democratic institutions. He understood as well as anyone the practical pressures confronted by elected officials confronting difficult choices, but he always figured Franklin D. Roosevelt—one of his heroes—had it about right: political leaders should challenge their constituents and their Nation, and shouldn't sacrifice principle and the public good to fleeting whims or political expediency.

At a time when many ran and hid from the stigmatized notion of being a ''liberal,'' Don remained an unabashed and unapologetic believer that government should help the poor and the disenfranchised. He wasn't in the least starry-eyed, utopian, or naive. But he was unwilling to abandon his deep faith in people and our constitutional system because of what was popular or saleable at any particular time.

Don was an adviser, a fundraiser, a strategist, and kibbitzer. He loved the campaign fights and he loved the corridors of the legislatures—state and national—but he also loved sitting for hours in some San Francisco restaurant, a glass of good California wine in his hand, speculating about political developments and digesting political gossip.

Don was born in Roseville, CA, the son of railroad workers, and held degrees from Sierra College, California State University at Sacramento, and San Francisco State. He taught government and English in Roseville until he was sucked into the world of elections and politics during the 1960 Presidential campaign of Senator John F. Kennedy. He subsequently worked in the 1962 reelection campaign in which Pat Brown defeated Richard Nixon, and then in the 1964 Presidential campaign for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

After working in Brown's 1966 campaign, he became the Governor's travel secretary, and began a career in fundraising that continued through every succeeding Presidential campaign, and countless campaigns for State and Federal candidates.

But for all the fun he had and the substantive contributions he made to our political process, I often think that Don's first choice would have been to return to academia, finish up that elusive doctorate, and teach what he had learned about our political system to another generation of Americans.

He did return to teach at San Francisco State, and he would have made a great career professor, just as I am sure he was an inspiring teacher earlier in his career and in his last several years as well. He was knowledgeable, he was passionate, and he was deeply committed. In the end, leukemia would overtake his powerful spirit.

Don leaves a wonderful family, his wife Linda, with whom he built a successful business and raised three accomplished children, Stacey, Maggie and Mike. To them and to the rest of his family, all of us who profited by this man's faith and friendship offer our deep condolences and prayers.

Don's legacy lives on not only in his children and grandchild, but in the scores of people influenced and inspired by him to dedicate themselves to lives of public service for the improvement of our society.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN BENTLEY

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an exceptional young man, Mr. Steven Bentley, who has devoted much hard-earned effort to achieving the Boy Scout's highest rank of Eagle Scout. This award reflects great initiative, determination, and hard work.

Steven received his Eagle Scout badge by completing sorely needed renovations to Old St. Mary's Church hall, one of the oldest Roman Catholic churches in Rhode Island.

Steven is an example of the best of America's youth, those dedicated to improving life in their community and who strive to reach their highest potential.

The 16-year-old son of Bruce and Patricia Bentley, Steven resides in West Warwick, RI, where he is a student at West Warwick High School. I am sure his parents are extremely proud of their son's achievement. I have confidence that the Boy Scouts have prepared him to face life's challenges with great determination and character. On behalf of the people of Rhode Island, I would like to thank Steven for his service to the community and wish him great success in the future.

RADIO VISION'S 17TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, 1997, Radio Vision, a service organization in the 20th District of New York will be celebrating it's 17th annual Volunteer Recognition Day.

Radio Vision is a closed-circuit radio broadcasting service that provides news and information for the blind and sight impaired throughout five counties in the Hudson Valley region of New York. Radio Vision, which is staffed completely by volunteers, gives the opportunity for hundreds of sight-impaired persons to learn more of what is occurring around them.

A sight impaired person's access to the media is limited to listening to radio and television broadcasts that only briefly outline national and international news. For a person that has difficulty holding or reading a newspaper, local news and happenings—such as which stores have sales, where new facilities have opened in the vicinity, and what our neighbors are accomplishing—is difficult to obtain.

Radio Vision provides a free-closed-circuit radio to people who require help in getting news. The 105 dedicated volunteers read local news, topical literature, shopping hints and other vital information to more than 400 blind, sight impaired or otherwise disabled Hudson Valley residents who subscribe to the Radio Vision service.

Their voluntary hard work has enriched the lives of many of our constituents, and I am proud to note their good works to my colleagues.

REMEMBERING LARRY BIENSTOCK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a courageous man and to try to shed some light on the tragic disease which he courageously fought. Larry Bienstock was my constituent and lived on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He attended Columbia University and received his law degree from New York University. Everyone who knew him, even in passing, was amazed at his searing intelligence, his fierce independence, and, above all, his unwavering commitment to the cause of dystonia. Unfortunately, Larry knew dystonia well.

Generalized dystonia symptoms began when he was a boy and progressed in adulthood to the point of confining him to a wheelchair. Yet despite the cruel nature of this debilitating disease, Larry's spirit never dampened. During the many years that I knew and worked with Larry, I learned directly from him about his battle with dystonia.

Dystonia is a neurological disorder characterized by severe involuntary muscle contractions and sustained postures. There are several different types of dystonia, such as: generalized dystonia which afflicts many parts of the body and usually begins in childhood; focal dystonias affecting one specific part of the body such as the eyelids, vocal cords, neck, arms, hands or feet; and secondary dystonia which is secondary to injury or other brain illness.

There is no definitive test for dystonia and many primary care doctors have never seen a case of it. These facts coupled with its varied presentations make it difficult to correctly diagnose. It is estimated that 85% of those suffering from dystonia are not diagnosed or have been misdiagnosed. Because of the complications with diagnosing the disease, it is difficult to determine the number of people who are affected by it. The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation estimates that approximately 300,000 individuals in North America alone suffer from some form of dystonia.

Unembarrassed by his condition, Larry and his wheelchair went traveling often—to lobby for funding in the halls of the Capitol, to the boulevards of Paris, to symposia and social events related to dystonia. Throughout his life, Larry was always a fighter for research into the cause and treatment of dystonia.

Larry was active in politics, volunteering on political campaigns and with the local Democratic party. He felt that government belonged to the people and he always took advantage of opportunities to speak out on issues he felt strongly about. He spread his word via the Internet and created a web page for the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, which can be found at: http://www.ziplink.net/users/dystonia/.

Larry saw e-mail and his web page as powerful tools for bringing together people concerned about dystonia and for establishing a strong collective voice for advocacy. Larry Bienstock provided a model of courage, perseverance, and independence.

When he passed away recently, Larry Bienstock left a legacy of activism and advocacy. He taught me about dystonia, and more importantly, about the undying human spirit.