

am grateful beyond words for her long and dedicated service. I want to wish Maggie and her husband of 52 years, Walter, much good health and happiness in the coming years. I remain confident that the tree planted in her honor will, like the Party she has guided for years, grow and prosper for many years to come.

THE PASSING OF ISADORE
KARTEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform my colleagues of the passing of a remarkable American, one I was honored to have as a close friend.

As a youth, Izzy Karten was a freedom fighter in the forests near Lvov, in his beloved homeland of Poland. The brave stance the Jews and other oppressed minorities in Poland had taken against their Nazi oppressors, while the Red Army watched nearby, refusing to help, is one of the most heroic yet tragic episodes of the 20th Century. I am proud to have known and been a friend of one of these courageous heroes, Izzy Karten.

Izzy spent two years in the forests of Poland, fighting the Nazi oppressors. It was there that he met another freedom fighter, a young girl named Julie, who soon became his beloved wife of over 54 years.

Upon emigrating to America, Izzy Karten started what became a highly successful export-import business and subsequently became a banker. Despite his phenomenal success in business, Izzy never forgot his roots or his desire to help others. He was involved in a host of philanthropic activities, including Yad Vashen, the national organization of Holocaust Survivors. He was a trustee at the Park East Synagogue, and was especially generous in endowing its day school.

Julie and Izzy were the proud parents of three children: Marsha Toledano, Bernice Bookhammer, and Harry Karten. Izzy and Julie's three children presented them with seven grandchildren who were the light of their lives.

Georgia and I always cherished being with the Kartens, and their family. Our lives were deeply enriched by our friendship with Izzy and Julie. Sadly, I was with Izzy at a Holocaust Memorial Service in Rockland County just a few hours prior to his sudden death.

I will always remember Izzy Karten as a warm hearted, philanthropic humanitarian, with a bright view for the future, and a champion in the battle against bigotry and for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the funeral for Isadore Karten will be held at his beloved Park East Synagogue on Wednesday of this week. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying homage to a truly remarkable human being, who will be sorely missed.

WILLIAM F. (BILL) CODY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1999, William F. (Bill) Cody completed a distinguished career with the General Dynamics Corporation. His outstanding work played a major role in insuring the national security of the United States of America. He was a driving force in the development, fielding, and support for the Abrams M1A1 and M1A2 main battle tanks for the U.S. Army. These main battle tanks have been proven to be the world's finest in the recent Desert Storm war, and will be the cornerstone of our Nation's ground combat forces for many years to come. Mr. Cody's contributions to the Abrams tank program were marked with great wisdom, total dedication, and tenacious hard work to get the job done right despite the obstacles encountered.

Prior to his outstanding career with General Dynamics, Mr. Cody further served his country for 30 years in the U.S. Army. He began his military service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy in 1952 and was commissioned as a 2d Lt., Field Artillery upon his graduation in 1956. While a cadet, Mr. Cody excelled in various leadership capacities, and was an outstanding baseball and football player. During his Army career, Bill Cody progressed rapidly through the ranks while holding many important command and staff positions to include combat in Vietnam. He was decorated for bravery several times and received numerous meritorious service awards for his outstanding service. He completed his outstanding military career with particular distinction and honor in the grade of Colonel, U.S. Army.

Bill Cody has served his country with distinction in both a civilian and military capacity for nearly 47 years. He is a man of rare ability and devotion to his country. We salute him on his retirement, and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement, and thank him for his dedicated service to his country.

HONORING DOMINIC DRAGISICH OF
WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Dominic Dragisich of Weirton, West Virginia, for his award-winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy Contest. His script is entitled "My Service to America." I submit for the RECORD the text of his entry, and commend the VFW for making the Voice of Democracy scholarship program available to students across our Nation.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." With these words during his Inaugural address in 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged every citizen to serve America.

Today, the world is a very different place. The changes that have occurred since those

words were spoken are phenomenal. Yet, the changes that lie ahead will be greater. Therefore, his challenge to serve America is even more timely today.

I can best serve America by preparing myself to meet the challenges that face us. We must retain those values and institutions that have made America great, but we must be willing to change and accept new ideas that meet the challenges of the information age. The ability to adapt to change will determine our success. To survive we must adapt, to adapt we must change.

Today, being a teenager and a high school student is no easy task. We live in a high tech information based society where we are bombarded by negative influences on a daily basis. "What's wrong with this young generation" seems to be the question of the day—everyday. It's the same question that has been asked throughout history, and I believe the answer remains the same—NOTHING is wrong. I believe my generation is ready, willing, and able to serve America, just as well as those who preceded us. I know I am.

For me, it may be a little easier because of the foundation laid by my family. My ancestors immigrated to America in search of freedom and a better life. They brought with them a tradition of hard work, discipline, strong family values, and spirituality. I am fortunate that my parents passed them on to me. They challenged me to grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. They gave me a value system founded upon high moral and ethical standards. By example, they showed me that we have a responsibility to give something back to our communities, especially to those less fortunate. I can serve America by following their example and by passing it on to others.

Today, America still represents hope throughout the world. Where there is repression, persecution, poverty, or a lack of human rights, America continues to be a symbol of freedom and liberty. I can serve America by helping to preserve those ideals and share them with others. I can also serve America by setting a positive example for my peers to follow and by helping them when needed.

America faces enormous challenges in our global economy. I can help her meet those challenges by pursuing academic excellence and by refining my leadership skills. My parents stressed the importance of academics and the powerful role that knowledge will play in the future. They planted the seeds of leadership within me and nurtured their growth. It is now my responsibility to further develop them.

We must always remember that many people are quick to follow; therefore, leadership is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. It requires creativity, imagination, courage, decisiveness, and confidence. Leaders must have the courage to make decisions based on what is right. Leaders must be assertive but patient. They must be skilled listeners and effective mediators. They must be confident but not arrogant. Finally, they must be able to accept responsibility, acknowledge their faults, admit their mistakes, and learn from them.

I can serve America by developing these skills and by accepting a leadership role in her future. However, to preserve the future, we must never forget those who gave us the America we have today.

President Kennedy's Inaugural Address also contained the following words: "Since America was founded, each generation has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans, who answered the call to serve, surround the globe."

One day the torch will be passed to my generation. We too will proclaim our loyalty.