

Mark E. Goldberg Memorial Award was established in memory of Mark E. Goldberg and his strong devotion to the Jewish community.

Marcel is a founding partner in the law firm of Groen, Laveson, Goldberg & Rubenstone in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. He is extremely active in his community as a former chairman of the Bucks County International Trade Council, a board member of the Bucks County Male Teen Conference, and he was former counsel to the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. Marcel has served as a special counsel to numerous municipalities and their agencies.

Marcel has long been an active supporter of the Democratic party. He is the Chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Committee and is a member of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee. He was also the former Finance Chairman of the Bucks County Democratic Committee.

Marcel has dedicated much time and efforts to Jewish causes. He is an officer of the board of Beth Shalom Congregation, served as past-president of the Philadelphia ORT and the Bucks County Jewish National Fund, and a former vice president and board member of the Philadelphia Solomon Schechter Day School.

Marcel and his wife Bernice are the proud parents of four children: Marlon, Jennifer, Rachel, and Justin. Their family also includes son-in-law Ami Dolev and future son-in-law, Elad Yagur.

Marcel is my close friend. He is a good man committed to public service and civic leadership. I am pleased to congratulate Marcel for this distinguished award.

THE SAVINGS FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the last decade has seen some of the greatest prosperity in American history. This has provided new opportunities not only for the savvy Wall Street investor, but also for those who are gainfully employed for the first time. And while some economic indicators are down a bit, we still have a great opportunity to help those who once had few opportunities. We have the chance to help them find new ways to gain a permanent foothold in the financial mainstream.

Today, Congressman Charlie Stenholm and 33 other bipartisan cosponsors are joining me to re-introduce the Savings For Working Families Act. This legislation will provide tax credits to banks providing matching funds for Individual Development Account (IDA) savings. IDAs are savings accounts that may be used for education, housing, or to start a small business.

IDAs are a proven success in my home state of Pennsylvania. For example, Jacqui Fulton, a 66-year-old woman from Philadelphia told the Philadelphia Daily News recently that when she used to get depressed about her circumstances, she would raid the cookie jar

where she kept her money and go buy herself a manicure. It made her feel better for a short time. But now, she goes to the bank every week and deposits another twenty dollars into her IDA account. She now says that she "almost skips to the bank"—it makes her feel so good. Jacqui started saving in her IDA account in July of 1997. She saved over 12 hundred dollars and received her saving match of six hundred dollars in August of 1999. She used the money to expand a talent search business called Direction and Exposure.

She says, "This is one of the smart moves I made to have more money to invest in my business." She feels good about herself, and she's saving money to make a dream come true. And she's no longer raiding her cookie jar.

Jacqui's is just one success story among many. This program is working in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has one of the largest IDA programs in the country. The Commonwealth has appropriated \$4.5 million dollars to the program to date, and another \$1.5 million is included in this year's budget. Right now, there are 2584 contracted accounts divided among 15 financial institutions around the state. At the end of last year, IDA investors in Pennsylvania had saved almost three-quarters of a million dollars.

IDAs are a proven success in many other states too. But they are under utilized. Where they have been made available, they have worked. They are meant to be a springboard to continued prosperity. Making higher education possible makes prosperity possible. Helping people start small businesses makes prosperity possible. But without hope for the future will be very soon. I look forward to working with the President, House Leadership, and all of the cosponsors of this legislation to make this dream come true.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER'S DAY GALA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great institution that is serving the needs of families in my district and the entire Delaware Valley.

For the past two years, the Father's Day Gala Program Committee, led by Karen Burton, has honored that most important of all men, the father. As Father's Day approaches, all of us are compelled to think of our fathers and the role they played in our lives. Those of us who are privileged to have had the support of strong fathers know that our paths were made easier by the love, the advice, the nurturing and the discipline they gave us. Those who have not had that privilege know well the void that lack left in their lives.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we don't often take the time to honor our fathers, or step fathers. Most Dads are too busy being Dads to worry about that. But it is wonderful that a group of citizens would come together as volunteers to say thank you to all the fathers out there. I must say that I am especially proud of

this gala, since so much of the work on this event was done by Karen Burton, who was born and raised in my district. Ms. Burton, her mother Sara, and her entire family have worked tirelessly to make my district a better place. This event is in keeping with their family tradition.

And so, to all the fathers at the Gala, and to all the women and children who love them, I say Happy Father's Day and keep up the good work.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Poverty Reduction Act. Senator CHARLES SCHUMER is introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

During the welfare debate of 1995-96, I had concerns that too much emphasis was placed on kicking people off of welfare rolls rather than reducing poverty. Unfortunately, my concerns—and those of several of my colleagues and administration officials who quit their jobs in protest of welfare reform's passage in 1996—proved accurate.

The emphasis on reducing welfare caseloads has caused welfare caseloads to drop faster than the poverty rate. From 1996-99, the number of people receiving welfare dropped 41 percent, while child poverty was reduced only 16.3 percent in the same period. As a result, almost one in six children (12 million) continue to live in poverty.

Child poverty can have devastating impacts that last a lifetime. Studies show that poverty has harmful affects on children's cognitive ability and school performance and can contribute to early sexual activity and pregnancy, crime and incarceration, and unemployment.

To encourage states to use funds to improve the well-being of our nation's children, this bill amends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program by making reducing child poverty an explicit goal of the welfare law and creating a \$150 million high performance bonus grant to states that reduce child poverty.

To receive this new TANF high performance bonus, states would have to reduce their child poverty rate from the previous year's poverty rate. To ensure that states sustain their efforts to reduce child poverty, the high performance bonus is only awarded to states whose most recent child poverty rate does not exceed their lowest poverty rate since the beginning of this bonus program.

I find it even more troubling that almost 5 million children live in extreme poverty in which their families' incomes are less than 50 percent of poverty (\$8,731.50 annually for a family of four, or just \$728 a month). This bill attempts to help those especially needy children by only rewarding states that reduce poverty for children at all levels of need.

Thus, the high performance bonus is only given to states that both reduce the overall poverty rate and prevent any increase the percentage of poor children living in extreme poverty.