

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE NAMING OF THE CARL RENYA MEMORIAL FIELD ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPUCHINO HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, too often in today's world, our newspapers are filled with stories about all of the things that are wrong with sports. Today, I want to take a moment to honor someone who was an example of all that can be right about athletic competition.

I want to report to my colleagues in this House about a man with an innocent passion for sports, who embodied the virtues of good sportsmanship. A man with a kind gentle spirit, who was an institution on the bleachers and the fields of Capuchino High School in San Bruno and other high schools in San Bruno, Burlingame, and Millbrae, California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding man—Carl Renya.

A graduate of Capuchino High School and affectionately known as "Mr. Capuchino," Carl was the personification of all that is good about sport. A lifelong fan of our Peninsula high schools, Carl could be counted on to be in the audience for every game. He was such a part of the competition that athletes and made rubbing his bald head a pre-game ritual for good luck. In addition to attending every game, Carl regularly authored a sports column in the San Bruno Herald. Although he did not possess the greatest singing voice, Carl took great pride in telephoning local high school principals at 6:00 a.m. on game day mornings to sing the school's fight song.

Mr. Speaker, Carl Renya passed away in March of 1998. It was appropriate that the memorial service for Carl was held in the Gymnasium of Capuchino High School with athletes, cheerleaders, two marching bands, and brightly colored banners which recalled his commitment to the school and its athletic programs.

On Sunday October 8th the people of the Peninsula will gather to honor the 50th Anniversary of Capuchino High School. As part of the anniversary celebration, the school's football field will be renamed and dedicated to honor Carl Renya. Mr. Speaker, I cannot imagine a more appropriate honor. During his brief but full fifty-nine years, Carl touched the lives of all those with whom he came in contact. Now that Carl is gone, those whose lives he touched have their opportunity to cheer for him. Mr. Speaker, even though Carl is no longer cheering on the sidelines, his presence will still be felt at every Capuchino High School football game—which now will be played at the Carl Renya Memorial Field.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT MARDIROSSIAN, JR., PASSAIC LIONS CLUB MAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a person I am proud to call my friend, Albert Mardirossian, Jr. of Clifton, New Jersey, who will be recognized on Friday, October 6, 2000 as the Passaic Lions Club Man of the Year. He was feted because of his many years of service and leadership. The 80-year-old organization chooses one man each year that has, "given themselves to both the city and its residents." It is only appropriate that he be honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Albert was recognized for his many years of leadership in New Jersey, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only fitting that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Born in Passaic, New Jersey, Albert Mardirossian, Jr. graduated from Clifton High School in 1956. He received his BS from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1960. As an undergraduate, he served as Class President, Student Council President and Captain of the Fencing Team. Later, he was the school's fundraising chair in 1965 and its Alumni President in 1966.

Albert has always been an active and involved leader. The time at Fairleigh Dickinson instilled in Albert the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Albert has received numerous community awards. These include two previous "Man of the Year" designations. The Passaic Optimists named him in 1985, and the Passaic Old Timers AA tapped him in 1986. He also received "Appreciation Awards" from the Hispanic Information Center of Passaic in 1985 and from the Passaic County Freeholders in 1993. In addition, he is a winner of the Councilman Jim Shoop Community Service Award and the Deacon Magnus Ellen Community Service Award.

Currently, Al builds homes and develops properties in South Jersey, mostly in Little Egg Harbor Township in Ocean County. This native of Passaic and Clifton resident is active in both communities. He has long donated time and money to school athletics. This was evidenced in 1999 with the naming of the Passaic High School "Albert Mardirossian, Jr. Weight & Training Room." Sports are a passion for Al since he used to own two sporting goods stores.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Albert's family and friends and me in

recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Albert Mardirossian, Jr., a true humanitarian.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE YOUNGS

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mrs. Josephine Youngs of Roselle, New Jersey as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Born on October 25, 1900, in Jacksonville, Florida, Mrs. Youngs is the youngest surviving child of eight siblings, four brothers and four sisters. Mrs. Youngs married Walter Youngs in 1921, and they became the parents of one child. Mrs. Youngs has lived in Roselle, New Jersey for 28 years and is now cared for by her daughter, Geraldine McLean. A long time member of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Newark, Mrs. Youngs maintains a keen interest in current events, including the upcoming Presidential election. In addition, she is accomplished at sewing, quilt making, and gardening. She also cheers for the Yankees during baseball season.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Youngs is truly an inspiration to those around her. As her family and friends gather to celebrate her life spanning a century, it is fitting that we take this opportunity to pay tribute to her and to extend our very best wishes on this special birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONSTITUENT JANE RYAN

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the great work of my constituent, Jane Ryan, RN, MN, CNA, who is ending her tenure this year as President of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA).

