

simply could not function without the good work and commitment of our staff.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great good fortune to have what I consider to be one of the best offices in the Congress and I offer this statement as a small tribute to their good deeds. While individual staffers have come and gone over the years, the office has always functioned as a team, always striving to do their best for me and for the citizens of Queens and the Bronx. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few of my closest and longest served staffers; individuals who I have come to rely upon without hesitation and whom I consider to be friends.

Jim Mathews, my current Chief of Staff, has served with me for over ten years. First as my Legislative Assistant for Merchant Marine and Fisheries, later as my Legislative Director, and then as my Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management. After a two year stint as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Jim was kind enough to return to work for me in his current position.

Steve Vest was with me from the start, first as my Legislative Director and then as my Chief of Staff for many years. He has gone on to a successful career as Vice President of Government Affairs with Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. His advise and counsel always served me well.

David Springer served as my first Chief of Staff. Without David's excellent political insight and working knowledge of the Congress, I could not have been as successful as I was early on in my House service. He has since put his skills to work as a partner in the prestigious Washington Group.

John Olmsted, my Office Manager, has been with me since I took the oath of office in 1985. How a son of Minnesota made his way to the office of a Congressman from New York City I do not know, but I am glad he did. John has kept our computers running and my expense account straight. I will miss his advice on the market as I head towards retirement.

Brian Browne has served me well as my Queens District Office Manager. Balancing a new family with the long hours of a District staffer meeting with constituents at almost any hour of day or night, Brian has done a great job. I wish him well in his new career at my alma mater, St. Johns University.

Lizzy O'Hara has been my eyes and ears on issues relating to Ireland and Irish Americans. I take some small credit for helping move along the peace process in Northern Ireland, which culminated in the Good Friday Accord. My success in this regard owes much to the tenacity, gregariousness, and hard-work of Lizzy.

Elaine Simek, now a prominent securities lawyer in New York, previously served as my Legislative Director and my right-hand-woman on Irish issues. Her dedication over the years helped make the Congressional Ad-Hoc Caucus on Irish Affairs the successful organization it is today. And, like me, she was able to hold down a full-time job while getting her law degree at night school.

Bill Driscoll and Fran Kraft both served as my District Office Managers for many years. Their knowledge of the District and local politics kept me out of hot water more times than I care to remember.

My good friend and colleague, Walter McCaffrey, served me admirably as my very first District Chief of Staff. He later went on to win election to the New York City Council, where he still serves with distinction in the seat I once held.

The rest of my current staff have all played an important role in keeping me informed and knowledgeable of a multitude of issues and concerns. As I said before, they are the real backbone of a successful Congressional office.

Cinnamon Rogers, my Legislative Director, has done a yeoman's job for me on telecommunication and finance issues under the Commerce Committee. Matt Socknat, has helped me obtain crucial funding for cleaning-up a local water body and successfully fought to stop additional flights in and out of LaGuardia Airport. Maggie Berman has done a great job juggling my schedule while working on a number of tricky legislative issues. Adam Wolf has brought a unique sense of humor, dedication, and caring to his staff position. No one is better at obtaining White House tour tickets.

In my District Office, Angela Dekker has had the unenviable task of keeping my schedule straight, and has done so with alacrity. Irene Baker has done an outstanding job taking over the office's press duties and working with my constituents on a multitude of issues. Julia Jimenez has slogged through countless immigration cases without missing a beat. The two newest District staffers, Ivan Lavios and Tim Higgins, have brought a new zest and determination to working with my constituents. And, Fran Mahony Reilly, my Bronx District Office Manager, has successfully taken on the responsibilities of a several person office all by herself. Without her, I simply could not have adequately represented my Bronx constituency.

Mr. Speaker. Finally, I would like to mention a few other members of my staff, both past and present, who have made my offices very special over the years: John Feeney, Rodney Bedford, Sean McIntyre, Jorge Rodriguez, Tom Messina, Tara Thompson, John Smythe, Neal Fenton, and Peter Praeger. I am leaving many individuals out of this list, but I hope they understand that they all played a very important part in keeping the offices running and the constituents of the 7th Congressional District happy.

Mr. Speaker, again I congratulate and thank all of my staff for their many years of service. I will miss them, as I will miss my colleagues and this great institution.

#### HONORING LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cleveland's Latvian community in celebrating 80 years of independence. Latvian-Americans have become an important part of this area, enriching it with their native heritage and lively culture.

The Latvian Community in Cleveland traces back its origins to 1897, when 28 families formed the Emmanuel Lutheran Parish. At the

end of World War II, the evasion of communism caused a massive immigration of Latvians to the United States, during which more than 2,500 displaced Latvians chose the Cleveland area as their home.

This community of Latvian immigrants has grown throughout the years, entering America's economic and educational mainstream, but always maintaining their Latvian heritage by sharing native foods, folk songs and dancing with their neighboring communities. The Latvian organizations in Cleveland have promoted and preserved their native values and culture, as well as worked to expose the ravages of communism. They contributed to the dream and final reality of an independent Latvia, when the country regained its independence in 1991, after 50 years of Soviet domination.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Latvia's 80th Independence Day celebration in the Greater Cleveland area. This event commemorates the many accomplishments of this community, and it recognizes the struggle to gain the freedom they have enjoyed for the past eight decades. Latvian-Americans continue to hold on to their Latvian heritage, culture, traditions and maintain ties with family and friends who live in their native land.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANCES LOUISE JACKSON BALTIMORE

#### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who has recently departed this life. Frances Louise Jackson Baltimore (1918-1998) was a wonderful mother, wife, and friend to many. She was born to the late Cornelius Jackson and Fannie Burrells Jackson on June 18, 1918 in Linden, Virginia. She married at an early age to Bishop Eugene E. Baltimore, and gave birth to six children—Anna, Florence, Barbara Jean, Eugene, Wilbert, and Darlene. She was preceded in death by Barbara Jean, Eugene, and Darlene.

Frances attended the Cherry Hill Elementary School in Linden, Virginia. She married Bishop Eugene Baltimore in Front Royal, Virginia, and they relocated to Johnstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia. She and Eugene raised five children, and ran a clean, tidy household of modest means. She had numerous skills, many of which she passed on to her children, including sewing, cooking, canning and preserving, and decorating. She worked very hard to raise a proper family during the depression era.

After her children were grown, Frances moved to New York City where she received her GED and earned a Certificate of Completion in Geriatric Nursing. She lived and worked in New York for more than 20 years and was active in the lives of friends and family there. She later took up residence in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1982, and became a member of her son Wilbert's church, the Holy Temple Cathedral Church of God.

Frances was the matriarch of a very talented family. Her offspring have gone on to become successful professionals, many of whom earned advanced degrees and served