

garden, farm, and animals. All helped pick blueberries, can garden vegetables, and put up wood for heat and cooking. Every child received a good education and graduated from Mountain Iron High School. Most went on to college to become professionals in their work, which ranged from teachers to nurses, and to become outstanding members of their communities. Ed and Frank served in World War II, as did Rose, a civilian radio instructor.

The Cerkvenik family has a strong tradition of public service in northern Minnesota; sons Anton and Frank served the City of Mountain Iron as Clerk and Mayor; the next generation of Cerkveniks has also continued to serve the state of Minnesota and the country. Second generation members Paul worked in Congress at the Democratic Study Group; Peter served on the Mountain Iron City Council; Steve was elected to the School Board; and Gary and his wife Kim both worked in my congressional office. Gary was also elected to the St. Louis County Board and Kim ran for Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota.

In addition to Kim, other spouses who have joined the Cerkvenik family have participated actively in politics and government, including Ann Mulholland who worked for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and on Paul Simon's presidential campaign, and Kathleen Murray who has worked on Mayor Richard Daley's campaigns. On the Iron Range in Mountain Iron, Tony and his wife Mitzi opened a grocery store and meat market which has continued under Frank and his family. For nearly 40 years, Cerkvenik's Super Market has been known for great meats, good service, and a fair trade. Most importantly, it became a center of political and social life in Mountain Iron.

Other descendants continue to make their unique marks on our country. One Cerkvenik family member, Barrett, graduated from West Point and helped negotiate the START treaty. Others are business owners, computer specialists, bus drivers, teachers, lawyers, designers, advertisers, civil servants, biologists, and mothers and fathers. Together, they are a proud Slovene family who have not forgotten their roots and heritage.

Now there are four generations of Cerkvenik descendants in the United States of America. They are truly part of the unique fabric of lives and histories that make America the richest and most vibrant nation in the world. As they gather on Minnesota's Iron Range this July, I salute the Cerkvenik family for their invaluable contributions to this great land of ours.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MORRIS  
RUBINSTEIN

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague, Mr. WAXMAN, and I pay tribute to an extraordinary individual and good friend, Rabbi Morris Rubinstein, who was honored this Sunday by the Valley Beth Israel Synagogue for his twenty eight years of dedication, leadership and service. The occasion will mark his retirement and will be celebrated with a "gala farewell dinner" attended by family, friends and congregants.

Throughout Rabbi Rubinstein's forty-one year rabbinical career he has demonstrated—through both his words and his deeds—an unwavering commitment to Torah and Mitzvos. For the past twenty-eight years, we in the San Fernando Valley have been blessed by his leadership, guidance, knowledge and understanding. He and his wife Miriam created a family-like atmosphere for all of the Valley Beth Israel congregants. Together they not only helped insure that Valley Beth Israel achieved a stellar reputation, but they made certain that the synagogue remained a unique and special place to worship, learn and congregate.

In addition to his character, intelligence and hard work, Rabbi Rubinstein successfully accomplished so much at Valley Beth Israel because he was able to apply lessons learned from an impressive and diverse background. He graduated as a rabbi and teacher with a Master's Degree in Hebrew Literature in 1959. He entered the Air Force Chaplaincy as a First Lieutenant in the same year and his first assignment was in Ankara, Turkey. His next assignment was Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi where he became involved in the civil rights movement. There, at a clergy conference, he joined with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in singing "We Shall Overcome" in Hebrew and English.

After Biloxi, he left the military chaplaincy to take a civilian pulpit. Between 1964 and 1972, when he joined Valley Beth Israel, he served as the spiritual leader at synagogues in Mattawan, New Jersey and Scottsdale, Arizona. He and Miriam, his loving wife and partner of forty-three years, have raised five wonderful and accomplished children.

We are honored today to ask our colleagues to join with us in saluting Rabbi Rubinstein for his dedicated service and tireless leadership. We wish him good health and every joy in his retirement.

PASSING THE CONSERVATION AND  
REINVESTMENT ACT

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2000*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today one of my hometown newspapers, the Detroit Free Press, published the following editorial urging the other body to pass H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). As my colleagues know, the House approved CARA last month by an overwhelming bipartisan margin.

The House bill may not be perfect, but clearly it is a strong foundation for a landmark conservation bill. The other body should proceed expeditiously so as not to let this once-in-a-generation opportunity pass us by.

[FROM THE DETROIT FREE PRESS, JUNE 27, 2000]

LAND PLAN

WORTHWHILE CONSERVATION ACT STUCK IN  
COMMITTEE

The country's best chance in a century to commit to conservation is staring it in the face, and yet the means to make it happen may not survive the U.S. Senate.

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act, which provides hundreds of millions of dollars for land acquisition and recreation projects nationwide, sits in committee, where it landed after the House passed it by

a 3-1 margin. The full Senate seems likely to approve CARA, if it gets sprung from the committee.

The act does not require any new money to fund it. Rather it is the revival of a decades-old promise that royalties from oil and gas drilling on federal property would go toward land preservation. In the meantime, the money has been used to help mask the country's deficit-spending habit, a maneuver that's no longer needed and ripe for Congress to fix.

Some Western-state senators in key positions see CARA as a federal land grab, although only a sixth of the money would go toward federal purchases, and acquisitions would require the consent of both the owner and Congress. Far more would get funneled to the states, to set their own balance between buying land and improving existing public spaces.

One of CARA's most exciting aspects, in fact, is the ability to focus on smaller projects than the federal government normally would, including urban green spaces, walkways and small slices of important habitat. For those with visions of a walkable riverfront in Detroit, or selective preservation of natural spots in the path of development, CARA is a dream come true—if the senators controlling its fate will set it free.

HONORING HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM FONTENO AND THE EAST HARRIS COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 27, 2000*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Harris County Commissioner Jim Fonteno and the East Harris County Senior Citizens, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this month. The East Harris County Senior Citizens program, which Commissioner Fonteno built from the grassroots up, is a truly unique organization that has touched the lives of thousands of seniors in the eastern portion of Harris County, Texas for a quarter of a century. I commend Commissioner Fonteno for starting this vital program, and as we celebrate its anniversary, we also celebrate the career of Fonteno himself, the "Dean" of the Commissioners' Court, who, after 25 years, recently announced that he will retire in 2002.

The East Harris County Senior Citizens began in 1975, when the then newly-elected Precinct Two Harris County Commissioner Jim Fonteno offered his vision to create a program to give back to area seniors. His vision, inspired by his desire to give the people "what they asked for and what they needed," was to create a vehicle to deliver programs and services to thousands of senior citizens and veterans in the community. Despite the naysayers who claimed it couldn't be done, Fonteno's inspiration grew into a self-sustaining, nonprofit organization that now boasts more than 350 senior citizens groups within its boundaries. With the help of private organizations and many community partners and volunteers, the East Harris County Senior Citizens program is a model for the nation, and is still growing strong.

Throughout its history, the East Harris County Senior Citizens program has been