Mr. Speaker, Jane Ryan has dedicated her entire career to the field of mental health. For many years, Ms. Ryan focused on training the next generation of psychiatric nurses at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). As a tribute to her work, former students have been known to still talk about Jane's unique ability to bring out the best in her pupils. Despite her busy schedule, ever the teacher and mentor, Jane still continues to keep in touch with a number of her former students and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Ryan has worked tirelessly on the issue of seclusion and restraint. Recently, her hard work came to fruition as Congress passed language related to seclusion and restraint that focuses on patient and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

staff safety issues. I supported passage of this measure and was a co-sponsor of the Patient Freedom from Restraint Act. I agree that seclusion and restraint requires our serious attention and we must all thank Jane for her leadership in this area.

During her career, Jane Ryan never lost sight of the larger picture—she never forgot why she and others entered into the field of psychiatric nursing—to help people. With this in mind, she always stressed the need to hold a constant dialogue with patients and their families, in addition to those in the health care provider community. This important theme was made clear when APNA established a Consumer Advisory Task Force to continue this important dialogue. This type of progressive thinking is a hallmark of Jane's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting Jane a number of times in my Washington, D.C. office. In fact, with her numerous visits to my office, I was beginning to wonder when she planned to stay in my home state of Nevada for more than one week at a time! However, I do know that I am scheduled to meet with Jane at least one more time this year for what promises to be a very special ceremony in Nevada. I am pleased to announce that I was chosen to receive APNA's 2000 Congressional Service Award. This is a true honor and I wish to thank the entire membership for their consideration.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a tremendous amount of progress in the field of mental health over the past few years. For example, Dr. David Satcher released the first-ever Surgeon General's report on mental health, where we were reminded of the need to chip away at the stigma that still surrounds mental illness. In 1999, we witnessed the historic White House Conference on Mental Health, led by Mrs. Tipper Gore, where participants, including Jane Ryan, discussed ways to increase access to mental health care. Also, I must mention the efforts of my colleague Senator HARRY REID, who has worked tirelessly to draw attention to the issue of suicide—a problem affecting far too many families across the country and, in particular, those in Nevada. We know, then, much work remains. However, we should reflect and be proud of the accomplishments that were made in the field of mental health—and look forward to more progress.

Mr. Speaker, we must thank people like Jane Ryan, for the remarkable strides we have made. There is no doubt that Ms. Ryan, along with the many other members of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, are to be commended for their work. On behalf of my colleagues, and citizens across the country, thank you for making a difference in the lives of Americans across the country.

CELEBRATING THE 89TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make note of and salute the upcoming 89th National Day of the Republic of China on Taiwan which will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 10, 2000.

In recent years, Taiwan has emerged as a major economic power in the world. Much of the economic success is attributable to the efforts of its leaders. They understand that a strong economy is a necessary basis for political progress and reform.

From its one-party past, Taiwan has become a true democracy with a number of political parties. In fact, Mr. Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party was elected president by the people of Taiwan last March. Since his inauguration as president on May 20, President Chen has impressed his people and the world with his leadership and vision for the future.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special day to Taiwan, I extend my congratulations to both President Chen, and Representative C. J. Chen of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE MAYOR  
GEORGE CHRISTOPHER

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of San Francisco's greatest mayors, Mayor George Christopher, who recently passed away at the age of 92. Every San Franciscan owes Mayor Christopher a debt of gratitude for his service as mayor and his commitment to San Francisco. Mayor Christopher envisioned San Francisco as the world-class city it is today and worked tirelessly to make his dream a reality.

Having emigrated from Greece at the age of 2, George Christopher rose from humble beginnings to become the dominant figure of his time in San Francisco politics. He brought San Francisco the Giants, cleaned up the police force, championed civil rights, and altered the city's landscape. He changed the city in ways today's residents may not even realize.

As the following editorial from the San Francisco Chronicle testifies, George Christopher was a "Giant of San Francisco":

If the Giants win the National League pennant this year for San Francisco, the person most responsible for the feat won't be Barry Bonds or Dusty Baker or the legion of others who take the field, run the bases or manage team affairs. No, the real credit should go to George Christopher, the illustrious, can-do guy who as mayor lured the franchise here from New York more than 40 years ago.

