

General Brohm's achievements have earned him numerous decorations and awards, including the Bronze Star, the Army Achievement Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, as well as numerous others.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him on matters relating to the Army and Fort Monmouth. His good humor and patience with me as I have adjusted to my new position as a new Congressman and a member of the House National Security Committee have been invaluable and I am very grateful for insight. I congratulate him and wish him, his wife Ines, and their four children Maria Elena, Kathy, Jerry, and Michael best wishes in his retirement.

FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN A.
CATSIMATIDIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

NEW YORK, NY, September 3.—I rise today to pay tribute to John Catsimatidis, who today is celebrating his fiftieth birthday.

John Catsimatidis, an outstanding member of the community which I represent, was born in Greece in 1948. While still an infant, his parents brought him to the United States where he was raised in New York City. He attended high school in Brooklyn and then graduated from New York University.

Mr. Catsimatidis' contributions to the New York City community as a businessman and as a caring citizen are vast and varied.

He is the chairman and chief executive officer of the Red Apple Group, Inc., a privately held company that employs 10,000 people. The Red Apple Group is a diversified company with holdings in several areas, including: oil refining, supermarkets, real estate, aviation and publishing.

Red Apple Group operates United Refining of Warren, Pennsylvania, a midsized oil refinery that functions under the name "Kwik-Fill." The refinery operates 354 convenience stores and filling stations in Northwest New York and Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. Catsimatidis' company also operates the largest supermarket chain in Manhattan under the names "Sloan's" and "Gristede's." He founded this business in 1969 while still a college student; the company now operates 50 stores. An additional supermarket operating under the name "Grand Union," located in the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Catsimatidis, a pilot, also operates an aviation company under the names "Capitol Air Express" and "C&S Acquisition." This company is a worldwide commercial charter and aircraft leasing company with Boeing's 727's and personal jet aircraft.

Additionally, he is the owner and editor of the Hellenic Times newspaper, the largest English-language Greek-American newspaper in the United States.

The list of Mr. Catsimatidis' philanthropic activities is equally as extensive and impressive as his business initiatives. He is the former chairman of the Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee (HANAC), a nonprofit social services organization which

operates low-income housing, medical services, and housing for the elderly and home meal delivery in the New York Metropolitan area.

He is the co-chairman and founder of the Brooklyn Tech Endowment Foundation; the \$10,000,000 fund is the largest gift to a secondary school in the United States. He is the director of the New York Police Athletic League. He funds the John Catsimatidis Scholarship Fund at NYU School of Business, which awards two scholarships annually. He is a past president of the Manhattan Council of Boy Scouts of America.

He is also active in the National Kidney Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Young Men's Philanthropic League and the Alzheimer's Foundation. In 1991, he underwrote the construction of the library at Camp David Chapel, the Presidential Retreat.

John Catsimatidis and his wife, Margo, have two children, Andrea John, 9; and John Andreas, Jr., 5.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in tribute to John Catsimatidis on his fiftieth birthday. It is a privilege to have such an outstanding leader in my district.

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS
REV. JAMES E. WALKER, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Reverend James E. Walker, Jr., of Flint Michigan. On Saturday, September 12, the congregation of Flint's Faith Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ will honor Reverend Walker for the many contributions he has made over the last 25 years to both City and State in the name of the Lord.

It is difficult to imagine what the Flint community would be like today had Reverend Walker not been called to become Pastor of Faith Gospel Temple. Born in 1949, to the Minister James Walker, Sr. and Lola Walker, Pastor Walker's dedication to the Lord began at the young age of 4, as a mandolin player in his family's traveling Evangelist band. The years later found the elder James Walker founding the Faith Gospel Temple in Saginaw, Michigan, in 1971. It was only fitting that the first service of the new church was the wedding of his son to the former Tonya Etoile Blythe.

It was in May of 1972, following a severe automobile accident that left his father paralyzed from the neck down, James announced to his father his plans to enter the ministry. In September of 1972, Reverend James Walker, Jr. gave his first sermon at Faith Gospel Temple, and began a distinguished career of spiritual guidance, most notably his appointment as Superintendent of Peace for the District of Northeast Michigan. In this role, which he has maintained for more than 14 years, he oversees and provides advice and insight to four churches in the Flint and Saginaw area. Many have benefitted greatly from Pastor Walker's work in the community, as well as the state.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow members of the 105th Con-

gress to join me in saluting Pastor James Walker, Jr. Self evident is his lifelong journey to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people I am grateful that there are people like that serve as examples of what Americans should strive to be.

