

resident who played his special brand of Cleveland-style polka music to countless fans of his band, "The Casuals."

Born in Cleveland, Mr. Toriskie started his first band while a student at South High School. He spread the joyous message of polka for the rest of his life. Over the past 30 years, Mr. Toriskie led his band, the Casuals, to the peaks of the polka music profession. He was nominated as Musician of the Year by the Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame last year. The Casuals were also nominated as Band of the Year in 1995 and 1996.

Mr. Toriskie had a distinctive style. He liked to mingle with his audience during breaks. He exuded the good, happy, honest life. His friends knew him as a genuine person and a truly nice man.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores, daughters, Christine Mackerty and Nancy Adams; and grandchildren, Michael and Katie Mackerty.

He will be deeply missed.

IRS COMMISSIONER LEGISLATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that the job of Internal Revenue Service Commissioner is filled by a person well qualified for this important, sensitive position who is insulated from political vagaries and undue influence.

Are certain nonprofit groups the targets of IRS audits? Is the IRS motivated by politics in determining which individuals or groups are audited? Shortly after the White House Travel Office employees were fired in 1993, IRS auditors began auditing UltraAir, a charter air company which had done business with the Travel Office and which was the subject of unfounded rumors about securing Travel Office work using kickbacks. Two years later, and after untold costs to the Government and the airline, UltraAir was cleared of any wrongdoing. Was this audit one of political retribution or an attempt to justify Travel Office firings?

Are IRS functions governed by objective interpretation and application of the tax code or are they directed by other interests? Almost daily, news reports are filled with allegations that the IRS is actually being run by politicians rather than career professionals, mindful of the fact that a well-placed, well-timed audit could have significant political rewards.

Far too many believe the IRS is an agency manipulated by powerful people with political motives. Far too many believe that the IRS is used as a political tool of the presidency—perhaps used to distract the opposition—perhaps an audit will work to divert the opposition's time, attention, and resources toward tax compliance matters rather than in pursuing their ideological goals. Can we call in the IRS and neutralize the opposition?

Ask your constituents what they fear most from the Federal Government and nearly all will say that one of their greatest fears is learning that they are being audited by the IRS. Not only does the IRS audit raise great concern, but for many who find themselves the focus of an audit, those concerns are

compounded by the strongly held view that the agency may be politically motivated.

When the IRS Commissioner serves at the pleasure of the President, the perception is that the Commissioner may be swayed to operate the IRS in a manner that pleases the White House and may even agree to pursue audits as directed or do other things to be assured continued employment. Is this perception reality? Stories abound of misuse or abuse of IRS power for political purposes—in this administration and in previous administrations throughout history.

This is wrong. The IRS must be above partisan politics. Taxpayers—individuals and organizations alike—must be assured that one of the most important agencies in the Federal Government is run in a fair, nonpartisan manner. Americans deserve to rest easy knowing that the IRS is working in an objective, even-handed way to assess and collect taxes owed to the Federal Government. Americans deserve this.

That is why I am today introducing legislation which bolsters the integrity of the Internal Revenue Service by ensuring that the IRS is managed by an independent Commissioner, judged by his or her peers to be well-qualified to run the agency. My bill does two important things. First, the legislation establishes a new objective selection process for the IRS commissioner. Second, the legislation establishes a set 6-year term for the Commissioner, and thereby provides an important degree of independence from the President.

Under the provisions of this legislation, 150 days prior to the expiration of the Commissioner's term, or when a vacancy occurs, a special selection commission is established to consider potential candidates for commissioner. This commission will be comprised of peers qualified to assess the qualifications of potential candidates.

Specifically, the commission will consist of five individuals having professional contacts with the IRS, appointed by the following organizations: First, a representative from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants who is a certified public accountant; second, a representative from the American Bar Association who is a member of the Tax Division; third, a scientist from the National Academy of Scientists; fourth, an engineer from the Institute for Electronic and Electrical Engineers; and fifth, an economist from the American Economics Association.

No later than 60 days after the commission is established, the commission submits to the President a slate of qualified candidates. The President then selects his nominee from that slate. Once approved by the Senate and sworn in, the new IRS commissioner then serves for a 6-year term.

This selection process is similar to the process used to select the comptroller of the General Accounting Office. In that instance, a special commission—comprised of members of the House and Senate—is established to consider potential candidates for the position and to present to the President a slate of qualified candidates for his consideration. This process has worked well for many years and has resulted in well-qualified persons serving as comptroller. I am convinced that the position of IRS Commissioner would benefit from a similar commission comprised of qualified individuals routinely doing business with the IRS. Let us follow the model provided and establish

a selection commission for the IRS Commissioner.