In a magical move that left New Yorkers seething, Christopher somehow persuaded then-team owner Horace Stoneham to uproot the Giants from the New York Polo Grounds and ship them—Willie Mays and all—more than 2,700 miles west. It was a glorious day in San Francisco history, and Christopher, who died yesterday at age 92, will always be known for it—in part, because hardly anyone knows how he did it.

But Christopher was an early-riser, a getter who spent long hours cooking up ways to elevate the vitality and prosperity of his city. "Every era has to take care of its own needs," Christopher once said in a casual statement that summarizes his spirit and tenure at City Hall. After corralling the Giants, Christopher became the driving force behind building a stadium for them to play in at wind-swept Candlestick Point. There were some howls about the Arctic-like at-

mosphere that surrounds where it sat and some questions of cost and patronage. But there is no question that it was a pragmatic decision.

With similar energy and insight, Christopher pushed for a light rail system that evolved into BART. And he argued for a hotel tax because "extra promotional funds are needed to bolster a number of worthwhile cultural activities, such as the Opera." The fees, he reasoned, would also help attract tourists.

The business community shuttered, but Christopher was right. Tourism has flourished ever since. And the hotel duty has provided millions of dollars for the arts, low-cost hearing and numerous other social services alike.

No wonder he swept into office by a 2-to-1 ratio, winning endorsements from all the daily newspapers, buoyed by support from many Democrats even though he was a Republican. The ever-gentlemanly Christopher will be long remembered for baseball and for his distinctive brand of business-like and effective leadership.

My thoughts and prayers are with his three sisters, Beatrice Tentes, Helen Christopher, and Ethel Davies and all of his family and friends. We will miss him greatly.

HONORING CAMELIA ANWAR  
SADAT AND DENISE BROWN

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I commend two extraordinary persons, Camelia Anwar Sadat and Denise Brown, for their tireless efforts to raise the level of awareness of the serious problem of domestic violence. Over the years, both Ms. Sadat and Ms. Brown have been effective advocates for victims of domestic violence. They have committed substantial amounts of time and resources to help address this problem. I am pleased to welcome Ms. Sadat and Ms. Brown to Southeast Michigan when they will address the Arab-American domestic violence dinner sponsored by the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) on October 11, 2000.

Domestic violence has been a problem of great enormity throughout history. Six years ago, however, a bipartisan majority of Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA was a giant step forward in our country's response to violence against women. It was the first federal law of its kind to recognize that gender-based crimes prevent women from being full participants in society. VAWA has had an enormous impact on many women and children through grants and federal prosecutions. VAWA expired on September 30, 2000, however, I am pleased to note that on September 26, 2000, the House of Representatives not only voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize VAWA, but also to expand the original law. I am hopeful the Senate will do likewise so this important legislation can become law.

Violence against women must be stopped and every person must do their part. VAWA is playing an important step in ending this violence, but it cannot do so alone. It is vitally important that the public is educated about the effects this violence has on our society. Ms.

Sadat and Ms. Brown are committed advocates and continually reach out and educate communities about domestic violence. I laud their efforts and accomplishments that are raising public awareness and helping purge domestic violence from our nation.

CELEBRATING THE 89TH  
NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to send best wishes and congratulations to His Excellency Chen Shui-Bian, President of the Republic of China, and all the citizens of Taiwan on the occasion of their 89th National Day. Taiwan has prospered in recent years. It has one of the strongest economies in the world, and its people enjoy unprecedented prosperity.

Taiwan has good schools, a good transportation system, and quality health care. Furthermore, the people of Taiwan enjoy political freedom through direct elections, a free press, and a commitment to human rights.

Taiwan has every right to be proud on the occasion of its 89th National Day, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the country's achievements.

REOPENING OF THE GOLDEN ROSE  
CHORAL SYNAGOGUE IN UKRAINE

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to the Jewish community of Ukraine, and particularly to Rabbi Kaminezki, as they celebrate the reopening of one of Ukraine's most important symbols of Jewish culture—the Golden Rose Choral Synagogue in the city of Dnepropetrovsk.

This important event, which took place on September 20, symbolizes the rebirth of the Jewish community in Ukraine since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Now, as a result of a great deal of hard work and perseverance, the Jewish community in Ukraine can be described as one of the most vibrant Jewish communities in all of the countries comprising the former Soviet Union.

