

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.

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#### TOURISM

HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act of 1995. This bill establishes the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization to promote international travel and tourism to the United States.

Tourism is one of this country's largest exports. Presently the United States does not have an effective mechanism for promoting U.S. tourism. H.R. 2579 establishes a national tourism organization as a nonfederal and non-profit organization to implement a national travel and tourism strategy.

Tourism is the second largest industry in the Virgin Islands. In 1993 St. Croix, VI, had 23,740 jobs, but that amount decreased in 1995 to 17,850, according to the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce. When tourism in the U.S. Virgin Islands suffers it has a rippling effect—small businesses and retail shops who depend on tourism feel the impact when tourists are absent. The tourism market currently is depressed because of Hurricane Marilyn and because of the limited resources of the Virgin Islands government. The Virgin Islands is unable to attract tourists to spend money because they do not have the tax base to support national and international marketing activities.

The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act will enhance the limited resources of the Virgin Islands. Presently we do not have a national strategy which links State and local marketing with national marketing activities. This legislation will create a national and local marketing strategy for tourism.

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#### THE CAIRO-DURHAM ELKS LODGE PROMOTES RESPECT FOR OUR FLAG

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, back on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress of the United States adopted a resolution that gave us the stars and stripes that are our American flag. This June 14, 1996, we will celebrate the 219th Flag Day and this Sunday, June 9, 1996, the Cairo-Durham Elks Lodge will be holding their annual Flag Day celebration to commemorate that most significant occasion.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you why it is so important that organizations like the Elks Lodge No. 2630, serving the towns of Cairo and Durham, NY, take the time to recognize Flag Day

and the American flag. It is because our flag is unique and so is Flag Day. To my knowledge, no other nation has a holiday like it. No other nation has a special day when its people gather, as those will gather at the Catskill Elks Lodge, to honor the flag as a special symbol.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is what makes our flag and Flag Day unique. It represents a unique nation, the strongest, freest, greatest nation on Earth. No other flag is anchored so securely in the hearts of a people like Old Glory is in ours.

Let us stop for a moment and consider why that is. It is because of civic organizations and people like those in the Cairo-Durham Elks Lodge who continually remind us of the importance of our flag. It is because of their efforts to raise public awareness of the flag and all that it stands for that Old Glory commands the devotion, respect, and reverence that it does.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to address the members of the Cairo-Durham Lodge as Brother Elk. The Elks are devoted to promoting pride, patriotism, and voluntarism and do more than anyone when it comes to those goals. The benevolent and protective order of Elks have helped to relight the fire of patriotism in every American citizen and through their voluntary acts on behalf of the community, they have helped to reach our young people in whose hands the future of America depends.

But, Mr. Speaker, I owe my Brother Elks in the Cairo-Durham area and around the country another expression of my personal gratitude. That is because they stood beside me and the overwhelming majority of Americans, who wanted to see Old Glory, our most visible and beloved symbol, protected by the Constitution, our most sacred and beloved document. I am referring, of course, to the constitutional amendment to prevent the physical destruction of our flag that passed overwhelmingly right here in the House Chamber, only to be defeated by just two votes in the Senate. As long as lodges like those serving Cairo and Durham continue to impress upon our fellow Americans the significance of our flag and what it means to America, I am confident we can afford it this ultimate protection it so richly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and all Members of the House join me in tribute to the Cairo-Durham Elks Lodge for all they have done to spread appreciation for the American flag and our country throughout their community. For those efforts, they are all truly great Americans.

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#### TRIBUTE TO KARL DEROUEN

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a friend from Eunice, LA, Karl DeRouen.

Karl DeRouen, better known as King Karl in Eunice for his long standing career in radio broadcasting, was recently inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Fame [LHOF]. The LHOF is a relatively new organization which salutes men and women in the music and entertainment industry who are originally from Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, King Karl exceeds all the criteria for this honor. Karl was born in Eunice in 1934 and grew up on the same block as the present location of KJJB and KEUN radio stations. Back then though, there were no stations on the block.

Throughout his high school years he would listen to sportcaster Bill Stern and had dreams of some day becoming a sportcaster. That dream has become a reality as Karl is the broadcaster for the Indian Creek bass tournament and voice of the Eunice High Bobcats and Saint Edmund High Bluejays for over 25 years—both well known athletic teams and followed by the locals of Eunice.

Karl began his career in radio at the age of 18, signing on each morning at 6 a.m. He became the early morning wake up voice for the people of Eunice. He was the entertainment during breakfast and the local voice delivering the local news. It was his voice of kindness who would recognize someone's birthday, mention a person by name who suffered an illness, or praised a local person who had rendered a good deed. As Karl puts it, "We can please people" and he realized his road to success would be determined by those whom he pleased.

Karl DeRouen's life-long ambition was to be a radio personality. He recently said, "I would like to be remembered 50 years from now as someone who has made someone's life a little brighter and a little better".

Mr. Speaker, Karl DeRouen, now the owner of KJJB and KEUN, not only has fulfilled a dream but has generated a legacy for his family which will be remembered by the people of Eunice, LA for decades to come.

King Karl is the father of my scheduler, Mrs. Anne Jasien.

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#### HONORING BALTIMORE POSTAL DISTRICT MANAGER RICHARD RUDEZ

HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.

OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service and its employees take great pride in providing a basic service to the American public. They are dedicated to excellence and I know this from firsthand experience delivering mail 1 day earlier this year in the Highlandtown neighborhood of Baltimore. So it is particularly gratifying when the top area manager of these dedicated employees receives formal recognition.

On May 8, the Maryland Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration selected Baltimore Customer Service District Manager Richard Rudez of Bel Air, MD, to receive the Clifford R. Gross Award for Federal Public Service.

As a 25-year Postal Service veteran, Baltimore Customer Service District Manager Rudez is responsible for post office operations throughout the State of Maryland, except those in southern Maryland and the Washington, DC suburbs. The Postal Service's Baltimore District is the ninth largest employer in the State of Maryland. It employs over 9,400 employees in 305 post offices, and provides mail delivery to 1.3 million addresses and a population of 3.5 million.