of 1969. During her first decade at CMSU, she served as the university-hired secretary of the department. Later, she was promoted to government service, spending over 20 years as the department's Military Personnel Technician.

Mrs. Raynes has continually gone above and beyond the call of duty. She has received numerous cash awards, two consecutive Annual Formal Inspections with laudatory ratings and received commendation from Cadet Command for excellence on six different occasions. She is continually cited as the "subject matter expert" in Cadet Personnel Management and has been praised many times for "far exceeding the standards expected of a civil service employee." Mrs. Raynes has been a loyal ally of the ROTC Fighting Mules Battalion, even when the group was severely shorthanded in both instructors and administrative support.

On top of her overwhelming support to Central Missouri State University's Army ROTC program, Mrs. Raynes has been successful in other areas. She was recognized as the Warrensburg, Missouri, American Business Woman of the Year. She was also commended for organizing the community Christmas Store and the radio show KOKO Expo Home Show.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Lou Raynes' passion for excellence in Central Missouri State University's Army ROTC has made a difference in the lives of students and teachers. I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to her outstanding service to the Army ROTC Fighting Mules Battalion.

TRIBUTE TO MATTIE M.
HOLLIMAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding woman who did so much in our community to help those who are less fortunate. If only there were more people like Mattie M. Holliman; then this world would be a better place. I am saddened to report that Mattie passed away on March 9 after a brief illness. This lady, known as "Mother Holliman" in our community, leaves behind an outstanding legacy.

During her 79 years, Mattie was a tireless worker who looked out for others who were homeless, hungry or unemployed. Sitting still was a concept that was unknown to Mattie. If there was a community issue to be addressed then Mattie would organize a community meeting with local officials to discuss the issues. She had a special way of bringing people together to solve problems. She was an organizer with an empathetic soul, and she was as much at home with her Mayor or Senator as she was with the homeless person sleeping under the freeway.

For 16 years she worked as a certified social worker at the Sheldon Complex. But her work didn't stop when she turned off the lights and closed the door at the office. Mattie was always doing something to help somebody or some cause. In addition to her job at the Sheldon Complex, she was the founder of two grassroots organizations, Community Volunteers Agency and the Men's Supportive Task Force.

Mattie's dedication and work did not go unnoticed in our community, which is evident by the numerous awards she received for her efforts in community service. Among her many honors were the United Way's Volunteer of the Year Award, YWCA Tribute, Giants Award, NAACP Award, and in 1993 she was recognized by President Clinton for being the first inductee into the Creative Communications Centres Women's Hall of Fame.

All of us who knew Mattie Holliman are thankful for the opportunity to have shared in her life. Her leadership, thoughtfulness, and caring ways will be missed by those who had the privilege of knowing her. She was a remarkable woman with a heart of gold who did so much for so many during her lifetime.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD
RUBENSTEIN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the extraordinary talent and civic contributions of Howard J. Rubenstein, who will be honored on Sunday at the Fifth Annual Heritage Dinner of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Rubenstein was dubbed by Newsweek Magazine as the "Dean of Damage Control." That praise is indeed appropriate because Howard is one of America's foremost public relations consultants. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he later finished first in his class in the night school division at St. John's University School of Law, and later was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree from the University. Howard founded his public relations agency in 1954 and ran it from his parents' kitchen table until his mother refused to answer the family phone, "Rubenstein and Associates." Today his firm is one of the nation's largest and best-known independent public relations agencies with a staff of more than 190 people.

Mr. Speaker, the Museum of Jewish Heritage—a Living Memorial to the Holocaust, opened to the public in 1997. Overlooking the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, its mission is to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the 20th century Jewish experience before, during and after the Holocaust. The Museum contains more than 2,000 photographs, 800 artifacts, and 24 original documentary films. The Museum's core exhibition combines archival material with modern media to provide a thoughtful and moving chronicle of history, keeping the memory of the past alive and offering hope for the future.

Howard Rubenstein is being honored by the Museum of Jewish Heritage for his extraordinary commitment to public service. He has served as a member of numerous civic and philanthropic organizations, and currently sits on the Executive Committee of the Association for a Better New York. He is a trustee of the Police Athletic League, the Central Park Conservancy, and the Inner City Scholarship Fund of the Archdiocese of New York. He is Vice Chairman of the new York State-New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission and is a special advisor to the New York City Commission on the Status of Women. Howard has served on the Mayor's Committee on Business and Economic Development for Mayors Beame, Dinkins, and Giuliani, and he is a member of the board of directors of the Center for Democracy here in Washington, D.C. he also served as a consultant to the United States Foreign Claims Settlement Commission and, as an attorney, he was assistant counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, one particular episode stands out in my reflection upon Howard Rubenstein's service to his community. In 1991, the Brooklyn community of Crown Heights exploded in a chain reaction of violence, riots, and ever mounting divisions between the area's African-American and Hasidic Jewish populations. These disputes escalated, eventually dividing the city and receiving national attention. Responding to a request for his assistance from then Mayor David Dinkins, Howard undertook the difficult task of diffusing the tensions between the African-American and Jewish communities. He organized a "Peace Conference" in Crown Heights and then planned a "Neighbor to Neighbor" event at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. There he screened the movie, "The Liberators", a film depicting the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp by African-American soldiers, to an audience of over 1300 Jews and African-Americans. The showing was broadcast live on New York television, while simultaneously 500 "Neighbor to Neighbor" meetings were held in homes and community centers around the City. Howard's efforts were critical to defusing tensions as well as restoring civility and understanding in Crown Heights. I believe that this efforts speak volumes about the character and commitment of this outstanding man.

Mr. Speaker, in an era when business leaders all too often fail to demonstrate a devotion to the needs of our society, Howard Rubenstein is a model for all of us to emulate. I invite my colleagues to join me in extending warmest congratulations and sincere appreciation to Howard J. Rubenstein on this special occasion.