Today in Dnepropetrovsk, for example, the town where the Golden Rose Synagogue is located, Jewish orphanages, schools, food centers, community centers, medical centers, centers that provide care for the elderly, and centers for Holocaust survivors and victims of communism, are all thriving.

What I find even more promising, is that similar positive developments can be seen in many cities and towns across Ukraine. Today, there are more than 260 Jewish public organizations functioning in Ukraine—organizations that are successfully working on a daily basis to promote and consolidate national self-identity and revive important cultural and religious customs and traditions for all Ukrainian Jews.

I am pleased that the Ukrainian Government is committed to continue working together with

Jewish community leaders across Ukraine toward resolving the complex issue of the restitution of objects that used to be Jewish community property. In this regard, it is important to stress that more than 33 synagogues, including the one known as Brodsky's Synagogue in Kiev, have already been returned to the country's religious communities.

I hope that in coming weeks and months all Ukrainians will continue working together to promote religious tolerance and freedom. Ukraine's progress in this area so far should stand as a positive example for other countries in the region to follow as they seek to create environments in which no person is subject to persecution solely on the basis of his or her religious or ethnic background.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE  
BECKER, JR.

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to the late George Becker, Jr. of the Becker Community, located in Kaufman County in the Fourth Congressional District. George suffered a serious injury on his ranch and spent his last months in the hospital fighting for his life until he passed away on May 14 at the age of 84. George was a "fixture" in his community and will be missed by his family and many friends.

George was born August 15, 1915, in the Becker Community, the son of George and Florence Nash Becker. He was a graduate of Texas A&M University and a lifetime rancher and realtor. George was very active in the Texas and Southwest Cattleman's Association. He was a leader in the Becker United Methodist Church and a trustee at Trinity Valley Community College since the 1970's. During World War II, he served as a captain of a PT Boat.

George spent his life in the community in which he was born and raised. He gave his time, talent and energy to community causes and activities—and to the vocation which he loved and which finally claimed his life—ranching.

He is survived by his brother, Major General Bill Becker and sister-in-law Frances of Kaufman; his brother, Bryan Becker of Dallas; his sister, Ellen Becker Dodson and brother-in-law, Dr. Ed Dodson of Texarkana; and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, George Becker was a respected citizen of Kaufman County whose passing has left a void in the Becker Community. As we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to this fine American, George Becker, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO THE SELF RELIANCE  
(NJ) FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remark-

able organization, the Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union of Passaic, New Jersey. This outstanding money lending organization celebrates its 40th Anniversary on Sunday, October 29, 2000. It is a company with a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others. Its years of service and leadership deserve to be honored.

The Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union was recognized for its many years of leadership in Passaic, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only fitting that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

The Self Reliance (Passaic, NJ) Federal Credit Union opened its doors in January of 1960 with seven members in a small office. The office was located in the Ukrainian National Home on Hope Avenue in Passaic. Members include members of the Self-reliance" Association of Ukrainian Americans, employees of the Union and relatives of employees. Founded on the principle of "People Helping People," the credit union provides financial services that help its members enhance their quality of life.

On February 28, 1960, 51 members elected the credit union's first Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee. A loan policy was established. In January of 1961, the first annual meeting of members took place. Over the first year the credit union's membership increased to 191 and total loans were \$23,000. The following year there were 241 members and total loans increased to \$44,000. From 1966 through 1970, the credit union gained approximately 40 members per year to a total of 582, with \$424,000 in loans.

In 1989, the Board of Directors purchased a building on Allwood Road in Clifton, New Jersey. The site was completely renovated. In August 1991, the credit union relocated its main office to Clifton, and expanded the hours of operation at the branch office in Passaic. In April 1993, the organization changed its name to Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union.

In November 1995, the union established an additional facility in Whippany, New Jersey. The same year the union introduced VISA Credit Cards, Home Equity Loans, international electronic fund transfers and IRS Certificates of Deposit to its list of services. During 1996, VISA Check (Debit) Cards were introduced giving members ATM machine access.

In July 1997, the group merged with Self Reliance (Elizabeth, NJ) Federal Credit Union increasing the number of branch offices to four. By 1998, with financial growth of 15%, the credit union became the largest Ukrainian financial institution in the State of New Jersey.

Today the union boasts nearly \$60 million in assets and over 4,300 members. To mark the occasion of its 40th anniversary in the year 2000 a disco was held on October 27, a Zebava (cultural) dance was held on October 28, and a banquet was held on October 29.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members and supporters of this special credit union and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of the Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR CHARLES E.  
THOMAS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Thomas, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ, who will retire later this month after more than three decades of faithful service.

