his community and I congratulate him on the milestone of his 90th birthday.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 318 OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, headquartered in Marion, IL.

1932, our Nation was mired in the depths of the Great Depression. Prices were low. The average new car cost $610 and you could fill up the tank for 10 cents a gallon. However, few could afford the car or the gas as employment was over 23 percent nationally with over 13 million Americans having lost their jobs since the beginning of the Depression in 1929. It was in this time of economic distress that Local 318 was founded in Harrisburg, IL.

Local 318 covers 14 counties in the southernmost area of Illinois and is comprised of 900 skilled operators. Their commitment to providing the highest quality of labor to their hundreds of signatory contractors extends to a strong training program, both at the apprentice level and upgrades for Journeymen as well.

The members of Local 318 are also contributing members of their respective communities and, through their local, they support a number of area charities and provide a scholarship fund to support their dependents who attend college.

With union membership struggling in many areas of the country, Local 318 boasts a 98 percent union membership for their covered trades. This speaks well of the benefits that the members realize through their union membership and also the increased productivity for the contractors who use the skilled workers of Local 318.

In 1996 Local 318 moved its headquarters to Marion, IL. They continue to provide quality representation for their members and, through their training and community involvement, they are a positive example of organized labor in southern Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR McGOVERN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation honoring the life of Eleanor McGovern by officially designating the post office in her home town of Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the Eleanor McGovern Post Office.

The wife of Presidential nominee and United States Senator George McGovern, Eleanor made headlines of her own while campaigning solo across the country for her husband. Eleanor engaged crowds on the campaign trail with her eloquence and frequently participated in network television and radio discussions concerning national and international policy. Her high profile helped transform public perception of the role and value of women in politics.

Aside from politics, Eleanor worked as a tireless advocate for children and families. She served on the boards of directors for Dakota Wesleyan University, the Psychiatric Institute Foundation, the Child Study Association, the Erickson Institute of Chicago and Odyssey House of New York. She founded the Martha Movement and was a development officer for the Child Development Associates Consortium. Eleanor and her family also established the McGovern Family Foundation in Washington, DC, to raise funds for alcoholism research.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this legislation that honors the life of Eleanor McGovern.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI JEROME DAVIDSON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Rabbi Jerome Davidson after nearly 50 years of dedicated service to the community of Great Neck, New York.

Rabbi Jerome Davidson is no ordinary rabbi. He has successfully fused his life as a religious leader and a Jewish mentor together with his commitment to a life of civic engagement and Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world. Throughout his years of service, Rabbi Davidson has effectively transcended the walls of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck in Nassau County, New York, establishing himself as an inspirational leader for both his congregation and community.

Jerome Davidson joined Temple Beth-El, a member congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism, as an assistant rabbi in 1958, and became its senior rabbi in 1971. Rabbi Davidson soon impressed the congregation with his dynamic sermons, driven enthusiasm and compelling sense of humor. Rabbi Davidson's brilliance and erudition were key in shaping the congregation's future. The educational opportunities presented by the Temple's comprehensive library and historical museum were central to Rabbi Davidson's success in teaching his congregants. Under his devoted tutelage, Temple Beth-El grew to become a thriving beacon of Jewish life in Great Neck; an arena of countless Bnai Mitzvah, weddings, other life-cycle events and social affairs.

Rabbi Davidson also laid the foundations of a successful Religious School and Early Childhood Education Center that addressed the needs of the diversified and growing congregation. Rabbi Davidson's exceptional creativity and boundless imagination confirmed Temple Beth-El, with its impressive membership of over 1200 families, as one of the most innovative and energetic Reform congregations in America. His uncoupled wisdom and unbridled inspiration served as a source of strength and encouragement in the aftermath of a devastating fire that struck the Temple in 1991.

Rabbi Davidson's steady rise to Jewish national iconography is no surprise considering the unique leadership qualities he demonstrated in serving Temple Beth-El. Rabbi Davidson's service as President of the Synagogue Council of America, as well as past president of the Rabbinic Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion only cemented Rabbi Davidson as a true Jewish leader.

Madam Speaker, Rabbi Davidson's commitment to Reform Judaism informed and complemented his involvement in pluralism and social justice. Rabbi Davidson's multiple terms as President of the Great Neck Clergy Association, and his groundbreaking efforts in developing interfaith dialogue, have served to better the lives of those around him, successfully realizing his lofty goals of building a community of tolerance and understanding. Rabbi Davidson's exemplary interfaith achievements, coupled with his involvement as a founding member of the American Jewish World Service, led the New York Board of Rabbis to honor him "Rabbi of the Year" in 1994.

More recently, Rabbi Davidson has been a trailblazer in formally welcoming the gay and lesbian community into Jewish life. He has likewise advocated for religious pluralism in Israel. Today, Rabbi Davidson continues to serve on the faculty of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and as a member of its Board of Governors. Rabbi Davidson also serves on the Advisory Board of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, and is deeply involved in a plethora of other local and national Jewish organizations. Rabbi Davidson's adept ability for translating his values into action by positively affecting the world around him is truly an inspiration to all of those whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, the accolades bestowed upon Jerome Davidson for his almost 50 years of outstanding service to the Long Island community are well deserved. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Jerome Davidson for his outstanding work and wishing him many more years of success as he becomes Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST LT. KEITH HEIDTMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute of an American patriot and fallen Connecticut son. A native of Norwich, 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman was killed in Iraq on Memorial Day, May 28, 2007 while piloting a helicopter north of Baghdad.

I spent Memorial Day in Iraq with the troops and witnessed firsthand the dangers they face every minute. To later learn that the day of my visit would also be the same as Keith's passing was particularly painful.

Keith was a 2001 graduate of Norwich Free Academy where he was an all-conference