

Mr. Speaker, I commend these two brave police officers, and I wish to remend all Americans of the debt they owe those who risk their lives to protect ours.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNI-  
VERSARY OF ISRAELI INDE-  
PENDENCE

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, we joyously celebrated the 48th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel. For more than 1,800 years, the Jewish people would recite a prayer: "Vesechezena Aynanu B'Schuvcha L'Zion" (May we behold Your return in mercy to Zion). It is by the grace of God that the children of Israel were able to return to their ancestral homeland.

Independence Day is celebrated as a Jewish holiday on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, which is recognized on April 24 this year, and marks the Athchalta D'Guella, the beginning of the redemption, as promised by God. The struggle of the survival of Israel is a testament to the determination of Jewish people worldwide. Regardless of how difficult it has been over the last 48 years to protect and defend Israel, it pails in comparison to the trials and tribulations the Jewish people have suffered throughout history. From Moses leading the Jews from slavery in Egypt to surviving the tyranny of the Roman Empire and the ensuing diaspora to the horrors of the Holocaust, the perseverance and faith of the Jews is unmatched.

Unfortunately, this last year has been another tragic test for Israel in its quest for peace. As Israel has tried to expand peace with its neighbors, starting with Egypt and spreading to Palestine and Jordan, we lost one of the great men of our time—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was a true patriot and a man of everlasting honor to his nation, to his people, and to the rest of the world. His quest to resolve the disputes with Israel's neighbors and to expand peace to Syria and the other Arab States will be of lasting historical significance. I continue to miss the presence of Mr. Rabin because of his calming influence in the sea of trouble.

The State of Israel has been the beacon of freedom and democracy in the Middle East for nearly a half a century. I am proud to see the peace process expand and to see Israel and the Arab States begin the process of building economic ties. I firmly believe once these nations cement their relationship through economic association, the binds of peace will be permanent, as long as all concerned respect the peace and security of the Israeli State.

I am, therefore, pleased to join my colleagues in wishing Israel a warm greeting in recognition of their independence. I will always pray for her safety and I will continue to work to ensure that the United States remains its loyal ally and friend. May God continue to bless this nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 127, H.R. 1965, the Coastal Zone Prevention Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall 128, H.R. 2160, the Cooperative Fisheries Management Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote 129, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." And on rollcall vote 130, H.R. 2715, the Paperwork Elimination Act of 1995, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE WATERTOWN  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Watertown Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO ANN BELKNAP  
BENNER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, Ann Benner, a great friend and a truly extraordinary American, passed away. The boundless energy that drove her to be a heroic supporter of her family and her community every day of her 77 years succumbed in the face of its ultimate challenge. Now, her many companions

in the afterlife can enjoy the strength of her spirit and the glow of her love.

Over the 2 years that Ann knew she had terminal cancer, she was at her desk in my district office doing the good work on which I and countless others had come to depend. It is hard to imagine that office without the reassuring presence of Ann. She was a true friend, an invaluable asset and the most compassionate human being I have ever met. I will miss her terribly. All of us in San Mateo and those in Washington who have worked with her will miss her terribly.

When I first sought office 17 years ago, Ann was one of the first people to volunteer for my campaign. It was obvious from looking at Ann's remarkable list of credentials and accomplishments that she was a woman instilled with an incredible sense of community spirit, education and political activism that went far beyond ordinary civic duty. I was only too happy to offer her an outlet for this fountain of enthusiasm, just as I have been happy to do so for the last 17 years. She started that day, and continued every day after that, doing what was necessary to promote the ideas that she believed in and was willing to fight for.

As a special assistant in my district office, Ann took every constituent problem, large or small, with the same zeal that she tackled everything else in her remarkable life. As I did when I first met her, everyone recognized and appreciated that they receive a straight answer from Ann—she told it like it was, and found out all she could about every question or complaint.

One of the most compassionate acts I have ever witnessed was when Ann, at the age of 70, took on the awesome responsibility of adopting a young girl from South Africa. Ann gave that girl access to a modern society that was closed to a South African black. Ann did this with no regard for her own comfort and at considerable personal sacrifice because she thought the treatment that girl had received in South Africa was unjust.

Ann's contribution to the country that she loved began long before I met her, demonstrating the vision and initiative that characterized her whole life. In 1941, she was a founding member of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in San Mateo. In recognition of her commitment to the Unitarian community, the congregation established an annual award for service to the church and community which was named the "Ann Benner Award." In 1945, she was a founding member of the League of Women Voters of Central San Mateo County. Not one to limit herself to one category or cause, Ann was an active lifetime member of the NAACP, promoting civil rights in many effective capacities.

More recently, Ann was named the "Democrat of the Year" by the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee in 1975. In 1981 she was named "Woman of the Year" by the San Mateo County Business and Professional Women. And, in testament to her overwhelming contributions to the advancement of women, in 1991 Ann was named to the Women's Hall of Fame of San Mateo County.

