program even further. Currently, farmers who suffer from outbreaks of plant viruses and diseases are not eligible for benefits from the federal crop insurance program, noninsured crop assistance programs, or emergency loans. My bill would enable farmers who suffer crop losses due to plant viruses or plant diseases to be eligible for all of these programs. Crop destruction from viruses and diseases should be covered under these programs just as other natural disasters are. I invite all of my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 473 and I urge immediate consideration and passage of H.R. 473.

Farmers deserve an affordable safety net program that will provide a worthwhile benefit when they are most in need. Although H.R. 2559, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 1999 would not extend protections to producers whose crops suffer from plant viruses or diseases, I believe it does improve and expand the safety net available for farmers and is a step in the right direction. I support H.R. 2559 and urge its immediate passage.

TRIBUTE TO CROSSING GUARDS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank those who have dedicated a portion of their lives to ensuring that our young people throughout the First Congressional District of New Jersey are provided safe journey to and from school.

Each day crossing guards put their lives in harms way to protect our children from the dangers they may face on the way to school, whether that be a speeding car ignoring posted school-zone speed limits or a drug dealer pushing poison on our young people.

In September, I held a ceremony back in my district to honor 20 crossing guards for their exemplary service to the children of their communities. As a parent of two young girls, I commend them for taking time from their lives, for little compensation, to assure us as parents, that our children will have a responsible adult looking over them literally every step of the way from the time they leave the house in the morning until they sit at their desks to begin their school day.

Through torrential downpours, driving snowstorms, blistering heat and frigid cold, our children can count on crossing guards to be there providing a familiar face to guide them on their trip to and from school. On behalf of the 106th Congress of the United States of America, I thank the following crossing guards for keeping our children safe every day.

The following crossing guards were honored at a ceremony at Camden County Community College on September 13, 1999: Mrs. Angelina Esposito, Burlington Twp, Mrs. Carmella Caruso, City of Burlington Schools, Mrs. Barbara Laute, Oak Vally Elem-Deptford Twp, Mrs. Marie Snyder, Shady Lane Elem-Deptford Twp, Mrs. Janette Multanski, Brooklawn, Mrs. Cynthia Peaker, Willingboro, Mrs. Maureen Saia, Washington Twp, Mrs. Mary Ann Wurst, Woodbury Heights, Mrs. Sue Hynes, Woodlynne, Mrs. Tina Castelli, Principal—Good Intent Elementary—Deptford Twp, Mrs. Ruth Rosenblatt, Somerdale, Mr. Darwin Branch, Camden, Mrs. Frances Oliveri, Mount Laurel, Mr. Robert Bobo, Brooklawn, Mrs. Alice Watson, Runnemede, Mr. Robert Kelly, Laurel Springs, Mrs. Theresa Keehfuss, Maple Shade, Mr. David Pressler, Maple Shade, Mrs. Anne Sprague, Bordentown, and Mrs. Carol Robinson, Audabon.

HONORING COLUMBUS DAY AND ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most courageous events in human history, Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World. In this day and age, when man has walked on the moon and when we can afford to lose a twenty five million dollar satellite in the atmosphere of Mars because somebody ''mis-calculated,'' it is easy to dismiss the courage of Christopher Columbus as no big deal. In reality, it was a very big deal. The three ships Columbus commanded on his first voyage, would today probably be classified as large yachts. Columbus did not have any radio contact with the mainland. He did not have any modern computers to help him navigate. All Columbus basically had was courage, skill, and good luck.

Often, we read that Columbus was not the first voyager to reach the Americas. It is contended that the Vikings, the Irish, and perhaps even the Phoenicians, were here first. Some scholars contend that the lost tribe of Israel journeyed to America and are the ancestors of Native Americans. This may all be true. Yet, it is all irrelevant. Columbus may not have been the first to make the journey, but he was certainly the first to appreciate its significance. Columbus recognized that by reaching the Americas by sailing west, he was opening a whole new world to the people of Europe. He recognized that this was a benefit to everyone, a benefit he believed that it must not be kept secret.

Columbus was also fortunate in that his discovery voyage took place soon after the discovery of moveable type. Thus, publicizing his voyages became more practical than could have been the case just fifty years earlier. Since Christopher Columbus was of Italian extraction, he became the first Italian whose life was intertwined with the history of America, starting a tradition that continues to this day.

