

is "Brighter Hope, With a New Vision." Highly visible in the community as a civil rights advocate, she has a way of saying what must be said without offending those around her—she always has a smile and a kind word for all who pass her way.

Born in Kansas City, Kansas, Dr. Thomas received her Bachelor of Arts and a Masters Degree from the University of Kansas and her Ph.D from Columbia University. After retiring as an engineer at Pacific Bell-SBC, she began a pilot program geared to attracting at-risk high school students to the field of engineering.

For 28 years, Sandra served as a youth counselor at the Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, where her husband, Reverend A.D. Thomas, is Pastor Emeritus. She is currently an instructor and consultant for young adults. A foster mom for over 2 decades, Sandra was named "Outstanding Mother of the Year" at Altadena Elementary School in 1977 and Pasadena High School's "Mother of the Year" in 1979.

Dr. Thomas, a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), has been affiliated with the organization for 55 years, and serves simultaneously at all levels of the NAACP organization. She is currently an NAACP National Trainer, a Regional Officer, a California State Director and the President of the Altadena Branch of the NAACP, where she has been successful in implementing many positive changes in the Altadena-Pasadena community.

In addition to her NAACP activities, Sandra is an Altadena Town Council member, the founder and CEO of the "Quality of Life Community Center," Chairperson of the Pasadena/Altadena African-American Leaders Community Coalition, a member of the Pasadena Junior League, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, Leadership Pasadena, the Pasadena Unified School District Non-Violence Team, and the Altadena Community Center Board of Directors.

Dr. Thomas and her husband, long-time Altadena residents, have 3 children, Michael, Vincent, Rosalyn and 6 grandchildren.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Sandra E. Thomas.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA
FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF RE-
MEMBRANCE CEREMONY

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the efforts to allow the United States Capitol rotunda to be used for the annual ceremony commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

This period of genocide against the Jewish race remains one of the darkest stains on the history of humanity. It is vitally important that we take time each year to remember the victims of this horrific event. The people of the United States must never forget the tragic ac-

tions spurred by hatred, bigotry and extremism.

Having this ceremony at our Capitol rotunda is both important and symbolic. We are the beacon of democracy and freedom for the world and have been defenders of the oppressed throughout history. Our brave young men heroically crossed the Atlantic to fend off and defeat the Nazis who were bent on racial imperialism. It is fitting at this center of our Federal Government that we express our deepest gratitude to the veterans of World War II and pay our respects to all the innocent victims of the Holocaust we were not able to save.

My heart and prayers go out to all the victims of the Holocaust—those who did not survive, those who did and the families of all. Each went through an unimaginable experience, one that no one should ever have to undergo.

As both a Member of Congress and as a private citizen possessing a strong faith, I vow to always remember and respect those who suffered such a tragic fate and I support this body's efforts to do the same.

May we as a people never forget those who have suffered nor ever let such an occurrence happen again.

HONORING ITALIAN PRIME
MINISTER SILVIO BERLUSCONI

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on his recent speech before the joint session of the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. I am proud to be joined in this effort by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

When terrorists hijacked airplanes, smashing them into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, it was the worst disaster ever perpetrated on American soil. A large part of the world reached out in sympathy to our wounded nation. Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Premier, called for a giant rally for the Italian people to express their grief and shed their tears for the families of the victims, and to show their compassion for a nation that had been gravely wounded. It was a heartfelt expression of the pain they felt for America by hundreds of thousands of Italians who crowded into Rome's Piazza del Popolo, the place of the people.

Berlusconi's call to action was so successfully answered by the Italian people, that certain political parties of the left called for a counter rally—an anti-American rally. These parties were two Communist parties, and a third party which had been the original Communist party but had changed its name to the Democratic Party of the Left. They paraded through the streets of Rome, a small phalanx holding red flags with the iconic Communist hammer and sickle and placards denouncing America for having entered Afghanistan in pursuit of Osama bin Laden and to destroy the Al Qaeda terrorists. They shouted anti-American slogans, said blood dripped from our hands and that we were assassins. They threw the American flag on the ground, trampled it,

poured gas on it, and set it afire. Nowhere in their speeches or placards was there mention of the American tragedy, nowhere mention of grief for the dead or compassion for the families. Italy is a democratic country where everyone is guaranteed the freedom of speech. They expressed their opinions, feelings, and anti-American bias.

When Silvio Berlusconi appeared, several weeks ago, before the joint session of the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate, which is a signal honor paid to a world leader, he was not invited by President Bush, as many Italian newspapers stated. He was invited by the House of Representatives and the Senate, led by DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House, and Vice President CHENEY, as Presiding Officer of the Senate. The Constitution imposes a separation of powers between the legislature and the executive branch and we, the legislative branch of the U.S. Government, are proud of the independence this grants us. We invited him.

When the Italian Prime Minister stood before us and spoke, it was not to Democrats and Republicans but to all of the representatives of all of the districts of all of the states and for all of the American people. This legislative body represents the broad expanse of America and all of her people. And when we rose in a standing salute and gave thunderous applause to Prime Minister Berlusconi, it was the American people who were speaking. The American people who were exercising their right to the freedom of speech, a constitutional right in our country too. The American people gave their opinion. In standing in ovation to Berlusconi's impassioned words of friendship, we rejected the elements in Italy who had turned their back to our suffering, deploring their conduct and their opinions. We instead showed the warm feeling of affection in our hearts for the people of Italy.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BETH MARCUS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Beth Marcus, of Burbank, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women.

Dr. Marcus is a family physician in La Canada Flintridge, where she has practiced for over 10 years on the medical staffs of both Verdugo Hills Hospital and Glendale Adventist Medical Center. After completing her Family Medicine residency, she went on to complete a Fellowship in Adolescent Medicine, where she worked with adolescents struggling with poverty, family estrangement, drug abuse, homelessness and other issues.

Her patients cross the lifespan from infants to geriatric patients. Knowing that excellent medical care means going far beyond a diagnosis and a prescription, she has a remarkable capacity to bring compassion and empathy into the care she provides. She is an active advocate for patients, educating them and assisting them in obtaining social services and other sources of support to help them navigate the challenges of illness.