Vacationers from around the country have stopped at world-famous Zehnder's for a sample of the outstanding cuisine and festive atmosphere.

Edwin's commitment to community service does not stop at the doors of his Frankenmuth restaurant. Edwin and Marion have remained active in their community and their church for years. As owner of one of the greatest tourist spots in Michigan, Edwin has spent his career making contributions to the State's hospitality-tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, Edwin's dedication to his community, his family, and his business have served over the years as an inspiration to all who know him. I know you will join my colleagues and I in wishing Mr. Edwin Zehnder a happy and healthy 75th birthday. May his future be marked with continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL SERVICE PRIORITY PLACEMENT PROGRAM ACT OF 1995

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Service Priority Placement Act of 1995. This bill directs the Office of Personnel Management [OPM] to establish a governmentwide interagency placement program for Federal employees affected by reductions-in-force [RIFs]. I believe that the immediate enactment of this legislation is essential to respond to the needs of employees who, through no fault of their own, will be adversely affected by the massive downsizing of the work force ordered in the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 (P.L. 103–226) and increased under the recently passed budget resolution for fiscal year 1996. Recall that no plan or rationale that matched the number of employees to be eliminated with the administration's National Performance Review efficiency objectives was ever offered. Indeed, the number kept changing, going from initially 100,000, then to 272,900, and will undoubtedly go even higher under the new Congress, giving the downsizing the appearance of deficit reduction without efficiency goals. As such, RIF's may well be inevitable in the future, notwithstanding the widespread use of buyouts by Federal agencies.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that the Federal Government selects its own displaced employees over outside hires when filling vacant positions. RIF'ed employees are a valuable resource of dedicated civil servants in whom the Government has invested training and knowledge. It is in the Government's best interest to take advantage of the continued positive contribution these employees can make rather than to discard the Government's investment and start all over with new hires. We will not achieve a government that works better and costs less if the talents and energies the government has helped to produce are not rechanneled where they are needed in the government. The Federal Service Priority Placement Program Act of 1995 would facilitate the placement of RIF'ed employees at other agencies by requiring that those agencies with vacant positions within RIF'ed employees' commuting areas offer jobs to such qualified employees first.

Last fall OPM launched its new Interagency Placement Program [IPP], an initiative that combines the old Displaced Employee Program and the Interagency Placement Program. I believe that the new IPP is sure to be as ineffective as the two programs it replaced because OPM only refers registrants for vacancies to be filled by competitive appointment. Most important, agencies need only consider, and are not required to hire qualified OPM referrals. Agencies can avoid hiring the RIF'ed employee by simply filing an objection with OPM. In the context of the most extraordinary downsizing in the Federal Government's history, this hardly seems fair to qualified employees RIF'ed to satisfy an undocumented quota having nothing to do with their own qualifications or record of service.

A 1992 GAO study makes clear that a clear and direct statutory mandate that agencies give RIF'ed employees a mandatory hiring preference over outside job applicants is warranted. Otherwise, it is not at all clear that agencies will voluntarily give up their prerogative under the existing OPM placement program to reject displaced workers and hire whoever they want to fill vacant positions.

The President's National Partnership Council, a new Federal labor-management organization, has likewise recognized the need for the Federal Government, in the midst of such massive downsizing, to be more activist in trying to place displaced employees. In a July report, the Council advocated a governmentwide placement policy that gave displaced or RIF'ed employees priority over outside hires. Similarly, in an NPR draft report entitled the ''Federal Human Resource Management Reinvention Act of 1995,'' the administration endorses requiring agencies to give their own displaced employees and displaced employees from other Federal agencies placement priority over new outside hires.

The Federal Service Priority Placement Act of 1995 protects the Federal Government's sizable investment in personnel training and education while accomplishing the goal of governmentwide downsizing in the most orderly and humane fashion.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL ROCKETTES CELEBRATE 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 70th birthday of the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. Over its 70 year existence, the Rockettes have contributed greatly to the richness of culture in New York City, the country at large, and throughout the world.

When formed in 1925, the Rockettes were first known as the Missouri Rockets, Russell Markert's Girls, or the Roxyettes. Since 1934, the now-famous dance troop changed its name to Radio City Music Hall Rockettes and has called New York its home ever since.

Through the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, two world wars, and through the social, economic, and political upheavals of the past four decades, the Rockettes have endured. For many people, the Rockettes have come to symbolize a part of the American dream. Generations of young dancers from small towns to the largest cities have wanted to become a part of the Rockettes.

