

our nation's increased dedication and commitment to eradicating HIV/AIDS.

In 1990, Congress passed the Ryan White Comprehensive Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. I am proud to say that here in this sometimes divisive body, we were able to come together and vote unanimously for the reauthorization of the Act in 2000, thereby assisting metropolitan areas and states with their health care costs and support services for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. This legislation is vital to helping those who are most affected by this disease and who often do not have the means to combat this disease. Shortly after we passed the Ryan White CARE Act, I received a letter from a former student of mine who has been living with AIDS. In her touching letter, my former student applauded our efforts here in Congress, "I am very pleased that we have seen an increase in funding for the Ryan White CARE Act to help those living with this horrible disease and all of their families too. Now, hopefully with all the funds we can care for a lot of people and try to keep them as well as possible..."

Mr. Speaker, we cannot jeopardize the well being of those living with HIV/AIDS and must ensure that funding for HIV/AIDS is retained. I commend the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. PELOSI, and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, whom I have joined in sending a letter to encourage President Bush to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) programs. The letter also encourages President Bush to support funding for disease prevention, the Ryan White CARE Act to improve health care for people with AIDS, and the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative. With rates of infection on the up swing and so concentrated, we cannot let these programs lag; the risk is too high.

It is paramount that we persevere in our efforts against HIV/AIDS. As we begin our third decade battling this disease, I maintain that we focus our energies on those who are most vulnerable to infections: women, minorities, and children. We must also redouble our efforts to educate our citizens, especially our youth, on how to protect themselves from HIV infection. In addition, we must not ignore our humanitarian duty to those suffering around the world. The strides we have made in the past two decades are numerous; and we should celebrate our victories. However, we cannot overlook the individuals who are unable to fight this disease alone. I ask my colleagues, on this the 20th anniversary of the AIDS/HIV, to remember the past and stand in solidarity to renew our nation's commitment to this global crisis.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH VELOZO

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, a remarkable individual is planning to retire next month after 34 years of dedicated serve to the hungry and the homeless in my District. Ruth Velozo, executive director of Northwest Har-

vest, a statewide food program, is stepping down at the age of 72. Ms. Velozo began working for Northwest Harvest in 1967 and became executive director in 1980. As a result of her guidance and hard work, the agency grew from an ecumenical ministry with a debt of \$35,000 to a \$20 million dollar a year charity.

Last year, Northwest Harvest collected and distributed 16.5 million pounds of food to the poor and the hungry. Northwest Harvest has four distribution centers in the state through which food is donated to 283 hunger programs.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Velozo grew up during the Great Depression. She learned the devastation of poverty and hunger. Through America's prosperous upswings and economic downturns, she never abandoned her determination to help those who are left out. She has dedicated her life not only to feeding people, but to furthering her core values: maintaining the dignity of the poor, and an unwavering belief in the basic generosity of people.

Ms. Velozo has said that in a perfect world, she would step down because there is no longer a need for Northwest Harvest's services. But sadly, more than 30,000 people ask for food at the main branch in Seattle each month, and Washington State ranks eighth amongst the states in those who suffer from hunger. The need would be much larger, however, had it not been for Ruth Velozo and her work. I hope you will join me, Mr. Speaker, in thanking her for her energy, for her leadership, and for her commitment.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI GERALD
RAISKIN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Rabbi Gerald Raiskin, who is celebrating 50 years in the Rabbinate and 45 years as Rabbi of Peninsula Temple Sholom.

Rabbi Raiskin's life of service began in New York's lower East Side where he attended Seward Park High School, Hereziah Hebrew High School and Brooklyn College. His exemplary dedication to duty was evident from the early age of 18, when Gerald Raiskin answered his country's call and enlisted in the United States Army. He soon earned the rank of Private First Class and served with distinction in the 80th Infantry Division of the United States Army. Gerald Raiskin was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and two Battle Stars for heroic combat duty, which included the capture of Hitler's Austrian birthplace and engagement in hostilities at the outskirts of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where the young soldier observed the bodies of inmates who were killed in the nearby woods as he marched towards the camp. When the war in Europe ended, Rabbi Raiskin's outstanding academic record afforded him the opportunity to attend the University of Geneva, where he studied art and political science before returning home to Brooklyn.

Gerald Raiskin's path to the rabbinate began in earnest with his commitment to Reform Judaism and enrollment in the Jewish Institute of Religion's Rabbinical School in 1948.

He was both an illustrious and industrious student who served as a student rabbi in several congregations while writing a thesis and preparing for written and oral examinations for the Master of Hebrew Literature Degree. On weekends, then student rabbi Raiskin tended both a reluctant furnace and a willing new congregation in East Hartford, Connecticut. On the High Holy Days he was assigned to conduct Conservative services in Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, a bungalow community where Rabbi Raiskin served as rabbi, cantor, torah reader and blew the shofar. In addition, he organized a religious school in Merrick, Long Island, and taught Hebrew to children in Trenton, New Jersey and was awarded two academic prizes before his ordination in June, 1951.

Mr. Speaker, after his ordination Rabbi Raiskin traveled to the new state of Israel, where he lived in Jerusalem and continued his religious studies at the Hebrew University. When heavy rains in December of 1951 devastated the encampments of immigrants from North Africa and Romania, Rabbi Raiskin was sent to Afula, where he aided and eased the suffering by providing clothing that had been sent by Jewish organizations from the United States.

Rabbi Raiskin returned from Israel in 1952 to work for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) as the Director of the Chicago Federation of Temple Youth. He also served as the Director of the Union's Institute which was the first camp owned by the UAHC in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin (now know as the Olin-Sang-Ruby Camp). In 1953, just in time for High Holy Days, Rabbi Raiskin joined the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue where he started a senior citizens group, increased attendance at the young adult groups, and strengthened the religious school.

The yearning for a congregation of his own was answered in 1956 when Rabbi Raiskin received an early morning telephone call asking him to consider becoming the spiritual leader of the Peninsula Temple Sholom. On August 1, 1956 Peninsula Temple Sholom's first rabbi arrived in San Mateo to begin 45 years of humanitarian work that has extended well beyond the walls of the temple.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Gerald Raiskin today is recognized as one of the great leaders of San Mateo County. He built the congregation of Peninsula Temple Sholom from very humble beginnings to a congregation of over 700 families, while constantly working to advance civil rights at home and abroad. In March of 1965 Rabbi Raiskin participated in the Civil Rights March to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rabbi Raiskin was arrested on several occasions for protesting in front of the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union. He risked his own safety to bring humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies and books on Judaica to refuseniks in Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow. Here at home, Rabbi Raiskin has been integral to interfaith efforts that have greatly benefitted the 12th Congressional District which I am privileged to serve.

Rabbi Raiskin has aptly been described as "a role model, a true community leader, an incredible teacher and an all around mensch." He is a loving husband to Helen, a devoted father to Sherman, Rhonda, Judith and Jordana and a doting grandfather to Marni, Jamie, Dana, Marcy, Jeremy and Eli. His spiritual