HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY SIMONE M. STEINBRONER

HON. JANE HARMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 20, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Simone M. Steinbroner of Manhattan Beach, CA, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on April 1.

Simone was born in the tiny village of Cognac, France, on April 1, 1897, the oldest of five children of Paul Jean Mounier and Jeanne Praud Mounier. She moved with her family several times as a young girl, first to Paris and then, with the outbreak of World War I, to La Rochelle where her father was employed as an interpreter. At the age of 16, Simone became the youngest entrant to teachers college, graduating in 1917.

It was on her summer vacation from teaching on the small coastal island of St. Pierre d’Oleron that her mother invited two American soldiers to dinner. There Simone met her future husband, Arthur Steinbroner, a sergeant in the American Expeditionary Force, and fell in love. Arthur and Simone set their wedding for August 1, but on July 5 received the upsetting news that Arthur was to be sent back to the United States the next day. It would be 18 months before enough money could be saved for Simone’s passage to America.

Simone left France on January 9, 1921, arriving in Los Angeles, then a sleepy town with fewer than 200,000 residents, on January 24. She and Arthur married on February 3, 1921, and had seven children in 9 years. Arthur passed away suddenly in 1948.

Simone has lived in Los Angeles County for 76 years and has a total of 78 living descendents; 8 children, 28 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren, with 2 more expected this year. She still maintains an active pace, teaching French to private students, playing the piano, dancing, reading, and corresponding to her numerous friends and progeny. As a member of the Legion of Mary, she regularly visits local nursing homes to comfort the sick and elderly. She is an inspiration to them all, all of whom are younger than her, and, in hearing her story, she is an inspiration to me as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Simone and in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF DAVID L. COHEN,
CHIEF OF STAFF TO MAYOR EDWARD G. RENDELL OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a good friend and servant to the city of Philadelphia, David L. Cohen.

By now almost everyone across the county knows the Philadelphia story and the accomplishments of Mayor Ed Rendell in leading what the New York Times called “one of the most stunning turnarounds in recent urban history.” Today I want to recognize one of the architects of Philadelphia’s remarkable renaissance: David L. Cohen, chief of staff to Philadelphia’s terrific mayor, Edward G. Rendell.

While there is no doubt that Mayor Rendell has provided the vision and enthusiastic leadership that has brought the city back from the brink of disaster, it is also unquestionably true that without David Cohen’s incredible work ethic, unparalleled judgment, and steady dedication to the mayor’s vision of reducing the cost of government, the Philadelphia story would be a far different tale. Certainly, it would not have been possible; he has led an organization that includes four consecutive balanced budgets, and four consecutive budget surpluses, including a fiscal year 1996 surplus of $118 million, the largest in the modern history of the city.

David Cohen led Ed Rendell’s cost-cutting revolution in city government. He was the mayor’s primary liaison with city council, without whose cooperation the city’s recovery would not have been possible; he served as the principal author of the nationally renowned 5-year financial plan, the city’s blueprint for recovery; he has led the city’s negotiations with both public and private-sector unions on a variety of issues of importance to the city; he chaired the administration’s Initiative Compliance Committee, which oversees the spending habits of every city department right down to the penny, to guard against a return to the free-spending days of Philadelphia’s past; and he has served as an articulate and passionate spokesman for the critical problems that face America’s cities. Through it all, David displayed a superior intelligence, a steely determination to make tough decisions in order to save money for city taxpayers, and an abiding love for Philadelphia, and indeed, for all cities.

Now, after more than 5 years of incredibly effective government service, David Cohen is returning to the private sector, where he will realize a lifelong professional dream by becoming chairman of his law firm, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll.

Mr. Speaker, without question, Ed Rendell deserves credit and praise for his efforts to revitalize Philadelphia. But that success would not be a story that includes four consecutive balanced budgets, and four consecutive budget surpluses, including a fiscal year 1996 surplus of $118 million, the largest in the modern history of the city.

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On behalf of my fellow 1.6 million Philadelphians, I wish David Cohen and his family great success and happiness in their future endeavors. We are all deeply indebted for the outstanding dedicated public service that David provided to help restore a bright, hopeful future for the city that we all love.

IN HONOR OF VIRGIL GLADIEUX

HON. MARCY KAPTR
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 20, 1997

Ms. KAPTRUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of an outstanding citizen,