My legislation ensures that strong, qualified candidates are selected for IRS Commissioner and further ensures that the Commissioner is afforded necessary insulation and distance from attempts to make the IRS a tool for the party in power in the White House. We must give taxpayers renewed confidence in the IRS and in its ability to fulfill its mission in an unbiased, even-handed manner. My bill will do just that and I urge its support.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE FORWARD

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the Forward, the king of New York's ethnic newspapers that has given voice to this city's Jewish community since 1897.

For 100 years, Forverts has brought the news to New York's Jewish immigrant community in their native tongue, Yiddish. Considered by many as the exemplar of ethnic newspapers in a metropolis that supports more than 100 of these, the Forward has been hailed by no less than legendary New York newspaperman Pete Hamill as the model for all newspapers.

The story of the Forward begins with one of the landmark developments of this Nation's history, the great European immigration that began during the latter part of the 19th century. The forward, and thousands of journals like it, was published for the 2½ million Jews from Eastern Europe who poured through great immigrant ports like Ellis Island between 1881 and 1925. Its first great editor was Abraham Cahan, a literary genius and acclaimed author who created a daily that was best described as a kind of running Talmudic text for the secular cultural life of the Yiddish-speaking masses. Its mix of sensationalism and seriousness was supplemented by the fictions, essays and poetry of the great names of Yiddish literature. Though he won a Nobel Prize for literature in 1978, Isaac Bashevis Singer first published his fictional work in the Forward.

In the 1920's when the Forward wielded more influence than many of New York's English-language newspapers, this Yiddish daily boasted a circulation of more than a quarter million. In 1947, the paper's 50th anniversary party was so large it was staged in Madison Square Garden. It has even been said that the Forward's influence was so great, that it helped elect Meyer London to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1914.

May 25, 1990, was a historic day in the life of the Forward. After 93 years of publishing solely in Yiddish, the Forward produced its first English-language edition. Not an English translation, but a new entity that shares only a Manhattan office and the rich heritage of the original Forward. Led by president and editor Seth Lipsky, formerly an editor of the Wall Street Journal, the English-language edition has quickly staked its claim as the leading secular newspaper covering the Jewish-American community. Today, the Forward also publishes a Russian-language edition.

Though the Forward has always had a select readership, the issues and events found on its news pages are as diverse as the city it class home and the world that it covers. From politics to the arts, editorial cartoons to commentary, the Forward covers the entire range of the Jewish diaspora.

In its early years, the Yiddish Forward helped generations of European Jews absorb the American way of life, and today this legendary newspaper is still the paper of record covering the Jewish community. That is why I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Forward on its 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA AND ROY
TANZMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 10, 1997, the first annual Chaver Award will be presented by the Highland Park Conservative Temple of Highland Park, NJ, at its donor dinner dance to Brenda and Roy Tanzman of South Brunswick, NJ, for extraordinary community service.

The Chaver Award was inspired by President Clinton's eulogy to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—"Shalom, Chaver—Peace, Friend." The award will be given to those community leaders whose commitment involves an emotional and personal feeling for the value of continued giving of themselves for the greater good of all—in short, those who are true friends of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and pleasure for me to join the Highland Park Conservative temple in paying tribute to Roy and Brenda Tanzman. The Tanzmans have been community leaders in many ways, having served on numerous civic and religious boards, given assistance to a wide range of projects, and led missions to Israel. They and their entire family have been excellent role models for the entire community. The list of organizations that they have led, supported, or been involved with is a long one.

Roy Tanzman serves as first vice president of the Highland Park Temple. He is the president-elect of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, chairman of ALPAC of Middlesex County and chairman of the Middlesex County Israel Bond Organization. Among other activities and associations, Mr. Tanzman has served with the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the New Brunswick Cultural Arts Committee, the Woodbridge Township School District, the South Brunswick Democratic Committee, and as a coach for youth soccer, basketball and baseball in South Brunswick. A partner with the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer, Mr. Tanzman serves on the Middlesex County Bar Association, the New Jersey Bar Association, the New York Bar Association and the Middlesex County Board of Realtors.

Brenda Tanzman is a former board member of the Highland Park Temple, and has chaired many temple projects, including being dinner dance co-chairwoman. She has served as chairperson of the children's holiday projects of the sisterhood of the temple. She is a

former vice president and board member of National Council of Jewish Women. She is also a member of the Auxiliary of Central New Jersey Home of the Aged. A life member of Hadassah, she has been an active volunteer in the South Brunswick school system for the past 14 years, where she has served as cultural arts chairperson, and also worked on the Anne Frank exhibit.

