

Architecture of the church is considered "modern Roman". Three bells from the original church continue to toll in the current bell towers. The bells were named to honor St. Joseph, St. George, and Sancta Maria. The high altar remains the focal point of the church interior. The nineteen stained glass windows, magnificent rose window, Marian Shrine, and the angel bedecked gold-leaf dome serve to inspire the faithful in prayer and adoration.

Today, the Church is a tapestry of diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds while maintaining strong familial ties to their Slovenian founders. 2005 marks the 100th Anniversary and the second year of a \$1.5 million dollar restoration of St. Joseph Church.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other organizations in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

HONORING MRS. RUBY
FITZGERALD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ruby FitzGerald, a resident of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District that I am proud to represent. Mrs. FitzGerald has truly been a pillar of public service, devoting her career and herself to the betterment of our community. There are citizens who by their perseverance alone decide to make a difference, and she is certainly one.

Perhaps Mrs. FitzGerald's most significant influence on the citizens and residents of the City of Alexandria comes from her two decades of volunteer service to public safety. Mrs. FitzGerald first began volunteering at the Alexandria jail, teaching art to inmates there. Later, in 1986, Mrs. FitzGerald volunteered for the Alexandria Police Department, working in the Crime Prevention Unit. Since the Volunteer Program was formalized in 1989, Mrs. FitzGerald has donated more than 7,000 hours of service to the police department.

In her regular assignment, Mrs. FitzGerald has handled hundreds of phone calls from people requesting crime prevention tips, neighborhood safety and information about youth programs. Because of her contribution of time and knowledge, citizens and business people received helpful assistance and crime prevention officers were free to be out in the community, conducting security surveys and increasing police presence.

Mrs. FitzGerald's service was showcased in May of 2002 by United States Attorney General John Ashcroft. When Attorney General Ashcroft appeared in Alexandria to launch the "Volunteers In Police Service" (VIPS) initiative, he specifically recalled Mrs. FitzGerald's service and devotion, recognizing her volunteer work as an example for others to follow.

In addition to her exceptional service to the police department, Mrs. FitzGerald organized an annual holiday party for children in need. For years, as part of the Alexandria Crime Prevention Council, Mrs. FitzGerald collected gifts and coordinated a holiday event for the city's young people. In 2000, Frances Becker of the Carpenter's Shelter, Northern Virginia's

largest homeless shelter, wrote of Mrs. FitzGerald, "You went above and beyond with your generosity and truly made each and every child feel the love and generosity of the Christmas holiday. We are so fortunate to have angels like you." Mrs. FitzGerald has been her neighborhood's lead organizer for National Night Out since it was started. Her local neighborhood street, Summers Drive, is always one of the best organized National Night Out events held in the city. Lastly, Mrs. FitzGerald worked on the Crime Prevention Month display at Landmark Mall when the Crime Prevention Council was working on that event. The council hosted this event for several years, discontinuing it only when the mall attendance was getting low.

As if her work for the police department and children weren't enough, Mrs. FitzGerald has set up annual blood drives at police headquarters for as long as anyone can remember. She worked closely with the Red Cross and recruited dozens of donors every time.

Mrs. FitzGerald is one of those incredibly gracious and modest people who give to others for the truest of reasons, because she really, really cares. Mr. Speaker, the people of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District are losing Mrs. FitzGerald as she returns to her home state of Montana. That state is fortunate to inherit a gem of a person. We wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors, and thank her one last time for blessing our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Nos. 241, 242, 246, 248 and 250. I would have voted "no" on Rollcall Nos. 243, 244, 245, 247, and 249.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL J.
STANTON THOMPSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson, of Higginsville, MO, who will soon be retiring from the United States Navy after an outstanding 35 years of service.

On July 9, 2005, Stanton will be ending an outstanding career as a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy Reserve. Over the years, Stanton has dedicated his life to serving the American people.

Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson serves currently as the Special Assistant for Reserve Matters to the Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is credited with the integration of reserves in homeland defense and military support to civilian authori-

ties. He also serves his country as a principal advisor to the Commander for Maritime Homeland Defense.

Rear Admiral Thompson's awards include: Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star and various other service and campaign awards.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral J. Stanton Thompson has honored his country with 35 years of service. Following retirement, Stanton plans to contribute to his country and community by continuing to manage a 160-acre family farm and working at the USDA. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

OSTEOPOROSIS EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my Republican colleague, MELISSA HART, I am introducing the Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act of 2005. This bill will ensure that individuals at high risk for osteoporosis have access to screening tests for the disease. The legislation would require private insurance plans to cover bone mass measurement testing for those at risk for developing the disease.

Osteoporosis is a disease that has no symptoms and usually remains undiagnosed until a fracture occurs. Approximately 44 million Americans suffer from osteoporosis or are at risk of developing it, and 80 percent of those at risk are women. Every year, there are 1.5 million bone fractures caused by osteoporosis.

Since there is no known cure for osteoporosis, the most effective way to reduce the prevalence and cost of the disease is through prevention and early diagnosis. As a result, bone mass measurement tests are crucial to early detection because ordinary x-rays do not detect osteoporosis until the disease is so advanced that 25 to 40 percent of bone mass has been lost.

Bone mass measurement is a non-invasive, painless and reliable way to diagnose osteoporosis before costly fractures occur. By ensuring that high risk individuals have access to screening tests. The Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act will make a huge difference in defending men and women from osteoporosis.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI RICHARD A.
LEVINE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Rabbi Richard A.