those who died for our country are never forgotten, and that we never forget that the price for democracy is eternal vigilance.

Today, I join those who have devoted their lives to defending our country in honoring Maj. Hal Geer with the Military Order of the World Wars.

HONORING GILBERT AND SALLY KERLIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in praise of two people who for more than 50 years have worked in environmental and community causes. Gil and Sally Kerlin have both been important elements in the cultural and social life of Riverdale.

As a volunteer Gil Kerlin led the Riverdale Community Planning Association in the early 1950's to propel the rezoning of the northwest Bronx and spearhead the creation of the Natural Area District. He was a founder of Wave Hill, a prototype of preservation in the New York City area and chairman of its board until 1991. He was active in establishing the Riverdale Historic District and has chaired the Riverdale Nature Preservancy which is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Riverdale.

Mr. Kerlin is a graduate of Harvard University, Trinity College in Cambridge, England, and Harvard Law School. Sally Kerlin is a graduate of Radcliffe College and attended the Bank Street College of Education. She is a member of the Society of Women Geographers and created a series of maps used in teaching the relationships between the U.S. topography and man's use of it. She also worked on the creation of Wave Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerlin are being honored by the Riverdale Senior Services, an organization dedicated to working with seniors and celebrating its 23d anniversary. This wonderful organization and this marvelous couple epitomize the contribution of caring people for their neighborhood. They deserve our praise for all the good work they have done to improve life in their community.

A TRIBUTE TO MY GOOD FRIENDS TINA AND GARTH COONCE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding couple from my hometown, Marion, IL. Tina and Garth Coonce are wonderful people who are working in the service of the Lord. They are the founders and president of the Tri-State Christian Television Broadcast station, and this year they are celebrating their 20th anniversary on the air.

I have had the pleasure of being a guest on their show from time to time and have enjoyed sharing with many viewers the role of spirituality in the public arena. I was able to share the lessons I have learned as an elected official and as a cofounder of a group known as Faith in Politics.

The good Lord has given Garth many talents. the is an excellent writer and is the renowned author of ''How To Keep Your Life in Focus.'' Garth also is quite a scholar and has earned a bachelor of science in business administration, a masters of business administration, a doctorate in humanities, and an honorary doctorate of divinity. To say the least, Garth is a learned man.

Mr. Speaker, Garth's past corporate experience has helped him run the hugely successful Christian Radio Broadcast Flagship. He has a marketing background and has managed an accounting practice, in addition to serving on the International Task Force for Artificial Sweeteners, the National Association of Accountants, the Chemical Management Advisory Board, and the National Religious Broadcasters. He is also a U.S. Air Force veteran and an multiengine pilot with instrument rating.

Garth's family has always been this backbone. His wife, Christina, an integral part of Garth's ministry, has been this partner through every endeavor and also ministers as a noted Christian leader herself. Garth has been known to say, ''One of my great sources of joy is the tremendous family God has given me.'' His eldest daughter, Victoria, and son-in-law, Curt Clark, are both proud alumni of Oral Roberts University. Victoria now is an instructor of communications, while Curt is a successful executive with Pepsi Corp. His younger daughter, Julie, also a graduate of Oral Roberts University, married Thomas Connor Nolan III, who is now executive director of the Tri-State Christian Television Broadcast station.

Mr. Speaker, the Coonce's are an inspiration. They are a rare family that does not feel ashamed to show their faith to others and to witness the good news of Christ. Through their Christian Television Broadcast station they have touched thousands of viewers who are in need of the Gospel, and I applaud them for their outstanding efforts. God speed.

IN HONOR OF THE FRITZ REUTER ALTENHEIM LIFE CARE COMMUNITY: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH JERSEY AREA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Fritz Reuter Altenheim Life Care Community on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. For 100 years, this organization has been committed to the notion that our aged population deserves the help of our whole community. This momentous occasion will be celebrated at a gala dinner dance on Sunday June 1, 1997, in the grand ballroom of Schuetzen Park, in North Bergen, NJ.

Founded in 1897 as a continuous care retirement community, the Fritz Reuter Altenheim home has impacted the lives of many. Originally designed to accommodate aging German immigrants, the home contained a chapel. furnished living quarters, a dining room, and a kitchen. The cornerstone of the Fritz Reuter Altenheim home was laid in 1898 and 1 year later, on June 15, 1889, the first occupants moved in.

Due to dedicated and caring individuals, the Fritz Reuter Altenheim home has expanded tremendously, now housing a fully staffed nursing unit, a residential facility, as well as independent living apartments, with all facilities open to all seniors.

Since its incorporation as a nonprofit organization in 1897, it has been funded in large part by donations, voluntary efforts, and bequests. It is kindness and selflessness that keeps this home alive and enables it to grow.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Fritz Reuter Altenheim Life Care Community for its outstanding work and commitment. I applaud their expansion of care to the seniors in my district. I expect that the Fritz Reuter Altenheim staff and administrators will continue to serve the community in the same noble fashion for another 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO AL GRIMSON

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Mr. Al Grimson as he retires from his job as accounting manager from the Macomb County Finance Department. His colleagues will honor him with a dinner and reception at the end of this month.

For 23 years, Al has been a dedicated and committed accountant for Macomb County. In 1974, Al began working as an auditor for Macomb County Community Mental Health. Al later went on to serve Macomb County in a variety of positions. He became the administrative assistant for the budget and finance department, an audit officer for the internal audit department before becoming the accounting manager. His participation in accounting associations, his background, and experience, made him a valuable member and leader in the financial departments within Macomb County.

In an era when community service has become so important, Al is a shining example of a dedicated volunteer. As a Berville Lion and a member of the Elks Club, Al has been committed to improving the lives of people throughout the community. He has also been on the Selfridge base community council, Fraternal Order of Police, and a marine safety officer. As a father, he also knows how important children are and became a football and little league coach. Al has touched the lives of many people in the community through his participation in so many activities.

Over the years, Al's experience, leadership, and knowledge have made him an incredible asset to Macomb County and Macomb County's Finance Department. I would like to thank Al for all of his contributions and wish him and his family all of the best.