

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 Roxettes. 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 Juliard 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 Maebly 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