Born and raised in Montgomery, AL, to Reverend Nathaniel and Fannie Thomas, he pursued his educational goals, receiving a bachelor's degree in business administration from Selma University in Selma, AL. Reverend Thomas received a bachelor degree in theology from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN, and an honorary doctorate degree from the Urban Bible Institute of Detroit, MI. Reverend Thomas was called to the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ, in 1957 and began his pastorate on August 6, 1968.

Throughout his years of service, Pastor Thomas has made a difference in countless lives through his strong commitment to the church and to the entire community. In 1972, Reverend Thomas undertook a major project, the formation of the New Hope Day Care Center, which was first housed in the church's dining room. The day care center later moved to a four-story building purchased by the church. Today, the center continues its successful operation, rendering services for 66 children year round on a daily basis. Pastor Thomas also administered the development of the Minority Contractors and Craftsmen Trade Association and the New Hope Skills Centers. These programs trained workers in carpentry, masonry and machinery and enabled them to pursue careers in those fields.

Pastor Thomas also reorganized the Scholarship Fund at New Hope, expanding opportunities for young men and women who wish to attend college. In 1975, Pastor Thomas organized the New Hope Development Corporation, which was responsible for the building of New Hope Village, a 170-family housing complex in Newark which provides affordable housing. Other innovative programs he spearheaded include van transportation for seniors, services to address teen pregnancies, prison ministry and drug and alcohol counseling.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, let us express our warmest congratula-

tions to Pastor Thomas and our appreciation for his dedicated service to his church and his community.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, October 9th is Columbus Day. Columbus Day is more than just a celebration of the great explorer, Christopher Columbus, it's about the achievements of Italian-American heritage and the vision of our entire nation.

Italian-Americans came to this country with little, but we've left a large mark on our history and culture. I look at my own family and feel the same way—I started with little and hopefully will leave a mark on the Southeast, Texas area. My mother, who did not graduate from high school, but earned a G.E.D. on her 80th birthday, successfully raised six children by herself after my father died when I was young. She produced an artist, a doctor, a college teacher, successful business people, and a United States Congressman—not too bad.

In 1492, a brave and noble explorer with nothing but dreams landed in a vast and foreign land full of promise—America. Although he can be considered a controversial figure because Americans born here in what is now the U.S. certainly lost during European expansion, his courage and desire for success made him a hero to all.

Columbus Day celebrates our proud people and recognizes the unique Italian-American experience. With strong leadership and eternal pride, Italian-American communities not only in Southeast Texas, but also around the nation, have distinguished themselves through a strong sense of family and dedication to their youth.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the most valuable and most powerful influence Christopher Columbus has on our nation and in our human history is vision. All Americans can draw inspiration from the character and accomplishments of Columbus.

With his sense of vision, courage, imagination, and optimism, we can create a future bright with promise and a new world where all of us can pursue our dreams. For we have the power to shape the vision of this nation today, tomorrow, and into the next century.

THE NEEDLESTICK SAFETY AND  
PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 3, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, we are here today because needlestick related health problems are costly and preventable. H.R. 5178, the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act, will protect our Nation's health care providers from unnecessary health risks.

Each year, between 600,000 and 800,000 health care workers are accidentally stuck by needles. As a result, over 1,000 of these injured workers go on to contract HIV, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C, and over 100 eventually die from their illness. Even those who are fortunate enough not to be infected by one of these diseases must suffer through 6 months of waiting before they and their families know that they are healthy.

This suffering can be avoided. Studies have shown that over 80 percent of needlestick injuries are avoidable. Passage of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act will require a strong national standard to prevent needlestick injuries, and will empower OSHA to increase the usage of safer needles.

These changes will reduce not only the suffering of injured providers and their families, but also the costs that hospitals must absorb each time a needlestick occurs. The post-exposure treatments that every injured worker have cost up to \$3,000. My home State of California was the first State to pass this legislation, and estimates are that we will save over \$100 million each year as a result.

Unfortunately, this legislation will be too late for many health care providers. Peggy Ferro, a health care worker in my district in San Francisco, was the first health care provider to pass away from AIDS as a result of a needlestick. She died at the young age of 49, while still fighting for passage of the legislation that we are debating today.

Although this legislation has not been passed soon enough to help Peggy, we can honor her memory by ensuring that safer needle technology is used in health facilities. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5178.