

others. It is that joy and in the words of Rabbi Martin Lawson, "Marla's legacy of caring, of Jewish learning and teaching, of smiles and optimism, of warmth and hope," that I want to share with my colleagues and the American people.

As a young girl, Marla was precocious, mature beyond her years. At age 2, she told her parents no more babies in this house anymore, and at age 3, she announced that she was going to Stamford University. By her early teens she had explored her Jewish identity and found fulfillment in Judaism's spiritual teachings and in its call to save the world through acts of kindness and generosity. As a camp counselor, school class officer and volunteer Jewish educator, Marla was known for her infectious enthusiasm, good nature and appetite for hard work.

She carried those qualities with her when she moved to Jerusalem to attend the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies at Hebrew University. In addition to her graduate work in Jewish history and culture, Marla worked to promote peace and understanding between Jewish and Arab Israelis. She felt that Israel had to do more to end the conflicts with its neighbors, and she grew impatient whenever a friend or family member seemed to give up on the peace process.

Marla knew that living in Israel was risky but for her it was exhilarating. In an article for the San Diego Jewish Press Heritage, she wrote "I am not a tourist; I deal with Israel and all its complexities, confusion, joy and pain every single day. And I love it. Life here is magical." In another article she wrote, "I have a front row seat for the history of the Jewish people. I am part of the struggle for Israel's survival."

Now Marla is a casualty in that struggle, but she is also a beacon of light for all those who dream of peace and work for the day when Israel can dwell in peace with her neighbors.

Marla Bennett was one of thousands of young American Jews who have gone to Israel and stayed on despite the horrors of war and terrorism. In an open letter to Marla's parents, another young American who chose this path wrote that "there was no question as to whether it was worth the risk." He told the Bennetts, "My heart literally breaks for your loss but not for your daughter. She lived her life as a free, independent and bold Jewish woman. May her example live on in the sons and daughters that follow her."

Amen. Marla Bennett was a beautiful, brilliant, brave, kind and caring young woman who lived life to the fullest, and though her death is a terrible blow to many of us, her life is an inspiration to us all.

#### CONGRATULATING HEATHER IVANYI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize tonight and congratulate a very special constituent in my congressional district, Heather Ivanyi, who is a teacher at Oliver Hoover Elementary School, and I want to thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community's special children, those who have special needs, and for having been featured recently as a Super Teacher in the Miami Herald.

Heather not only teaches her students spelling and arithmetic, but more importantly, she develops their creativity and positive self-esteem. At home she focuses on her beautiful 6-year-old daughter Kayla Rae, who has Down's Syndrome.

Knowing firsthand the special needs of children like her daughter, Heather spends her free time working for groups like the Association of Retarded Citizens, the Possible Dream Foundation and the American Rehab Corporation to further assist children with Down's Syndrome, with cerebral palsy and other such disabilities.

Along with her assistant Daphne Noisette-Andre, Heather Ivanyi dedicates and cares for the special needs children of our community and we are a better community for that, and I would like to read just a few lines from the article that was written in the Miami Herald by Yohana De La Torre, and it is entitled, "A special teacher works for special children, Hoover's Heather Ivanyi is tireless." It says, "A Miami native, Ivanyi graduated from Killian High School and received her associate degree from Miami-Dade Community College."

"In 1994, she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in varied exceptionalities while working full time.

She volunteered, became a teacher, but it says teaching did not stop there for Ivanyi. She started to build awareness within the community and made contacts with Costco, Toys R' Us and corporations like Target.

Thanks to her persistence, these corporations still donate toiletries, food, toys, books and diapers to help places like the Association for Retarded Citizens and another special needs foundations called Dr. Gerald's Possible Dreams Foundation. She says, "I never take no for an answer. I have no shame in asking. I want people to learn that children with disabilities are human, too."

Her long-time friend Frances Capo, who is also a teacher, said this about Ivanyi, I do not know how to describe her. There are no words to describe her. She is a go-getter and always has a positive outlook on everything. She not only goes in there to teach but also to believe in her students.

There are many heroes in our community, Madam Speaker, heroes like Heather who do not get the special recognition they deserve. Many of them are our teachers in our private and public schools, and to them we say thanks and muchos gracias.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### MIDWEST FARMERS AND RANCHERS FACE DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, times are often tough in the high plains of our country, and Kansas farmers and ranchers struggle every year to make ends meet, but this year is especially difficult, and I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues here in the House tonight and the citizens of our country the difficult circumstances that those farmers and ranchers face this year because of very little snowfall, no rainfall this spring, and this being the second and third and sometimes even fourth year in a row in which moisture has been lacking for farmers to farm and ranchers to raise their cattle.

I just completed 25 town visits throughout the month of August across the First District of Kansas and saw the worry and concern upon farmers' faces. Every day our farmers look to the skies and hope and pray for rain.

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Communities gather every evening in the community band shell where they come together and as a community pray that rain will fall. The circumstances that our agriculture producers face and the communities in which they live is desperate. We have ranchers selling their cattle every week. Our herds are being culled. We had almost no wheat harvest in many places in Kansas; and in fact statewide wheat harvest was down almost half of what it was last year, and last year was a very bleak year in and of itself. The fall crops, the milo, our fall crops have failed, almost no fall crops produced in Kansas because of lack of moisture. Here in a couple of weeks our farmers will try to begin the process of planting wheat, and yet no rain comes. There is no moisture in the surface, no subsoil moisture for those seeds to germinate. In addition, our cattle are struggling because there is no water in the ponds and no grass to feed.

So I think it is important for those of us who care about the future of rural America, those of us who care about the livelihood of our farmers and ranchers, to bring to our colleagues in Congress the circumstances that we face. Almost every year that I have been in Congress, 6 now, we have had an emergency assistance package designed to help those who face natural disasters, those who struggle as a result of hurricanes and floods. I am here to tell my colleagues that the circumstances that farmers and ranchers