Giovanni da Verrazano, who discovered New York Harbor, Constantino Brumidi, whose paintings adorn the rotunda in our U.S. Capitol Building, Guglielmo Marconi, who invented radio, and Joe DiMaggio, whose feats on the baseball diamond won the respect, admiration and love of all Americans, are only a few examples of Italians and Italian Americans who have long been a vital force in American history. They contributed significantly to our culture, improved our way of life, and helped create the America which strides across the world of today.

Accordingly, it is fitting that we commemorate Columbus Day and Italian Heritage Month as a way of not only remembering the courageous contributions of one remarkable man, but also to express our appreciation to the many Italians who have helped us throughout the years.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM D. MASON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bill Mason for being named Parma Democrat of the Year.

Bill Mason, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, has had a successful and fulfilling career. Born on April 13, 1959 in Cleveland, Ohio, he went on to attend and graduate from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Mr. Mason served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office from 1987 through 1992. Here, he was able to gain valuable experience in criminal law. In 1992, Mr. Mason was elected by the voters to the Parma City Council. Shortly afterwards he was appointed as Parma's Law Director and Chief Prosecutor. During his service, Mr. Mason was able to improve efficiencies in the office over four consecutive years. By doing this, he was able to dramatically improve the enforcement of local laws, saving taxpayer resources.

Recently, Mr. Mason was elected Cuyahoga County Prosecutor by an overwhelming majority of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party's Central Committee. Mr. Mason's position as the county's chief law enforcement officer is well deserved.

He has been privileged to have the support of his loving wife, Carol, and his four children Marty, Kelly, Cassidy, and Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Bill Mason for being named outstanding Democrat in the city of Parma.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a national campaign created to focus public awareness on the problem of domestic violence.

As we are all too aware, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages 15 and 44 in the United States. More women are injured as a result of domestic violence than are injured in car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels, and ages are battered by husbands, boyfriends, and partners. Batterers are not restricted to low-income or unemployed men. Approximately one-third of the men who undergo counseling for battering are professional men who are well-respected in their jobs and communities. These include doctors, psychologists, ministers, and business executives. Domestic violence also affects children. Half who live in violent homes experience some form of physical abuse. Unfortunately, one-third of boys who grow up in violent homes become batterers themselves, simply perpetuating the cycle.

I am proud that in my district, victims of domestic violence have been able to turn to Battered Women's Alternative. For the past 21

years, this wonderful organization has provided a safe haven for those women who have taken the critical first step and escaped from their homes. Battered Women's Alternative serves more than 15,500 women annually through its 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, safe homes, traditional housing, legal advocacy, counseling, employment assistance and placement programs. Battered Women's Alternative also conducts educational programs in the hopes of preventing future instances of domestic violence, many of which are targeted toward abusive men as well as younger children.

In recognition of the important work done by Battered Women's Alternatives every month of the year, I urge you all to actively participate in the many scheduled activities and programs planned all over the country that work toward the elimination of personal and institutional violence against women. Only a coordinated community effort can put a stop to this heinous crime and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Friday, October 1, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 468 and 469. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 468 and ''no'' on rollcall vote 469.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL BRUCE KENYON SCOTT, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Bruce Kenyon Scott, for his outstanding service to our Nation. This month, General Scott will depart The Pentagon to assume the position of Commanding General of the United States Army Security Assistance Command, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Since August 1997, General Scott has served as the Chief of Legislative Liaison for the United States Army. In this role, he has proven himself to be a valued advisor to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, as well as many Members of Congress and staff. Drawing upon his in-depth knowledge of policy and program issues that relate to the Army, General Scott has been able to ensure that the Army message has been delivered in a very effective manner. General Scott has also been instrumental in resolving countless personnel, operational, and support matters involving the Army, during deployments to more than 81 countries around the world.

Throughout his 27 years of dedicated service, General Scott has set a high standard. He clearly symbolizes the Army ethos, ''Duty, Honor, Country.'' General Scott has served with distinction in the position of Chief of Army Legislative Liaison, and he is to be commended on his outstanding work.

