

for employment and its economic benefits than this gentleman from West Virginia. And when we are talking about the effects of mining, I would suggest that there is little difference between coal mining and gold mining. The effects, whether measured in terms of employment, or in terms of the environment or cultural values, are the same.

With that noted, I have engaged in the effort to reform the Mining Law of 1872 these past many years not just for the apparent reasons—the sins of giving away the public's valuable minerals mined for free, selling off Federal lands available almost for free and providing no comprehensive Federal mining and reclamation standards. But, I continue to wage this effort because I am pro-mining, because I no longer believe that we can expect a viable hardrock mining industry to exist on public domain lands if we do not make corrections to the law. I do so because there are provisions of the existing law which impede efficient and serious mineral exploration and development. And I do so because of the unsettled political climate governing this activity, with reform if not coming in a comprehensive fashion, certainly continuing to come in a piecemeal manner.

I believe that with enough courage, and fortitude, we can continue to address the problems facing mining, and dovetail our need for energy and minerals with the necessity of protecting our environment.

For at stake in this debate over the Mining Law of 1872 is the health, welfare and environmental integrity of our people and our Federal lands. At stake is the public interest of all Americans. And at stake is the ability of the hardrock mining industry to continue to operate on public domain lands in the future, to produce those minerals that are necessary to maintain our standard of living.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JEROME CHURCH
IN THE BRONX

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Saint Jerome Church in the Bronx. On October 2, 2005 they will hold rededication ceremonies in honor of the newly renovated Church.

St. Jerome Church was founded on September 24, 1869, and primarily served the large group of Irish immigrants arriving in America during the latter half of the 19th century. In 1898, the cornerstone was laid for the building that St. Jerome Church would call home for the next hundred years. So magnificent was the edifice that to this day it is called "The Cathedral of the Bronx." The stained glass windows and beautifully painted ceilings make Saint Jerome Church truly one of the most visually stunning churches in the city.

Throughout its history, St. Jerome Church has stood fast in good times and bad as a symbol of faith. Through two World Wars, the Korean War and Vietnam, the church has watched as many of its sons and daughters bravely served their country. Those who made the ultimate sacrifice have their names inscribed on the walls of the church as a reminder of the high cost of war.

In the fifties, as Puerto Ricans and others from the Caribbean made the Bronx their home, St. Jerome Church was there to welcome them with open arms. The priests made it a priority to learn Spanish as new spirit was breathed into the surrounding neighborhood. Even today, St. Jerome Church continues its legacy of welcoming newcomers to the Bronx as Mexican immigrants have revitalized the area.

Mr. Speaker, scripture tells us in Deuteronomy 15:7: "If there is a poor man among you, one of your brothers, in any of the towns of the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand to your poor brother; but you shall freely open your hand to him, and generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks." St. Jerome Church has always striven to realize these instructions. Under the spiritual leadership of my friend, Father John Grange, over the last 26 years St. Jerome Church has grown into a powerful healing force in the Bronx, taking in Bronxites of all nationalities and providing them with food for the soul.

As the representative from the South Bronx, the poorest Congressional District in the nation, I am grateful to have a church in my community that works so hard, day in and day out, to provide for those who are in need. In an effort to provide better lives for themselves and their families, many immigrants make the Bronx their first home in the States. During those trying first few years, it is institutions like St. Jerome Church which help them manage their struggle by providing constant spiritual guidance. St. Jerome Church has in the past and continues to freely open their hand to the people of the Bronx. For 136 years of outstanding service to the people of the Bronx, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to St. Jerome Church as it is re-dedicated on October 2, 2005.

HONORING BEATRICE JOYCE
ELLINGTON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Beatrice Joyce Ellington who recently passed away on August 1, 2005.

I have known her since 1980. She was a remarkable person. In fact, if more people just acted as she did, our world would be a better place.

Joyce became the first African American woman to head the San Jose Public Library Commission in 1980. In 1974, Joyce successfully argued before the San Jose Unified School District Board and the City Council that vacant land, a valuable commodity in San Jose where a single-family home can easily cost over a half-million dollars, should be used for a library, instead of being sold. Joyce was recognized for her tenacity in pushing for the library in 2002 when the City Council was persuaded by her neighbors and the community at large to overlook the City's rule not to name a public building after a person still alive. At that time, the Empire Library was renamed to the Joyce Ellington branch library.

In addition to her accomplishments with the library, Mrs. Ellington was a founder in 1965 of the Northside Neighborhood Association, the oldest of its kind in the City of San Jose. Perhaps the greatest tribute to Joyce was her ability to gather community members of all races, creeds and religions to work together toward a common purpose in the community. The Northside community, where Joyce lived and did her service, is also one of the most diverse communities in California with neighbors, friends and families with roots in Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Mexico and elsewhere.

When I attended the service for Joyce, stories abounded of not only her community service, but also of her welcoming heart and home.

Joyce was the sort of person who, when she saw a problem simply took responsibility to be part of the solution. That's why she led the effort to establish a lighting district so that the northside neighborhood could have street lights. That's why she looked after her neighbors. It's why she cared about literacy. It wasn't enough that her own children were readers and getting a good education. She understood that it was also important for all the children in her community to love reading and books. She is most certainly a dearly missed community leader, friend and teacher. She not only taught us lessons of service, but also opened the doors for us to teach ourselves at the library so aptly named after her.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING
MS. CHRISTINA TRIPLETT ON WINNING THE RISING
UP & MOVING ON AWARD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ms. Christina Triplett has overcome adversity and hardship from a young age to become an outstanding young woman; and

Whereas, Ms. Christina Triplett was able to keep her siblings together as a family in a trying environment; and

Whereas, Ms. Christina Triplett has committed herself to helping others in similar situations cope with the ordeal and to being a positive influence to all those around her.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and associates, as well as the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating your receipt of the Rising Up & Moving On Award. You are an inspiration to us all.

JULIAN BOND AFFIRMS THAT GAY
RIGHTS ARE CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for more than 45 years, Julian Bond has provided leadership in the fight against prejudice and its terrible effects in the United States. From his early days as a student leader, to his current position as Board Chair of the NAACP,