HONORING DR. JUDITH CRAVEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Honoring Dr. Judith Craven on her retirement as the President of The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast.

Judith Craven is a Medical Doctor, a Master of Public Health, and has served as President of The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast since the fall of 1992. Under Dr. Craven's leadership The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast experienced financial stability and growth. As result of Dr. Craven's determined efforts the United Way of Texas Gulf Coast became the fourth largest campaign in the nation.

During her tenure, unprecedented growth in multi-cultural communities offered new challenges and opportunities, both in campaign and volunteer recruitment areas. This challenge was met by Dr. Craven's recommitment to the values of the United Way. Dr. Craven embraced the values of diversity in volunteer composition and in service to a multi-cultural community.

Dr. Craven maximized fund raising efforts, by conducting a community wide campaign that increased the opportunity for everyone to be able to give and which sought to ensure funding stability in the community. The hallmark of Dr. Craven's fiscal responsibility was a results oriented stewardship for every charitable dollar given.

Just one example of Dr. Craven's contribution to her community was the creation of the Community Table. This effort resulted in a place where diverse individuals and groups could meet together to collaboratively plan and respond to health and human service needs. Her efforts are responsible for better communication among service providers which serve those in need.

Dr. Craven used her influence and considerable powers of communication to effectively communicate with public policy partners at the city, county, state, and federal levels to affect health and human services. This considerable effort resulted in a more effective social service delivery system.

Thus, it is clear that under the leadership of Dr. Judith Craven, the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast has become a recognized and respected leader of the nonprofit community. Dr. Craven's leadership and administration should be copied by all nonprofit organizations.

Thank you, Dr. Craven, for your commitment and dedicated leadership in service to Texas Gulf Coast community.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE DEPLORING TRAGIC AND SENSELESS MURDER OF BISHOP JUAN JOSE GERARDI

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 421, a resolution deploring the murder of Guatemala Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi.

In late July of this year, I joined my colleagues Representatives GEORGE MILLER and CIRO RODRIGUEZ on a three-day visit to Guatemala. The visit was organized by the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights. Our goals were to encourage the Guatemalan government to carry out a thorough investigation of the April 26, 1998 murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi; to provide visible support to the Archbishop's Human Rights Office and other human rights organizations in Guatemala; to encourage the United States government to play a more active role in supporting efforts to improve respect for human rights in Guatemala; and to demonstrate full support for the implementation of the peace accords which have brought an end to 36 years of civil war.

Our delegation met with government officials, including Guatemala President Arzu, church leaders, and representatives of numerous community organizations. We paid special attention to the investigation of the tragic murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi. Because of Bishop Gerardi's invaluable work in defense of human rights and the fact that he was killed only days after the release of the report, "Guatemala: Never Again," this crime necessarily has political connotations. If it is not resolved, it would be a devastating blow to the peace process and to domestic and international confidence in the implementation of these goals.

We were encouraged to hear of the government's commitment to aggressively pursue all leads, motives and evidence related to the tragic murder of Bishop Gerardi. Since late July, we have learned that the prosecution has made an initial request for information about the military officers whose names were originally provided by the Archbishop's Human Rights Office. It is vitally important that the prosecution go forward with an exhaustive investigation of the leads suggesting military involvement, just as it has been fully exploring other possible leads. The expeditious and judicious resolution of the investigation into Bishop Gerardi's murder is critical for the continuation of support for the peace accords.

Therefore, I rise in support of House Resolution 421, which calls for the Government of Guatemala to take all steps necessary to resolve the heinous murder of Bishop Gerardi; to continue its efforts to establish effective civilian law enforcement and judicial institutions; to make a renewed commitment to successfully implement the peace accords, especially those accords concerning human rights; and that the United States government provide all necessary support to the investigation of Bishop Gerardi's murder and to continue to support the full implementation of the peace accords.

EXECUTION OF BAHAI BELIEVER VIOLATES RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, human rights are universal by definition. Simply by being a member of the human race, every person has certain inviolable rights—those outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was created by the members of the United Nations fifty years ago.