I am certain that General Scott will continue to excel in the position of Commanding General of the United States Army Security Assistance Command. He and his lovely wife, Mary, are wished much success in this new assignment.

MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and take great personal pride in having the Medal of Honor Memorial in Indianapolis recognized as a National Memorial. My colleagues, by passing H.R. 1663 today, we have designated as National memorials the memorial being built at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California; the memorial aboard the former USS *Yorktown* (CV–6) at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; and the memorial at White River State Park in Indianapolis, Indiana, to honor the 3,410 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On May 28, 1999, the last Memorial Day weekend of the 20th Century, I joined my Hoosier colleagues Representatives BUYER, MCINTOSH, and HILL, Senator BAYH, Lt. Governor Kernan, Mayor Goldsmith of Indianapolis, IPALCO Chairman John Hodowal, and 98 of the 157 living Medal of Honor recipients to dedicate the Medal of Honor Memorial. Medal of Honor recipients Sammy L. Davis and Melvin Biddle joined us at the dais, representing their comrades-in-arms.

The new memorial is located along the north bank of the Central Canal in White River State Park in downtown Indianapolis. It sits adjacent to Military Park, the site of the city's first recorded 4th of July celebration in 1822, which was used as a recruiting and training camp for soldiers from Indiana during the Civil War.

It is at this fitting site that the local power utility, IPALCO Enterprises under the leadership of its Chairman, John Hodowal, who along with his wife, Caroline, and countless employees and volunteers, has erected this breathtaking memorial. Caroline Hodowal first read a newspaper article about the Medal recipients and then conceived the idea for the new memorial when she and her husband realized that none existed.

Visitors to the site will see citations for each of the 3,410 medal recipients etched into glass walls. The twenty-seven curved glass walls, each between 7 and 10 feet tall, represent the 15 conflicts, dating back to the Civil War, in which uncommon acts of bravery resulted in the awarding of the Medal of Honor. Steps, benches, and a grassy area provide seating for visitors to rest, reflect, and view this magnificent memorial. Additionally, each evening at dusk, a sound system plays a thirty minute recorded account about a medal recipient, his story, and the act for which he received this Nation's highest military honor. As each story is told, lights illuminate the appropriate portion of the memorial to highlight the war or conflict being discussed.

In the words of Mr. Hodowal, this memorial serves two purposes: ''It's an opportunity to say thanks for the sacrifices [these men] made, and it's a chance to show the next generation what real heroes look like . . . to show that ordinary people sometimes do extraordinary things.''

Mr. Speaker, Indiana has a proud tradition of honoring those who have sacrificed so much to secure and preserve our freedom. We must never forget that freedom is not free. Because of the selfless sacrifices of so many, we enjoy so much in America. I encourage all of my colleagues to visit Indianapolis, Indiana and see this newest addition to our city and State. It is something, I can assure you, that you will not soon forget.

HONORING ANNA MAE LYNCH ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Mae Francis Lynch on her 100th birthday. Anna Mae was born on October 5, 1899 in northern Arkansas.

As a child, Anna taught herself to read and write before she started school. Anna went to the fields and worked side by side with her family, chopping cotton, pulling weeds from the cornfields, milking cows and picking cotton by hand.

On February 25, 1916 at the age of 16, Anna married James Elmer Lynch secretly by the Justice of the Peace, in the woods, after attending a church singing. From this union, seven sons were born; six of the seven served with honor in World War II.

In 1921, Anna and her family came to Coalinga to work and prosper in the oil fields. Then came the great depression and the oil fields closed down. The family headed back to Arkansas and then Texas, but returned to Coalinga to labor in the cotton fields of Rancher Johnny Conn of Coalinga.

Anna was a mother, homemaker, a Bible school and singing teacher, and highly interested in Republican politics. Anna now resides in Coalinga.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Anna Mae Lynch for her hard work and dedication to her family. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Anna many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. BELLIZZI

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share with our colleagues the remarkable life of an outstanding individual and good friend who has devoted his work to law enforcement and particularly to eradicating the impact of drugs in our society.

John J. Bellizzi is being recognized this weekend for his 50 years of dedicated service to these causes, and especially to his 40 years of devotion to the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association (INEOA) which he founded in 1959 and for which he became its first President. Today, John continues to serve as Executive Director of