

Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Tekeyan Cultural Society.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Kevork "George" Arslanian, whose brave heart, warm smile and fascinating life continues to educate and inspire those who know and love him well, especially his family and friends. Mr. Arslanian's life, outlined by hard work, integrity and family, personifies the phrase 'American citizen.'

The remarkable story of the young Arslanian brothers, their courageous journey and creation of new lives in America, is the story of the American immigrant, retold in a thousand languages, connecting all of humanity by the will to survive and the promise of freedom and peace. The incredible journey of citizens such as Kevork "George" Arslanian is the strength and foundation of our country. In honor of Mr. Arslanian's 100th birthday, we offer him an abundance of peace, health and happiness, and offer our gratitude to him for enriching our community and our nation. His great love for his family, community and for his beloved Armenia, transcends time and distance, serving as a bridge of goodwill, forever connecting America to Armenia.

#### TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### 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 commend Catholic Charities, an organization that is celebrating 50 years of service to the Santa Clara Valley community.

Catholic Charities strives to empower the working poor to move beyond basic subsistence to a state of meaningful, quality living by encouraging economic, familial and emotional stability. It does this by developing cultural programs, supplying educational resources about ailments affecting older adults, and providing all of its services in various languages.

While born out of Catholic gospel values, Catholic Charities serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages. The organization's mission is to create a more just and compassionate community in which people of all cultures and beliefs can fully participate and thrive. They serve a diverse population from various ethnic backgrounds including Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Mexican, Sudanese and Bosnian people. The agency works under the premise that the most effective way to affect a person is to connect with them from their personal, cultural perspective.

Catholic Charities integrates services address the multiple factors that impact one's ability to be self sufficient and stable. Because these issues have an intergenerational impact, agency programs are geared across age groups to reach entire families. Their services include older adult programs, immigrant and refugee assistance, and housing programs. The agency also offers employment, youth, financial education and behavioral health services in addition to operating neighborhood centers.

I have worked with Catholic Charities for over twenty years, and I can tell you from first-

hand experience that I am proud of the leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose dedication have built Catholic Charities into an integral part of the fabric of our local community.

#### INDUCTION OF THOMAS JAMES KATONA INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader who truly left his mark on the labor movement in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as well as throughout the United States. Thomas James Katona has increased union effectiveness by partnering the historic strengths of labor unions with the innovation of technology. Mr. Katona's induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame is warranted and deserved.

As a dedicated Staff Representative for the Office and Professional Employees International Union (O.P.E.I.U.), Local Union 512 of the AFL-CIO and a proud member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Mr. Katona was a committed organizer of working people in the public and private sectors. He has devoted himself to their cause of fair and just representation in the work place.

Mr. Katona has been on the forefront of worker education by designing and delivering labor education classes for employees and staff. Always advocating for his membership, Mr. Katona was constantly arguing before the National Labor Relations Board, the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and Administrative Law Judges. He served his larger community as a volunteer mediator for the Delta County Resolution Services, UPCAP and was an active member and participant in the Association Conflict Resolution.

Mr. Katona has been described by his union brothers and sisters as a great leader showing persistence and assertiveness as an advocate and problem solver for his union and fellow workers. Mr. Katona was a trusted labor and community leader.

However, while Mr. Katona will always be remembered by his colleagues and friends for many accomplishments, he has left his mark through his tireless commitment to the development and propagation of "cyber unionism" as a means of strengthening and improving communications within the labor movement. As a published author on the subject, Mr. Katona blazed the trail for technological improvements including helping trade unionists design, post and maintain Web pages, Web sites and e-mail magazines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Thomas James Katona and his family for his dedication and service to the labor movement and to the Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local Union 512, AFL-CIO. Mr. Katona has more than earned his place in Michigan's Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame for his commitment to his community and the labor movement.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF HAROLD AND JUANITA BLAIR'S 57TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Harold and Juanita Blair who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on September 15th. Harold and Juanita have been lifelong companions, having literally grown up next door to each other in North Braddock, Pennsylvania.

Their life together began when Harold asked Juanita out for a date on a dare during their high school years. Harold, who was 17 at the time, was a star on the high school basketball team, while Juanita, at 15, was focused on her school studies. As a result, Juanita didn't really take interest in him until after he had asked her out.

Because of America's culture of segregation during the 1940s, Harold was denied a basketball scholarship to any college, so he enlisted in the army, while Juanita attended college in Maryland.

After Harold was discharged from the Army, they married on September 15, 1948. However, because of their ages, they initially kept their marriage a secret from their families until they moved to Detroit, Michigan where they have lived since 1949.

They have three beautiful children: Harold Jr., Joseph and Lori, my daughter-in-law, and five beautiful grandchildren. Juanita still wears the original wedding ring that Harold gave her in 1948. And although over the years Harold has given Juanita newer and more expensive rings as a show of his love and affection, Juanita continues to wear the original ring that sealed their lifelong journey together.

In celebration of their more than half a century of devotion and love, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Harold and Juanita Blair as they celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary.

#### IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Conference of State Legislatures Leadership Institute for 10 years of dedication and excellence in the formation of effective public policy makers. Over 300 State Legislators have participated in the Leadership Institute through its first 10 years.

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a bi-partisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the United States and its commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance, and a forum in which policy makers can exchange ideas.

The primary goals of NCSL are to improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures, to promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures, and to