Unfortunately, however, not every government in the world recognizes these rights. The Government of Iran recently gave the world a glaring example of the type of officially sanctioned depravity that can occur when rights of the individual are not protected—and in fact are actively violated by his or her own government.

On July 21st the Iranian government executed Ruhollah Rowhani in the town of Mashad. Mr. Rowhani, a married father of four, was not a criminal. He was a member of the Baha'i faith, and there is very credible reasons to believe that his death is a direct result of his faith. He was not accused of any crime that would be recognizable to us here in the United States or in most other places of the world. He was held incommunicado for nearly a year prior to his execution. He was not given access to lawyers. He was simply abducted by the government, held, subjected to a sham trial, judgment was passed, and then he was murdered.

The approximately 300,000 Baha'is who live in Iran are in an extremely precarious position that is highlighted by this extreme treatment of Mr. Rowhani. Although Baha'is are the largest religious minority in Iran, their faith is not recognized as a legitimate religion by the government. In fact, the theocracy in Teheran consider the Baha'i faith to be heresy and an anti-Muslim conspiracy.

Baha'is in Iran are labeled "unprotected infidels" and have no legal rights. Baha'is are prohibited from electing leaders, organizing schools or conducting other religious activities. All cemeteries, holy sites and Baha'i community property were seized after the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Baha'is are denied government jobs and pensions, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university posts since 1979. Baha'is of school age are also barred from both 4 year high schools and universities, severely limiting economic opportunities. Baha'i marriages are not recognized and the right of inheritance is not recognized for Baha'is. In short, the Baha'i community in Iran is slowly being strangled through a regime of official persecution.

It is important to note also, that the Baha'is in Iran have never engaged in any illegal or anti-government activity that would in any way justify this type of treatment. In fact, it is my understanding that obedience to the civil law of the land in which they live is a principal tenet of Baha'i teachings. The repression of the Baha'is in Iran is purely based on religion and intolerance.

The overall situation facing Baha'is in Iran and the recent execution of Mr. Rowhani raise grave concerns for the fifteen other Baha'is being held by Iranian authorities on religious

charges. In particular, seven men have been sentenced to death and may be facing imminent execution.

I urge the Government of Iran to ensure the immediate safety of three Baha'is most imminently in danger of execution—Ata'ullah Hamid Nasirizdih, Sirius Dhabih-Musqaddam, and Hidayat-Kashifi—and to ensure that these men are afforded fair and public trials prior to any action being taken against them.

I also urge on the White House and State Department Administration to work through appropriate channels, including the United Nations, and to work with our allies and friends to make clear to the Government of Iran that the lives of all Baha'i prisoners must be protected and that this behavior is unacceptable and must stop. The rights of the Baha'is of Iran, and of all humans, are unambiguous. It is the responsibility of the Government of Iran to ensure these right for all their citizens.

BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward with consideration of the 1999 Foreign Operations bill, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to the successful programs of the Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF), based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Using both federal and private funds, the BBF promotes international health and education through the efficient and effective distribution and provision of donated medical, educational, and agricultural resources.

An example of the international aid provided by the Brother's Brother Foundation is its public-private partnership to provide much-needed books to developing countries. BBF used U.S. government funding to ship half of the 40,000,000 privately donated books it received to 50 countries. The requested books are valued at \$340 million, and range from children's picture books to medical school texts. In the Philippines, for example, the program has been in operation for ten years, providing more than 8 million books for use by 15 million students in 38,000 schools and libraries. BBF works with U.S. Philippine Rotary Clubs to coordinate the collection and distribution of the books.

Another example of the important work that the Brother's Brother Foundation does is provide agricultural assistance to developing countries. BBF shipped 7,000 tons of donated corn and vegetable seed to 20 needy countries, including many new states like Armenia. This seed planted 22,000 square miles of farm land. The seed and the volunteer farming technical assistance that was provided with it helped to improve agriculture efficiency and increase rural family incomes. In the Republic of Georgia, for example, U.S. Agency for International Development representatives reported that "Production yields expanded 2 to 3 times." U.S. government funding provided 75 percent of the cost of shipping this seed overseas.

The value of non-profit organizations like the Brother's Brother Foundation are immeasurable. Their efforts are essential for the success of public-private partnerships. I ask my