

character and future interests. Reading a biography of Allen Dulles led me to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a century of wise men. Reading about the Russian Revolution led me, through a limited understanding of Karl Marx, to other political philosophers.

Philosophy opened up great new doors for me that I had previously not known existed. I suddenly found myself fascinated in how different people saw life and how I could attain that higher form of being. Lippmann helped answer that question for me. He wrote that the best way to live life is to keep removed enough from anything that could affect you negatively, so that you could see it in an objective light. From his biography I learned that he was going through an awful marriage at the time he wrote that and was probably developing a plan to deal with it, but it nevertheless affected me greatly.

It taught me to "storm the barricades" if a problem arises rather than "retreat into a monastery." He also taught me to never waste time, but to evaluate any action I take in regard to how it will affect me now, and in the future and whether it is really worth doing.

And so now, I collect as many books as I think are worth collecting, not because I will read them all now, or read all of them later. I collect them because when I look at my bookshelf, I feel I'm looking at my potential, and when you are constantly reminded of your potential, it is hard not to do your best to fulfill it.

Perhaps by reading philosophy, but probably even before that, I have always had a great sense of history, and my future. I sit sometimes on the porch with my father and grandfather in Bermuda or Scarsdale. We sit around, look up at those stars that are so noticeably lacking in New York City and we philosophize:

My grandfather explains the theory of "priming the pump" one minute and then gives lessons from those days when he was living through the Depression. He tells me the story of a speech he submitted for Hubert Humphrey, which opposed the Vietnam War and was firmly rejected by the candidate, who was then vice president.

We all sit around: my grandfather, a testament to history; my father, a testament to intellectualism, and I, a testament to potential. I think of how much they have influenced me and how much I want to be as intelligent and as well read as they are. And then I realize that I have a long way to go; and that through reading the books which I collect, I will slowly chip away at the large block of space between theirs and my intellectual stamina.

I can't wait until college, when required reading will be Nietzsche and Hegel. Hopefully, by then, I'll be able to grasp more of them than I can now. I do know that the pride of my household will always be my library. For, looking into the books' eyes, I see, I know, my future.

SALUTE TO AMBASSADOR ROBERT NESEN

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 1997*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ambassador Robert Nesen for his numerous contributions to the State of California and his country.

In 1942, Mr. Nesen was commissioned in the U.S. Navy, receiving his Navy wings in 1943. He was on active duty until 1946 and

after spending 22 years in the Naval Reserve, retired as lieutenant commander in 1967. In 1972, he was awarded the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest civilian award given by the U.S. Navy.

In 1948, he began his own automobile dealership and continues to be active in that industry. He has served as director and past president of the Motor Car Dealers Association of southern California and in 1991 was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

Ambassador Nesen has been active in both local and national politics. In 1970, President Nixon appointed Mr. Nesen to the National Reserve Board, East-West Center and in 1972 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy. In 1981, President Reagan appointed Mr. Nesen Ambassador to Australia and Nauru. He remained in that position until his return to the United States in 1985.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ambassador Nesen has earned the respect of many. He was named "Patriotic Citizen of the Year," receiving the Patrick Henry Patriotism Medallion by the Military Order of World Wars. In 1991, he was given the Path to Dignity Award by the American Parkinson Disease Foundation. And, in 1994 he received the World Citizen Award from the World Affairs Council of Ventura County. The award was presented by Vice President Dan Quayle.

Ambassador Nesen is a model for us all. His unwavering patriotism and dedication to duty are truly an inspiration. I am proud to pay tribute to him today.

RECOGNITION OF BONNIE TAM

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleague to join me today in commending Ms. Bonnie Tam, a senior at Westmoor High School and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Excellence Award in the 12th Congressional District of California.

Bonnie Tam's scholastic achievements are most impressive. She has maintained a high grade point average while undertaking a challenging class schedule. She has supplemented her regular high school courses by taking classes at the College of San Mateo and at Skyline College. Her academic awards include the Pacific Telesis Employees for Women's Affirmative Action Scholarship, the Bank of America Liberal Arts Award, Golden State Exam Honors for Geometry and American History, Golden State Exam Student Recognition for Biology and Algebra, and a National Merit Letter of Commendation. Ms. Tam has been recognized in the Who's Who of American High School Students.

In addition to her outstanding academic record, Bonnie has a remarkable record of community service. She has volunteered at Seton Medical Center in Daly City and at the Westside Women's HIV Prevention Program in San Francisco. In Westmoor High School, she has been involved in Symphonic Band, the Book Club, German Club, Math Tutoring Club, Newcomer Service Club, and the Gifted and Talented Education Club.

Bonnie will attend the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall where she plans to

study business administration, management, or economics.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Bonnie Tam for her outstanding service to our community and in congratulating her for her academic achievements.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR  
"TRANSPORT" MAGHAKIAN

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Victor "Transport" Maghakian. A legend of World War II, Maghakian was one of the most decorated and well-respected soldiers of the war.

A native of Chicago, Maghakian moved to San Diego with his family in 1930. Nine years later, he moved to Fresno. He first served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Philippines and throughout China. His familiarity with foreign bases throughout the Pacific earned him the nickname "Transport." After Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, Maghakian re-enlisted in the Marine Corps and was selected to work with the so-called suicide unit of crack soldiers. These tough Marines were known as Carlson's Raiders.

As a gunnery sergeant, Maghakian led his troops through what was believed to be some of the bloodiest fighting in seven South Pacific campaigns. During one mission, Maghakian even made himself a human target so that a sniper, who had wounded one of his buddies, would give up his hiding spot. The enemy was shot, but not before Maghakian was shot himself, wounded by the sniper's gun-fire.

Maghakian's bravery allowed him to continue undaunted through numerous battles. In 1944, during the battle of Eniwetok, he eliminated the last four Japanese soldiers on Mellu Island and went on to rescue a platoon by destroying the enemy flank with grenades. In the battle, he saved the life of a young man who went on to be one of Hollywood's finest actors—Lee Marvin. He also became the first officer to raise the American flag on Tinian Island.

After leaving active duty in 1946, Maghakian retired as a captain, with full honors. He received the Navy Cross, two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts. He returned to Fresno where he owned and managed the Mid-Valley Beer and Wine Wholesale Distributing Co. and the Victor Mobile Service. Maghakian later joined the State Department as a security officer in Morocco before settling in Las Vegas. He eventually moved back to Fresno where he died in 1977, and was buried at Ararat Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, Victor "Transport" Maghakian fought for this Nation's freedom with uncommon valor. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Victor Maghakian, an American hero.