

in order again. As a result, these individuals are left with no home, no belongings and no job. This situation can often create a downward spiral for some families, where they cannot recover.

The legislation I have introduced would expand the successful Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) so that individuals can take time off from work to resolve their situations during a natural disaster. Dealing with a natural disaster is as trying an ordeal as a health crisis, and amending the FMLA to include this change will ensure that workers are protected in times of family crisis.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Family Medical Leave Expansion Act”.

SEC. 2. LEAVE IN CASE OF STATE OR FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTER.

(a) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 102(a)(1) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Because of a State or Federally declared disaster occurring in the geographical area in which the employee resides, works, or through which the employee must travel to get to work or as a part of the employee’s work duties.”

(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 6382(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Because of a State or Federally declared disaster occurring in the geographical area in which the employee resides, works, or through which the employee must travel to get to work or as a part of the employee’s work duties.”

CONGRATULATIONS ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF AARP CHAPTER 2840 IN FALLING SPRING, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of AARP chapter number 2840 of Falling Spring, Pennsylvania, on the 25th Anniversary of the chapter’s founding. The AARP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its members and for members of the community through education, advocacy, and service.

This very active chapter is comprised of nearly 650 members and 100 honorary members. The members of this chapter focus on community service and strive to live by their motto “To Serve and Not to be Served.” To that end, this chapter has served as the long-time sponsor and supporter of the Chambersburg Toy Mission, which help bring the Christmas spirit to children in Franklin County. The members also participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program and the “Meals on Wheels” program. The chapter even has its own chorus that tours the area performing for residents of nursing and retirement homes.

The Falling Spring chapter of the AARP is a wonderful example of an organization that is making a difference in the lives of the people of central Pennsylvania. I enthusiastically congratulate them on their anniversary and wish them another successful 25 years.

IN FOND MEMORY OF JUDY BOGGS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sorrow to remember the life of Judy Boggs. Judy passed away suddenly on Monday, February 25th. She will be greatly missed, not only by my staff and me, but by countless members of the community which she served so thoughtfully over the past 30 years.

Judy grew up in Portland, Oregon and graduated from the University of Washington. She had a passion for the university’s football team, and it was in 1961 when the Huskies played in the Rose Bowl that Judy was introduced to Pasadena and the surrounding areas which she grew to love. After marrying Mr. Dale Boggs, she moved from the Pacific Northwest to La Cañada Flintridge in the mid-1960s and was a resident of that community for over 30 years.

Judy will long be regarded as one of the most influential Democratic political activists in the foothills communities of my Congressional District. She began her political career by volunteering for the 1972 presidential campaign of George McGovern, but her involvement in local politics began in 1973 when she co-founded ACT, a non-partisan action group which over the years has supported campaigns for elected leaders serving the foothill communities in the California state Assembly and Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Most recently Judy served as a Senior Field Deputy to State Senator Jack Scott. It is in this capacity that my staff and I grew to respect Judy for her wealth of experience and knowledge, and to love her for her charm, grace and dignity. She possessed an unmatched spirit, and brought joy and laughter to all who had an opportunity to work with her.

I believe the former mayor of Pasadena, the Honorable Kathryn Nack, said it best when she commented, “You don’t meet a Judy Boggs in this world and not . . . want to see her all the time.” Judy’s bright smile and quick wit were adored by all who were lucky enough to have Judy in their lives, and we will always carry a terrific fondness and love for her.

I ask all Members of the United States House of Representatives to pause and join me today in honoring the life of Judy Boggs, for her many gifts, most especially her friendship. She will be missed by many people.

FAMILY SPONSOR IMMIGRATION ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed

H.R. 1892, The Family Sponsor Immigration Act, a bill that will help keep the American Dream alive for immigrants whose hopes have been crushed by the sudden or unexpected death of their American sponsors.

We know that hundreds of thousands of immigrants throughout the world go through the immigration process each year for the chance to share in the promise of America. And what a wonderful promise it is—the opportunity to share in the freedom and blessings of a nation born out of ideals.

In many ways, our immigration process is unique. President Reagan often remarked, “You can go to Turkey and live there your whole life, but never really become a Turk. You can go to Japan and live there, but never really become Japanese. You can go to Germany, but never become German. But, you can come from any place in the world and become an American.”

This process is often lengthy and many times even tedious. But our laws are designed to provide for the fairest and most just system possible, a system that will not only allow others access to our society, but that will also help foster their success. Integral to the success of immigrants are their American sponsors—proven citizens with established roots and financial security. American sponsors provide the support necessary to help an immigrant begin their journey in America.