Ann's departure leaves a void in my heart and in the community we shared that will be impossible to fill. Because of her efforts, Ann has left the world she entered 77 years ago a richer, more humane place. There will always be a place in my heart for Ann, just as her

memory will live on in all the lives she touched. Ann, yours is a light that cannot be extinguished. I send you my love.

IN MEMORY OF LESLIE  
STRATHMANN, VILLAGE MAN-  
AGER OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Leslie Strathmann, village manager of Friendship Heights. For 9 years Mrs. Strathmann served in exemplary fashion at this post. On April 13, her coworkers honored her at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Friendship Heights community center, naming a conference room in her honor and dedicating the ceremony to her. Leslie Strathmann passed away later that day, her lifetime of dedicated public service cut short by cancer at 54. She will be dearly missed.

Leslie Strathmann's extensive career in public service brought much to the Friendship Heights community. She served as vice president of the Friendship Heights Rotary where she helped organize annual Rotary fundraisers and community service projects to benefit village residents. While serving on the Montgomery County Committee on Committees she reviewed all county committees and helped streamline committee rules and structure. She coordinated Bethesda Action Group meetings between county transportation officials and citizens to resolve traffic and transportation issues.

It is hard to imagine Friendship Heights without Leslie Strathmann. The programs that she helped to create have made Friendship Heights' community center a true meeting place for the community, with classes in various disciplines, care groups for the young, and organizational meetings of all sorts. As village manager, she took it upon herself to do all that she could to better the Friendship Heights community.

In all of her work, Leslie Strathmann helped to resolve the everyday concerns of the people of Friendship Heights. Her skills and her dedication made her a valuable member of the Friendship Heights community. Leslie Strathmann leaves behind a vacancy that will be hard to fill, not only as village manager, but in the hearts of the people that knew her. She will be missed, but she will live on in love. I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring and remembering Mrs. Leslie Strathmann, and in giving condolences to her husband of 33 years, Dr. William D. Strathmann, her two sons, Joseph and William, her daughter-in-law, Kathleen, her father, Joseph R. Micali, and her sister, Judy M. Daly.

THE FUTURE IS OURS TO CREATE

HON. RICK WHITE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society [WOCN] to Seattle, in my

home State of Washington, June 15 to 19, for their 28th annual conference. The theme of the conference, "The Future Is Ours To Create," will focus on future opportunities and challenges relating to the changing and expanding role of ET—enterostomal therapists—nurses and other nurses specializing in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

Founded in 1968, the WOCN is the only national organization for nurses who specialize in the prevention of pressure ulcers and the management and rehabilitation of persons with ostomies, wounds, and incontinence. WOCN, an association of ET nurses, is a professional nursing society which supports its members by promoting educational, clinical, and research opportunities, to advance the practice and guide the delivery of expert health care to individuals with wounds, ostomies, and incontinence.

In this age of changing health care services and skyrocketing costs, the WOCN nurse plays an integral role in providing cost-effective care for their patients. This year's Seattle conference will provide a unique opportunity for WOCN participants to learn about the most current issues and trends related to their practice. I am honored that WOCN has chosen Seattle to host its conference and wish them every success.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. DUNNE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor one of my constituents, William C. Dunne, for his long and distinguished career with the U.S. Secret Service.

This month Bill Dunne retired from the Secret Service and tonight his colleagues from the law enforcement community, as well as his family and friends, will all come together to honor him at a retirement dinner.

One from a family of 10, Bill was born and raised on Chicago's Southwest Side. After receiving a degree in law enforcement administration from the University of Oklahoma, Bill began his career as a special agent with the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Within 2 years Bill was presented with the opportunity he sought since childhood—to become a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service.

For over 20 years, Bill served with distinction as a special agent with the Secret Service. Bill worked in the Secret Service's Syracuse and Chicago field offices, as well as the Washington, DC, headquarters where he served on the protection detail for President Ronald Reagan. In Washington, Bill's protection experience, talents, and skills caused his elevation to head the protection detail for former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

During his distinguished career, Bill Dunne traveled abroad frequently ensuring the safety of U.S. Presidents, Vice Presidents, and other Government officials in foreign lands. Bill's protection duties over the years also included Presidential candidates, foreign diplomats, and Pope John Paul II during his visit to Chicago in 1979.

His last assignment was in the capacity as a supervisor in the Chicago field office. In addition to his protection responsibilities, Bill led many successful criminal investigations in counterfeit and fraud cases involving U.S. currency and financial instruments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in saluting Bill Dunne, his wife Pat, and their four children, Bill, Patrick, Shannon, and Colleen, and to wish them the best in the future.

HONORING THE SALEM-BLACKMAN  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Salem-Blackman Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their homes catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS, MILES A.  
SUAREZ POST 711

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of Americans from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 711 has for 75 years offered a steadfast portrait of loyalty, sacrifice, and self-resolve.

Our loyalties mark the kinds of persons we have chosen to become. Real loyalty endures inconvenience, withstands hardship, and does not flinch under assault. The individuals who make up the Miles A. Suarez VFW Post consistently allow this genuine loyalty to pervade the whole of their lives.