Moreover, the Rockettes have evolved into an American icon recognized throughout the world. At the invitation of the French Government, they represented the United States in the 1937 Paris Exposition Grand Prix and won. Since then, the Rockettes have entertained millions of people performing not only at Radio City, but also entertaining our military troops, visiting international dignitaries, and heads of state and U.S. Presidents. In addition, they have also performed for several benefit groups, including the Heart Association, International Human Rights, and the Peter Allen AIDS Foundation.

The Rockette Alumnae Association is a not-for-profit organization whose membership of over 400 former Rockettes represents the seven continuous decades of working American women who have shared in the history of this uniquely American institution. A special anniversary celebration sponsored by the alumnae is scheduled for August 5, 1995, at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Funds raised in this event will be donated to the Julliard School of Music, where the school's first dance scholarship was established and endowed by the Rockette Alumnae in the name of its founder, Russell E. Markert.

Mr. Speaker, the Rockettes' contribution to the cultural history of America is as broad as the many women who have been with the dance troop, and the millions of people who have attended its shows. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes on their 70th birthday, and wish them success as they continue enriching our lives into the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO HERMAN O. WILEY, M.D.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Herman O. Wiley, M.D., of Red Bank, NJ, who passed away last month.

Dr. Wiley was born on June 12, 1912, in the Bronx, NY, the only son of William and Ethel Wiley. He was educated in the public schools of New York and was a graduate of Virginia State University, where he met and married Maeble Harston Wiley, his devoted and loving wife of 60 years. He subsequently attended and graduated from Howard University Medical School. Dr. Wiley was a veteran of World War II, and served as a captain in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army in Italy and North Africa.

A long-time resident of Red Bank, Dr. Wiley was elected to and served on the Red Bank Board of Education for 18 years. He was also active and held office in numerous civic and social organizations, and received many awards and commendations for his devoted service to his community. Among the awards were Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Regional Man of the Year award, a Distinguished Service award of the Red Bank NAACP and the Westside Ministerium, and an award as Man of the Year from the Kiwanis Club. He was a

charter member of Zeta Episolon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a member and past president of the Red Bank Men's Club. He was also a member of the National Guardsmen, Inc., and a member of the H.M. Club of America. He was a member of the New Jersey Medical Association and the American Medical Association and was formerly affiliated, before his retirement in 1994, with Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ, and Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to Dr. Wiley, a patriot who served his country with distinction during a time of war, and then came home and continued to serve our society in many ways; as a physician, a leader in community affairs and as a devoted husband and father. He will be missed deeply by his family, friends, colleagues and by our entire community.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON R.S. 2477

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that would once and for all resolve the issue known as RS 2477 right-of-ways across Federal lands. RS 2477 right-of-ways provide the rural West access across the expanses of Federal lands in the West. For 110 years, counties, cities, States, and individuals were allowed to establish necessary right-of-ways across Federal lands to provide travel routes between towns, to schools and to homes. In 1976, Congress terminated this ability to establish new right-of-ways but failed to provide the mechanism to adjudicate the established routes. My legislation is a reasonable and efficient way to resolve the thousands of RS 2477 right-of-way claims that exist in the West.

In 1866, Congress promoted the settlement and use of western lands be enacting R.S. 2477, a self-executing, open-ended grant of right-of-ways across public lands. The grant acted as an offer. Where the public accepted the offer, property rights became vested in the holder. The rights were severed from the public domain and are entitled to the same protection as any other property that is not owned by the Federal Government.

RS 2477 simply states:

> And be it further enacted, That the right of way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted.

While the language of the grant and the legislative history accompanying the grant may be sparse, the purpose of the grant is not in doubt. As Senator Steward stated, ''The mineral lands must remain open and free to exploration and development. * * * It would be a national calamity to adopt any system that would close that region to the prospector.'' The grant was a crucial element of Congress' scheme to settle the public lands of the West. Access rights were needed across the vast Federal domain to accommodate Congress' goals of economic progress in the West. RS 2477 helped achieve those goals.

In short, the West grew up around these right-of-ways. They made it possible for one settlement to communicate and trade with another. They made it possible for citizens to legally traverse the broad expanse of public lands in order to interact with the rest of the forming Nation. It is no wonder, then, that courts have commented that revocation of RS 2477 rights would make Congress' original act ''a delusion and a cruel and empty vision.''

