

CONGRATULATING DONNA WEINBRECHT—OUR GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR OF THE SLOPES

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of New Jersey to congratulate Olympic legend Donna Weinbrecht of West Milford, New Jersey, on an outstanding career. She is a mentor and role model for our young people and a credit to our nation for her excellence in all she does. This young woman from New Jersey is an inspiration to both athletes and non-athletes alike. Her sterling character, hard work, unending dedication and thorough mastery of her sport make her a role model for young people across our nation.

Donna—the world-renowned “Queen of the Moguls”—competed in her final Olympic freestyle race today. Despite a rash of injuries, including a very sore knee, Donna skied her way into the finals on Sunday and today came extremely close to a second career Olympic medal, with a fast and clean run to the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, Donna has been the “foundation” of the U.S. freestyle team for 11 years. Over her career she won an Olympic Gold Medal, seven U.S. titles and five World Cup Championships. These championship performances are what has earned her the international reputation as the “Queen of the Moguls.”

But her impact on her sport goes beyond trophies and honors. She has also served as the sport’s “goodwill ambassador.” Due in large part to Donna’s energetic promotion of freestyle skiing—or “the bumps”—we have the opportunity to watch this exciting form of skiing at the Olympics and around the world.

While Donna is the “Queen of the Moguls,” her mother, Caroline Weinbrecht, calls herself the “Queen of the Screams” for her style in cheering on her daughter.

Caroline and Jim Weinbrecht stayed home from their daughter’s trip to Japan this year because both have health problems that would have made the 14-hour trip difficult. They were with Donna when she won the gold in Albertville in 1992, however, and her brother and sister, Jim and Joy, are in Nagano. They are a family that is always there for each other.

Donna was born April 23, 1965, in Hoboken and now resides in West Milford. Donna won the first-ever Olympic gold medal for women’s freestyle mogul skiing at the 1992 Olympic Games. Nine months later, she suffered a severe knee injury while training for the next ski season. Many experts didn’t expect her to ski competitively again, but with disciplined training and extra effort she came back to win the World Cup in 1994 and 1996. Those are the traits of character and dedication that will bring her continued success in whatever future life endeavor course she chooses.

The 5-foot-4 skier has known a lifetime of achievements. The highlight, of course, was taking the Gold Medal in Freestyle Mogul Skiing at the 1992 Olympic Games in Albertville. In 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1996, she was both the World Cup and U.S. National Champion in the same event. She took the U.S. title in 1988 and 1989.

She has won 46 Gold, 12 Silver, 12 Bronze World Cup Medals. She was named “International and U.S. Female Freestyle Skier of the Year” by Ski Racing Magazine in 1996; “International Sportswoman of the Year” finalist in 1993; Women Sports Foundation’s 1996 “Ski Athlete of the Year”; the United States Olympic Committee’s “Amateur Athlete of the Year” for 1990–1992; and one of the Women Sports Foundation’s “Outstanding Amateur Athletes in America” for 1990–1992. She was a member of the Amateur Athletic Union in 1990–1992.

Donna’s hometown of West Milford has been enthusiastically cheering on their favorite skier. Students at Apschawa Elementary School e-mailed messages to Donna earlier this week and Olympic flags hang outside several neighbors’ homes. Local schools have shown students videos of her past performances. At West Milford High School, where she was a high school skier, a mural on the gymnasium wall commemorates her 1992 Olympic victory.

My Congressional colleagues and I join Donna’s family, the residents of High Crest Lake in West Milford, the citizens of New Jersey and, indeed, all of our nation in saluting our Olympic champion. Donna will always be a “gold medal champion” in our hearts. She has carried our flag proudly.

TRIBUTE TO TALLER SAN JOSE
(ST. JOSEPH’S WORKSHOP)

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Taller San Jose (St. Joseph’s Workshop) for offering hope to the Latino youth who seek a productive, self-reliant future. The young people who come to Taller San Jose are looking for a second chance to “work on their lives”. The students are male and female, 18 and over, and bilingual. They have usually dropped out of school, often more than once; have one or more children; want to finish school; and seek job training in order to become productive adults.

The program includes life skills and mentoring, GED preparation, computer literacy, clerical skills, nursing assistant training, and wood-working. All classes are designed for participants to develop job ready skills and behaviors which translate into accountability and responsibility. The program also offers classes to the larger community such as English as a Second Language at the basic and intermediate levels.

Taller San Jose, which has been open for 2½ years, was a recent recipient of the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award. This award recognizes exemplary uses of Community Development Block Grant funds which address the needs of families, homes and neighborhoods. TSJ was recognized as one of six in the nation to receive this national award in 1998.

IN HONOR OF PHILIP J. GARONE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philip J. Garone, a beloved member of the Greenpoint, Brooklyn community who recently passed away.

Mr. Garone, a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, was one of six sons born to Angelina and Angelo-Charles Garone in 1911. When Philip’s father passed away, Philip began working after school to help support his family. This dedication to his family continued throughout his life.

Philip Garone also had a passion for music. He began playing the saxophone at an early age and was soon sought after by music great Tommy Dorsey. After working as a lithographer in the printing industry, Philip would play the sax at Greenwich Village clubs with famous musicians such as Gene Crooper and Sam “the man” Taylor.

In 1936, Philip married Virginia Torre at St. Francis De Paola Church. Together they had three daughters, Angela, RoseAnn and Phyllis, and lived on Lombardy Street in Greenpoint. Throughout their 23 years marriage, Philip was urged by many musicians to go on the road with his music. Again, his dedication to his family kept him close to home.

Philip and Virginia were married for 23 years until Virginia’s tragic death from cancer in 1959 at the age of 42. Five years later, Philip met and married Angie DeLuca.

In Philip’s 60 year musical career he played for community events, politicians, feasts, dances, block parties, and neighborhood weddings. In recent years he began playing for senior citizen groups at the Garity Post and the Swinging Sixties.

On April 13, 1997, Philip Garone died of a massive stroke at the age of 86. The silence of his saxophone is felt throughout the Greenpoint community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Mr. Philip Garone, a very talented and devoted man who contributed to his community with the beauty of his music and his devotion to his family and neighbors. He is greatly missed.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, PRESIDENT
MENEM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, Argentine President Carlos Menem will attend a special showing of “The Elixir of Love” at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. With all due respect to tenor Ramone Vargas, there are far more important voices for President Menem to hear in New York.

He should hear the voice of Americans angry about the failure of his government to bring anti-semitic terrorists to justice. In 1992, the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed. Two years later, the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was car-bombed. Not a single person has been convicted of these crimes.