

JAMES J. HAGGERTY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James J. Haggerty, known affectionately to many of us as "The Big Fella." He was the beloved husband to his cherished Cecelia and proud father of seven: Jeanie, Mauri, James Jr., Matthew, Cecelia, Daniel, and Katie. And he was the doting grandfather to 18.

Jim's life motto was "to those whom much is given, much is expected." He believed strongly in public service, through which he knew he could help people. When his close and dear friend, Bob Casey, became Governor of Pennsylvania, Jim served in his cabinet as Secretary of the Commonwealth and later as his General Counsel.

Jim's life was made full by his big family and many friends. He adored his wife, and he died just 11 days before their 45th wedding anniversary. He was strengthened by his abiding Catholic faith, loved his Irish heritage, and was a loyal Dunmorean.

Jim supported many worthy causes, serving as chairman of the board of the University of Scranton, a member of the board of Scranton Preparatory School, and a staunch champion of the United Way of Lackawanna County. His good works strengthened northeast Pennsylvania.

At his funeral mass, Monsignor Joseph Quinn said of Jim to an overflowing and loving crowd: "God used him to build many bridges along the way, bridges that connect lives."

His grandson, James, called him a man of courage and generosity, saying: "He has taught me the importance of giving back."

As the Scranton Times-Tribune reported, James Jr. said his father epitomized "honesty, integrity, and love" to his family. And he closed with a poem read by Robert F. Kennedy in Lackawanna County in 1964, about Irish freedom fighter Owen Roe O'Neill:

"We're sheep without a shepherd, when the snow shuts out the sky. Oh! Why did you leave us, Owen? Why did you die?"

My husband Paul and I were proud to call the Haggertys our friends for nearly 50 years, and are deeply saddened by Jim's passing. It is a source of great happiness to us that our children and grandchildren are loving friends.

Indeed, so many were proud to call Jim their friend: last Sunday, in Scranton, a line of those who had come to pay their respects to Jim stretched for blocks. As they waited in line for hours, they shared their stories of how Jim Haggerty helped them.

I hope it is a comfort to the Haggerty family, to Celia and to their children and grandchildren, that so many grieve their loss and are praying for them in this sad time.

CONGRATULATING KATHY
STEINHOFF

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy

Steinhoff, a math teacher at Jefferson Junior High School in Columbia for receiving the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence on February 11, 2011.

Ms. Steinhoff should be commended for her hard work and dedication to the students in her school district and her community. The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence is a prestigious award, and we are proud she is representing our great state of Missouri and the 9th district. Advancement in the fields of mathematics is integral to the development and competitiveness of America in the future, and I am honored to congratulate Ms. Steinhoff on her outstanding achievement.

Ms. Steinhoff was selected from five finalists to receive the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes effective teaching skills and advocacy for the educational profession.

Steinhoff won the award for her unique teaching style and the use of technology in her lessons, such as interactive SMART Boards and clickers, to help her eighth- and ninth-grade students. She also uploads podcasts, which record her teaching difficult math problems, so that her students can revisit her lessons later to study. Her innovative teaching style has made her a favorite among students and a leader among her peers.

It is critical for the future of our country that students have access to a quality education. Without excellent teachers, our schools fail our students and communities. Ms. Steinhoff exemplifies what it means to be an excellent teacher, and her dedication to her students and community is worthy of high praise.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Kathy Steinhoff for her excellence in the field of education.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF
THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the estimated 1,000 civilians who on February 26, 1992 were indiscriminately scalped, tortured, and killed in the town of Khojaly, an Azerbaijani-populated town in Nagorno-Karabakh. Many of us know that post-Soviet conflicts in Eastern Europe and Central Asia led to brutal ethnic cleansing, but few have heard of the people of Khojaly, who were massacred by Armenian militants. The ethnic cleansing was successful, and the town no longer exists. Although the tragedy received widespread media coverage, since then it has largely been forgotten. I hope that now and every year after this atrocity, we can pray for the victims.

Azerbaijan's Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities come together against ethnic cleansing at this time of the year, commemorating the lives of the Khojaly victims and calling on the international community to condemn the bloodshed. Their pleas do not fall on deaf ears.

There are still victims of the conflict in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced, and ethnic cleansing has continued even after 1992.

I have met victims of the Rwandan genocide, who are still healing to this day. I went

to Bosnia shortly after the war and saw the effect of ethnic cleansing there. I know what a detrimental effect this can have to a region, in this case even wiping a small town off the map. I recognize that even now, atrocities are occurring in Kashmir and Darfur, and innocent civilians are paying the price while we in the international community have more to do.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Azerbaijan and Armenia can come to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, and I hope that the civilians suffering right now will soon see an end to ethnic cleansing. The memories of the women, men, and children of Khojaly should propel us to condemn such practices.

RECOGNIZING THE DES MOINES
SOCIAL CLUB

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines Social Club, a not-for-profit venture formed in Iowa around the idea that art can be accessible to everyone.

Since its founding in 2008, the Des Moines Social Club has become a source for art and art education through the Instinct Art Gallery, showcasing local, national and international artists, many educational classes, and weekly programs. They have provided the staff and resources to host public events educating Iowans of all ages about music, dance, theater, and the visual arts.

The folks of the Des Moines Social Club have been strong supporters of projects that benefit the entire community. In the past year, they have expanded to provide just under 300 hours of classes for over 500 students. The fact that nearly 100 volunteers have put in close to 5,000 hours of service, is a true testament to the leadership of the organization and their dedication to fulfill their mission of using the arts as a catalyst for community engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what the Des Moines Social Club has done to further the arts. This group of leaders is making the State of Iowa a more vibrant and diverse community.

SUPPORT THE HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRACY FUND

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose amendment #380, proposed by our colleagues Mr. REED and Mr. GRAVES, which eliminate the State Department Democracy Fund and the Human Rights and Democracy Fund (HRDF).

The Human Rights and Democracy Fund funded by the Democracy Fund appropriation, finances innovative projects across the world to support the long-standing bipartisan U.S. foreign policy goals of defending human rights and advancing democratic values. Continued HRDF programming is vital to U.S. national