Secretary Babbitt currently has pending regulations that would lead to the closure of thousands of right-of-ways across the West that would cripple our ability to travel, engage in commerce, or access our property. My legislation will resolve these issues in a fair and equitable fashion. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that I was unavoidably detained at a meeting and missed the rollcall on the Chenowith amendment to the Treasury appropriations bill, had I been present for rollcall Vote No. 532, I would have voted ''nay'' against the proposal which sought to prohibit use of funds to provide bonuses or any other merit-based salary increase for any employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEBREW CONGREGATION LOCATED IN ST. THOMAS, VI

HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I would like to share with the Members of this body, and the people of this country, a distinction of which we are proud but a fact that is little known to most of our fellow Americans, namely that the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, VI proudly boasts that it is the oldest synagogue building in continuous use under the American flag.

In 1976, a small Jewish community of St. Thomas founded the congregation and called it Blessing and Peace. Comprised of only nine families in 1801, the congregation increased to 22 with the arrival of Jewish settlers from England, France, St. Eustatius, and Curacao in 1803. In 1804, the small synagogue was destroyed by fire and was not replaced until 1812. This thriving congregation continued to grow, and in 1823 the building was dismantled and a larger one erected and renamed ''Blessing and Peace and Loving Deeds,'' the Hebrew name it carries to this day. This structure was built in the city of Charlotte Amalie on one of the city's historical landmarks known as Synagogue Hill; it is here the current synagogue stands.

In 1831, the congregation, which by now numbered 64 families, witnessed a citywide fire which destroyed the synagogue. This dedicated and closely knit congregation rebuilt and reconsecrated their synagogue in 1833. The entire island community, along with assistance from the worldwide Jewry, assisted in this noble undertaking. The lovely synagogue is still actively used today by over 200 families and is the only synagogue on the island of St. Thomas. Since the doors of the synagogue opened in 1833, there has always been a weekly Shabbat Service. Our synagogue also has the distinction of holding the first confirmation ceremony for Jewish youth ever in the Western Hemisphere. This monumentous event took place on October 14, 1843.

In 1850, the congregation numbered between 400 and 500 members and the King of Denmark sanctioned and approved a constitution for the Kehilla community. This code of law governed the Jewish community, regulated its membership dues, and established its voting procedures with great precision. Members of the Jewish community held offices of trust and honor on St. Thomas. This period of Jewish activity on St. Thomas was significant and can only be equaled by the present day accomplishments.

Everything in the synagogue is original and dates back to 1833. The benches, the Ark, and the bima are all made of mahogany wood which flourished on the island, but were decimated through overuse by the lumber industry. The chandeliers are from Europe. The lamps are made of Baccarat crystal. The peripheral chandeliers have since been electrified, but the central ones are still lit by candles on important holidays. The walls are specially designed to be hurricane proof, as are the windows. They allow for the free passage of air while blunting the force. The stones are locally quarried, but the bricks come from Europe. The huge sailing ships that arrived from Spain, Portugal, England, Holland, and Denmark had relatively little to sell in the Virgin Islands, and so, filled the hulls of the ships with bricks to be used as ballast. Once they arrived in the islands, the bricks were unloaded and used for local building needs while the ships took back to Europe the locally produced rum and sugar. The cement that holds the bricks together is a mortar made from sand, limestone, and molasses. It is said that in earlier years, children used to lick the walls of the synagogue to taste the sweet molasses. The four pillars that support the building symbolize the four matriarchs in Judaism; they are Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, and Leah. These pillars, like those at the entrance to the building, were handmade in Denmark from rounded bricks especially for the synagogue.

Another unusual feature of the synagogue is the sand floor. Legend tells us that it is symbolic of the desert through which Moses and the children of Israel wandered for 40 years. The more acceptable explanation had to do with the fact that this was originally a Sephardic orthodox community. During the Spanish Inquisition, when Catholic Spain persecuted all other religions and forcibly converted them to Catholism, the Jews were forced to practice their religion in the privacy of their home. This was an offense punishable by death. Since religious worship had to be performed in secrecy, they met in cellars and used sand on the floor to muffle the sound of their prayers.

Our beautiful synagogue is a gem in the midst of the Caribbean. Visitors of all faiths experience wonder and awe when standing within its simple and stately interior. On behalf of the Hebrew congregation of St. Thomas