

has worked endlessly to establish a permanent Cold War Museum to educate the public about the period of US-Soviet rivalry. As a direct result of all of his hard work and dedication, Northern Virginia will be the location for the new Cold War Museum.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to congratulate and honor Mr. Powers, Jr., for his dedication to his father, to all Cold War veterans, to Northern Virginia, and to the nation. He certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable man.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor the House of Representatives today in the name of democracy, in the name of hope, and in the name of peace.

As long-standing supporters of Israel, we recognize and respect Israel's unquestioned right to self-defense.

The United States has a long history of promoting and supporting democracies. It has long considered Israel its closest ally in the Middle East, because Israel is a democracy.

It is because of our passion for democracy that we cast votes against the procedural steps needed to bring House Resolution 392 to the floor.

These procedural steps prevented any amendments or any substitute resolutions to be considered by the Congress. We were not permitted to consider or debate either Senator LIEBERMAN'S or Congressman DEFAZIO'S language.

We were not given the opportunity to meet with our constituents and hear their thoughts and concerns on this divisive and complicated matter. Nor were there any hearings on this resolution. This is wrong and does not speak to debate that is central to our democratic process.

While we support House Resolution 392 in its final form, we have concerns that this resolution presents a one-sided view of a many-sided reality.

We cannot ignore the suffering of the Palestinian people and the loss of innocent civilians.

We cannot ignore the economic hardship the Palestinians have endured as they continue their attempts to create their own Democratic nation.

And we cannot ignore the physical damage done to Palestinian infrastructure in Jenin, in Ramallah and other towns in the West Bank.

Even with the Resolution's shortcomings, we believe it is critical to speak out against acts of terrorism that have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent Israeli civilians.

The United States is scarred by its own September 11th experience and we have a new and somber national consciousness of terrorism on our soil.

We continue to hold out hope that the Israelis and the Palestinians will be able to achieve the peace of the brave that has proven so elusive. We are confident that the

United States will be a true partner for peace and help bring a 21st Century Marshall Plan of resources and hope to those who today carry a rage of desperation.

KEN KERSTOCK: HELPING ARENAC COUNTY GROW

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ken Kerstock upon his retirement after 21 years as the Arenac County, Michigan, Extension Director. Ken's exemplary work as an educator on agricultural issues has had a tremendously positive impact on the farming community and the learning seeds he has planted with future farmers will reap benefits for Arenac County for generations. Ken's wife, Kay, their son, Robert, and daughters, Linda and Sandra, also deserve high praise for their unselfish support of Ken's career.

After earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and a master's degree in vocational education from Michigan State University, Ken taught high school before beginning his career as an agricultural agent and district farm management agent with the MSU Extension in 1976. In 1981, Ken earned an appointment as the Arenac County Extension Director, a post he held until his retirement this year. Throughout his tenure, Ken used his extensive skills to implement and hone many educational programs for the agricultural community. Ken has consistently gone above and beyond the requirements of his job to reach out to hard-working farm families and others.

Growers often point to the many workshops and studies Ken undertook to improve farming techniques and assist farmers in finding new methods to increase efficiency and productivity. Ken modestly credits others for his success, but he has clearly been the engine that drove the Extension for many years. In particular, he worked with the crops and soil department on a three-year plant food study that demonstrated the effectiveness of fertilizer recommendations based on soil samples. He also organized numerous workshops and co-chaired an agricultural study tour of Mexico.

Ken also has been a sparkplug in the economic growth of the area by training future leaders and encouraging development. He organized and ran several leadership development programs, including one that led to the reactivation of the Arenac County Economic Development Corporation. In addition, he was instrumental in conducting county-wide assessments and he led the Arenac County Strategic Planning process. Ken's dedication and hard work also made a real difference in assisting local businesses in entrepreneurial training.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Ken Kerstock for his distinguished service and in wishing him success in all future endeavors. I am confident that the seeds he sowed on behalf of the agricultural community in Arenac County and throughout the state will continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE J. HOMCY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Mr. George J. Homcy, President of the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce. On Wednesday, May 7, 2002 he was honored at a dinner commemorating his career of service.

It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his steadfast leadership in fostering economic growth in our region.

George Homcy's distinguished professional career began as a reporter with the Paterson Evening News in the late 1940s. He later moved to the American Forces Network as a journalist and broadcaster, covering American troop actions from the ground in Frankfurt, Munich, and Bremerhaven, Germany.

Upon his return home, George began twenty years as a reporter and eventually editor with the Herald News, located in Passaic, New Jersey.

In 1974, George Homcy began his work promoting the interests of the New Jersey business community. From 1974 to 1979, George served as Executive Vice President of the Clifton Chamber of Commerce. In 1980, through the foresight of George and others, the Clifton Chamber merged with the Passaic Area Chamber. As President of this newly formed organization, George continued the Chamber's growth by engineering another merger with the Passaic Valley Chambers of Commerce, forming the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in the chamber knows that small businesses have been the backbone of our nation's economy for over 200 years. George's stewardship of the North Jersey Chamber of Commerce has had an enduring impact on numerous New Jersey small businesses.

George J. Homcy's commitment to improving the lives of those in his community extends far beyond his work with the Chamber of Commerce. A board member with the United Way of Passaic Valley, the Boys' and Girls' Club of Clifton, and Saint Mary's Hospital in Passaic, George has touched countless lives. I am far from the first person to admire George's talent, as the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed him to the Passaic County District XI Ethics Committee.

While his retirement as President of the North Jersey Chamber will cause great sadness, it also is a time for celebration, as all those touched by George will honor him. I can say without hesitation that I am proud to represent George Homcy in Congress, but more importantly, I am honored to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the North Jersey Regional Chamber of Commerce, George's family and friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable efforts of George J. Homcy.