We know, however, that under current law, in the rare case that an immigrant’s American sponsor passes away, so too dies the promise of America for the immigrant. Imagine the case of an immigrant who applies to become a permanent resident, who plays by all the rules and waits patiently in hope, perhaps to be united with a long separated loved one, but who at the last minute is hit by the death of this loved one. Not only is the loss of this person a tragedy to be overcome, but the hopes and dreams of the immigrant are thwarted as well.

According to reports from INS, this scenario became part of the September 11 tragedy. As the towers crumbled and thousands of lives were lost, so too was lost the chance for immigrants in-waiting to continue on the road to become Americans. Thankfully, the Patriot Act which the President signed last fall included important provisions to extend visas and filing deadlines for the alien relatives of those killed in the World Trade Center already involved with the immigration process. However, more needs to be done to accommodate future scenarios.

HR 1892 will help correct this glitch in our immigration law. It says if a qualifying relative of the deceased sponsor exists, they can act as a replacement. As an immigrant you don’t have to start the whole process over again.

Remember, we want to reward those who have played by the rules—those who attempt to go through the process we have designed, seeking justice and fair treatment. Let’s correct this unfair technicality in our immigration law to help keep the American Dream a reality for those who lose their sponsors. The hope of freedom should not die because of the untimely death of a sponsor. I thank my colleagues for supporting HR 1892.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ESTHER
MASH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Esther Mash and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the children of Mesa County and the State of Colorado. Her life-long dedication to her job as a schoolteacher and now as a volunteer at her local elementary school is matched only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day. The children whose lives she has touched are eternally grateful for all that she has taught them in her lifetime of public service.

At age ninety-one, Esther is the oldest volunteer in the Mesa County Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Every weekday, Esther walks to Taylor Elementary to volunteer her mornings and afternoons to tutor needy children. Known to the children as "Grandma Mash," Esther brings to the classroom the rare gift of a lifetime of experience gained as a teacher for over 20 years with District 51, located in southeast Colorado. She retired in 1975, after providing countless children with the gift of learning.

Esther continued to dedicate her efforts to children when she moved to Palisade, Colorado in 1995. There, she began to volunteer at Taylor Elementary, and continues to enjoy the respect and adulation from colleagues and children throughout the school. The school community, from the principal and teachers to the children and parents, has repeatedly expressed their gratitude for Esther's volunteer efforts. Taylor Elementary recently awarded her efforts with the title of "extraordinary volunteer."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring to the attention of this body of Congress, and this nation, the life and spirit of such an

incredible woman. Throughout her life, Esther has managed to enrich and improve the lives of those around her. She continues to dedicate her time and energy to bring the gift of learning to children throughout the community. Esther Mash is truly an inspiration to all of us and I am honored to recognize her passion for life and indomitable human spirit that sets an example of charity to us all.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR PATRICIA
SIANO-GILLIGAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Patricia Siano-Gilligan of Keansburg, New Jersey, who was honored on February 22, 2002, at the First Annual Keansburg Mayor's Ball.

Mayor Gilligan was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, and lived in Union City and Carteret before moving to Keansburg sixteen years ago.

In 1994, Mayor Gilligan was elected to the Keansburg City Council, where she served until 1998, becoming the youngest councilperson ever elected to office in the Bayshore area of New Jersey. Following her tenure as councilperson, she focused her efforts on reorganizing the Keansburg Democratic Party preparation for the General Election of 2000.

Patricia Siano-Gilligan was sworn-in as the Mayor of Keansburg in 2000, becoming the only female mayor in the Bayshore area, as well as the youngest mayor in the area. Mayor Gilligan was a founding member of "Save the Bay" Committee, which successfully stopped a proposed waste site off the coast of Keansburg.

For several years, she has been a dedicated basketball and softball coach, and is active with such veterans' organizations as the

American Legion and VFW, as well as various senior citizen organizations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Patricia Siano-Gilligan of Keansburg, New Jersey, for her many accomplishments and her dedication to public service.

HONORING DON OLSEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Olsen on the occasion of the completion of his term as President of the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Olsen provided valuable leadership during his tenure and has an exemplary record of career and civic leadership. He served as the Chamber's President from January 1, 2001, until December 31, 2001.

Mr. Olsen has been a member of the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce for five years. As President, he coordinated the effort of the organization's many officers, directors, and committee chairpersons to create an effective mechanism to organize and sponsor many successful projects that benefited the local community, the business community, and local civic organizations.

In addition to his responsibilities with the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Olsen has been a member of the Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary for seven years, Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Oakhurst, and Senior Coach of Sierra Little League for three years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Olsen for his service as President to the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his community service and wishing him many more years of continued success.