teach students about civic responsibility and provide them with the tools they need to build a real political agenda. This month the Project will convene an international telecommunications event entitled ''A Youth Urban Agenda in the New Millennium.'' The event will be held in Detroit, Michigan with the participation of students and teachers from one hundred twenty middle schools, high schools, adult education programs and post-secondary institutions in Southeast Michigan. They will be linked with teachers and students from major U.S. and non-U.S. cities.

In an era when so many people have become disillusioned with the political process and have stopped participating, it is vitally important that we energize our young people to become involved. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and commend Wayne State University and the Youth Urban Agenda/Civil Literacy Project for it's leadership and vision in preparing young people to fully participate in the political process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday October 2, 2000, and as a result, missed roll call votes 503 through 505. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on roll call vote 503, ''yes'' on roll call vote 504, and ''yes'' on roll call vote 505.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 503, H.R. 4049, the Privacy Commission Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yes''. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 504, H.R. 4147, the Stop Material Unsuitable for Teens Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea''. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 505, H.R. 3088, the Victims of Rape Health Protection Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea''.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On H.R. 4049 (rollcall No. 503), to establish the Commission for the Comprehensive Study of Privacy Protection, introduced by the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. HUTCHINSON, I would have voted ''Nay''

On H.R. 4147 (rollcall No. 504), to amend Title 18 United States Code, to increase the age of persons considered to be minors for the purposes of the prohibition on transporting obscene materials to minors, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. TANCREDO, I would have voted ''Yea''.

On H.R. 3088 (rollcall No. 505), to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide additional protections to victims of rape, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. WELDON, I would have voted ''Yea''.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. BALZANO

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I make special note of a very important person who has served the State of New Jersey, the City of Camden, and the Delaware River port community for 50 years.

Mr. Joseph A. Balzano, or Joe as we call him, serves as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the South Jersey Port Commission, Port of Camden. The South Jersey Port Commission hired Joe in 1951 as an equipment operator. He quickly moved into management, serving as the Port Operations Manager from 1961 to 1982, then as Deputy Director of the Commission from 1982 to 1989, and finally as Executive Director and CEO since 1989. On August 22, 2000, he began his 50th year working for the Port of Camden.

My friend Joe has had a very interesting career with many highlights. One of these highlights was his integral role in helping to bring the retired Battleship USS *New Jersey* (BB–62) to its namesake home of New Jersey, and to its final resting place as a national museum docked in the Port of Camden.

Joe was born and raised, attended school, married and raised his family in the City of Camden. He has received many honors and awards over the years—too many to list here—and is among the best senior executives in the maritime industry.

The Port of Camden is thankful that Joe Balzano's knowledge, wisdom, leadership and dedication have blessed New Jersey and the Delaware River port community for five decades. Moreover, we are fortunate that his presence will continue to grace the streets of Camden for years to come.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the 3rd Congressional District of New Jersey, I thank Joe Balzano for his distinguished service and dedication to the Port of Camden and to the State of New Jersey.

COMMEMORATING UNITY DAY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I commemorate Unity Day, which is being celebrated in Germany today. October 3, 2000 marks the 10th Anniversary of Germany's Reunification.

Growing up, I learned about two countries called Germany—the West and the East—an ally and an enemy. For over 40 years, this country was divided; families were separated, and most strikingly, vastly different political ideologies governed these two nations.

However, the highly dynamic 20th Century allowed the generation which witnessed the division of this great nation see it reunified on October 3, 1990. What once seemed impossible became unstoppable as the Berlin Wall opened on November 9, 1989, and streams of excited people crossed into the west. While these people were separated by geography and government, their German heritage and common memory of one country kept them together.

While the desire to reunite these two nations was strong, significant economic, political, and social challenges faced the newly united Germany. Despite these issues, the German government and her people pressed forward, refusing to look back.

Today, Germany has much to celebrate. Now united, this country has defined itself, both as a sovereign nation, and within the context of multinational institutions such as the European Union, NATO, and the United States. In addition, Germany has remained a strong ally of the United States.

As Germany celebrates the realization of freedom and democracy under one flag, let this Congress recognize and offer its congratulations on this milestone of achievement, the 10th Anniversary of German Reunification.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the German Society of Pennsylvania. Founded in 1764, it is the oldest German American organization in the new world. In celebration of its founding, the Society will hold its 236th Anniversary Ball and its annual German American Day festivities.

The first German immigrants came to the new world after being invited by William Penn to come to his colony. Ultimately, thirteen families settled in what became known as Germantown, one of Philadelphia's oldest sections of the city. These families left their homes in the Rhineland City of Krefeld and arrived in Philadelphia on October 6, 1683, a date celebrated by German Americans as the beginning of their history in the United States.

The flow of German immigrants continued and the poorest of them suffered many hardships and cruelty. As a result the Society was founded, for the express purpose of aiding these distressed immigrants. And, because of the Society's advocacy a series of measures to protect immigrants were enacted.

Today, the Society maintains its presence in the First Congressional District in its historic 1888 landmark building, which is on the national list of historic places. The Society also continues to steadfastly fulfill its mission to serve its members and those who share interests in German and German American culture, heritage and values through its presentations of educational lectures, cultural and arts programs, and seminars.