

On February 9, a delegation from the Jerusalem MDA—Magen David Adom means Red Star of David—is scheduled to visit New York as part of a continuing exchange between the societies, to learn from the work undertaken by the New York Red Cross, according to officials from the New York chapter. In late November the New Yorkers journeyed to Israel, where they met with MDA officials in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and visited a settlement to observe how the MDA responds to, and prepares for, emergency situations. At the end of the trip, members of the New York and Jerusalem groups signed a memorandum of understanding making the cooperation official.

One of the benefits of that cooperation is increased training in responding to terrorist attacks, the CEO of the American Red Cross in Greater New York, Terry Bischoff, said.

"Certainly we believe that given issues Israel has unfortunately had to deal with around disasters and terrorism responses, there are things we can learn from them to enhance our response capability," she said. In exchange, Ms. Bischoff said, the Americans are more experienced in providing mental-health and other support services to victims of terrorist attacks and other disasters, an expertise the Israelis hoped to learn from in dealing with the aftermath of suicide bombings and other attacks.

The New York-Jerusalem cooperation "really builds on a 50-year history . . . the American Red Cross has always been supportive of bringing the MDA into the Red Cross movement," Ms. Bischoff said. While the MDA is not an official voting member of the international federation, Israel's national Red Cross organization enjoys bilateral friendship agreements with several other countries, including France and Bulgaria in addition to America. Ms. Bischoff said those agreements—and greater working relationships between the MDA and other nations' Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations—are helpful to the cause of getting Israel fully recognized by the international Red Cross apparatus.

For its part, Ms. Bischoff added, the American Red Cross signed a friendship agreement with the MDA in 2002 and has withheld \$25 million in dues from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies since 2000. It has continued, however, to make contributions to the field work of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The director of the international department of Magen David Adom, Yonatan Yagodovsky, said he did not see the lack of formal international recognition as a major stumbling block to the MDA's work. "This is a political obstacle that will be overcome," Mr. Yagodovsky said.

He said that while the MDA still hopes to receive official recognition, "there aren't any clouds above the relationship between Magen David Adom and the international movement." Mr. Yagodovsky cited the MDA's recent tsunami-relief work alongside other Red Cross societies as an example.

Magen David Adom was established in 1930 and was denied admission to the international Red Cross community by one vote in 1949, a year after Israel declared statehood.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in recognizing the American Red Cross in Greater New York for its forward-thinking agreement with Jerusalem Magen David Adom. It is my hope that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies will soon join its New York chapter and officially recognize Magen David Adom as a full member of the organization.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK GOMEZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a very special young man, Mark Gomez, who recently passed away at age 18. Mark and his parents, Mona and Rudy Gomez, impacted my life very deeply along with many of my staff. Mark was a quietly determined young man who never let his devastating diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy interfere with his desire to attend school or excel in his classes. Neither did his parents, Mona and Rudy.

When he could not attend public school on his own, they adjusted their work schedules (as U.S. Postal Service employees) so that one of them, usually Rudy, could serve as his attendant. Just as remarkably, Mark loved trains. He rode them and drew beautifully detailed pictures of them. One of his pictures hangs in the Santa Barbara Amtrak Station. Just last year, he fulfilled his longtime dream of circumnavigating the United States by train.

I first met the Gomez family when Mark enrolled in kindergarten at Peabody Charter School in Santa Barbara. I was the school nurse. From the first, making it through the day was a challenge. As his muscles grew weaker and his dependence became more acute, his determination seemed to grow. His parents hosted a fundraiser for the Duchenne Parent Project and family and friends came from far and wide.

When I first ran for public office, Mark, Rudy and Mona were super volunteers. We are among those who mourn his passing and are touched by his legacy. So are students, family and staff at Peabody Charter, La Colina Jr. High and Dos Pueblos High School where Mark had just begun his senior year.

Mark's steady determination and positive outlook on life, despite his challenges, reminds all of us to be strong in the face of adversity. His spirit and passion live on through his artwork, and his enthusiasm for life will always be remembered. I pledge to Mark's parents to dedicate my efforts to combat Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the memory of their son.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN DOYLE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen Doyle of Petaluma, California, who is retiring from a long and illustrious career as a small business owner and community advocate. Kathleen and Maggie, her 13-year-old pet schnauzer, will soon be moving to a new home in Arlington, South Dakota to live closer to her immediate family.

A professional CPA, Kathleen leaves behind the accounting firm she established as well as many friends and associates who will miss her expertise, civic experience, and companionship. She has just completed a decade on the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees where she was relied upon for tracking the budget for other Board members.

An active participant in the fabric of Petaluma's civic life, Kathleen was a founding member of the Petaluma Woman's Club II and served on the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce Board (as President), the Sonoma County Civil Service Commission, the Petaluma Planning Commission, The Petaluma chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club (as President), and the Petaluma Valley Hospital Foundation. She was also treasurer for the Woolsey For Congress campaign.

Kathleen's new home in a town of 900 will be near her two sisters and their families. She also plans to spend time traveling, perhaps to escape the below-zero temperatures of the Arlington winters.

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen Doyle has been an inspiration to many in the Petaluma community. It is hard to imagine the city without her. However, we know that Petaluma's loss will be Arlington's gain. Good luck to Kathleen in her new life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, I was unable to be present during consideration of H.R. 54, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide reasonable standards for congressional gold medals. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the Crowley amendment No. 2 (rollcall 10); "no" on the Crowley amendment No. 3 (rollcall 11); "nay" on the Motion to Re-commit with Instructions (rollcall 12); and "aye" on passage of H.R. 54 (rollcall 13).

RECOGNIZING RONNIE GAGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Ronnie Gage for his commitment to the people and City of Lewisville, Texas. Mr. Gage, Director of Athletics for Lewisville Independent School District, was recently selected as "Citizen of the Year."

The honor and dedication of Mr. Gage to his community should serve as an example to us all. His service extends from aiding and guiding students in their pursuit of higher education, to overseeing a "Fill-the-Helmet" fundraising drive for an injured player. Mr. Gage's efforts to promote Lewisville continue today as he serves as President of the Texas High