The Tanzmans reside in South Brunswick with their two children, Jill and Brett.

The gala will be held at the Excelsior in Manalapan, NJ. I would also like to pay tribute to the chairperson for the event. Al and Lynn Rappaport, and Elliot and Jackie Brooks, and Ad Journal chairpersons Stuart Mitnick, Walter Rogers, Justin and Gittel Footerman and Bernie Sadof, for all their hard work in putting together what will be, I am sure, a tremendously successful event.

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY A. THOMPSON

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 18, 1997, the Los Angeles Unified School District [LAUSD] family will gather at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Marina Del Rey to pay homage to their leader Superintendent Sidney A. Thompson. Sid, as he is affectionately known by his colleagues, family, and many friends, is retiring from the school district after a distinguished and exemplary career spanning more than 40 years. An educator's educator, I am privileged to count him as my friend, and am pleased to share this brief retrospective of this extraordinary individual with my colleagues.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, on May 9, 1932, Sid attended Dayton Heights Elementary School, Virgil Junior High School, and graduated at the age of 16 from Belmont High School.

After graduation, Sid was faced with genuine conflict concerning his career choices. Imbued with a deep love of the sea, yet keenly aware of the necessity and importance of a college education, he arrived at the perfect solution to combine both dreams. He successfully passed the entrance exam for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, located in Kings Point, NY, but was forced to sit out the year since he was not yet 17.

Sid graduated from the academy in 1952 with a bachelor of science degree and soon thereafter enlisted in the U.S. Navy, rising to the rank of lieutenant. He was stationed aboard the U.S.S. *Rochester* during the Korean war.

Following his tour of duty, he returned to Los Angeles. In 1956 he joined the faculty of Pacoima Junior High School where he taught mathematics, rising to department Chair. While at Pacoima, he entered California State University, Los Angeles, earning a master's degree in school administration in 1960. His ascent to greater heights and responsibilities was just beginning.

In 1965, Sid was named Assistant Principal at Maclay Junior High School. Four years later, he became Principal of Markham Junior High School and from 1971–1976, served as Principal of Crenshaw High School. His impressive administrative and managerial skills

led to his promotion in 1976 to the post of Deputy Area Administrator for area 2. This position was followed in fairly rapid succession by a series of increasingly responsible positions within the school district's administrative offices.

On October 5, 1992, Sid became the 42d Superintendent and the first African-American to lead the Nation's second largest school district. His appointment catapulted him into the limelight as he confronted the mammoth challenge of overhauling and restructuring the school district—a move directed at concentrating greater decisionmaking authority at the local school level.

An affable and forthright individual, Sid has worked diligently with community groups and with local, State, and Federal officials in pursuit of his goals. He has been a strong, forceful, and effective advocate on behalf of children and viable educational policies designed to enhance their potential for future academic success.

Mr. Speaker, as the 19th century English essayist John Ruskin once noted, "The first duty of government is to see that people have food, fuel, and clothes. The second, that they have means of moral and intellectual education." I would submit that by his exemplary career and example, Sid Thompson embodies this principle. Largely because of his dedication, his love of education, and his leadership, the children of Los Angeles are better prepared to face the challenges of the future.

I am, therefore, proud to have this opportunity to congratulate him on his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Los Angeles. He has been a true champion of quality education for all children, and his presence at the helm of the Los Angeles Unified School District will be sorely missed.

As Sid prepares to embark on what I trust will be a long, prosperous, and healthy retirement, I wish him and his lovely wife, Julia, calm seas and cloudless skies as they sail aboard their beloved sailboat "Havarim." Thank you Sid. Well done, my friend.

IN MEMORY OF A FIGHTING
IRISHMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Martin Patrick Cooney, Sr., a native of the west side of Cleveland who was dedicated to the Irish community.

Because of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Irish community, in 1994 he was chosen Man of the Year by the very Irish Heritage Club he helped to found. He was once host to the Archbishop of Dublin and a member of Irish Parliament.

Mr. Cooney, a member of Pipefitters Local 120, retired after 30 years as a pipefitter for the city of Cleveland.

Mr. Cooney was a gifted Irish tenor. And throughout his 76 years of vibrant life and more than 20 trips to Ireland, he accumulated a wealth of knowledge on his heritage as well as the lineage of several Irish families in Cleveland.

He is survived by three daughters, a son, and seven grandchildren; as well as a sister and brother, and dear friends.