

on issues from constituent casework to the revitalization and redevelopment of the District. Jack's stewardship of the District Office over the past two decades has been invaluable to me, and has served the 3rd Congressional District well.

Mr. Speaker, countless times when I was in my district, a constituent would approach me and tell me how my office helped him or her with a problem they were having, anything from problems sorting out social security benefits to getting a military medal they had been awarded. Thanks to Jack's leadership and counsel, and along with my dedicated staff and caseworkers, we helped thousands of constituents during my tenure in Congress. Constituents never forget the help and support of my District Office, as I will never forget their help, support, and friendship.

THE 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STAFF,  
1983-2002

Kay Arndorfer, Maureen Canty, Ethan Chamow, Michele Daly, Patrick Daly, Pete DeCoursey, Jack Dempsey, Mariann Porter Dempsey, Adam Dickstein, Sis Dolan, Christopher Drumm, Ginny Duffy, Anna Marie Feeney, Rosemary Farnon, Jack Fesi, Ann Fleming, Keven Gallagher, Joe Grace, Bill Haas, Tom Jablonowski, Brian Jeter, Judith Kohn, Elsie Lydon, John Macoretta, Francis McCloskey, Mark Menkevich, Joe Michalski, Carletta Murray, Mercedes Ott, Karen Peck, Manor Prewitt, Jerrildine Reed, Peg Rzepski, Joe Schorr, Donna Storino, Donna Szuszczewicz, Ed Turzanski, Nicole Usle.

#### HONORING CHARLOTTE KLEIN

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Worcester treasure, Charlotte Klein, as she celebrates 50 years as a dance educator. Charlotte's students and friends will honor her November 9, 2002 to commemorate a career that has touched the lives of thousands and helped launch many professional careers.

Charlotte began studying dance at age four, and she began her career as a dance educator as an assistant teacher with a preschool class at age 12. During the 50 years since she opened her first dance studio in the basement of her parents' home, following high school graduation, she has provided professional training in the art of dance to thousands of students in Central Massachusetts. Countless students have gone on to college as dance majors, and dozens of Charlotte's students have achieved national recognition for their stage, film, and television performances.

As important as her career has been in her life, her family always came first. In 1955 she married her high school sweetheart, Ben Klein, son of a prominent Worcester Rabbi. They built a dance studio in their home and started to raise a family. Tragedy came with cystic fibrosis, a disease that claimed two of their three daughters. One lived for only a few weeks, while Elisa lived more than 15 years. Elisa was a wonderful dancer, and took classes in Charlotte's school before she passed away. Elisa's sister Laura carried on the family legacy as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. Charlotte moved forward, establishing the Elisa Ruth Klein Fund. The Fund supports ac-

tivities of the Cystic Fibrosis Center at UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Charlotte Klein and her family for their contribution to dance education in Central Massachusetts.

#### ELIMINATING THE 24 MONTH WAITING PERIOD FOR MEDICARE

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than 56 million Americans currently live with some kind of disability. These disabilities include blindness, paralysis, mental illness, hearing loss, physical ailments, and a host of other conditions.

The federal government has recognized the unique challenges faced by these Americans by allowing qualified disabled individuals to receive health insurance under the Medicare program. Unfortunately, the law includes a 24 month waiting period before disabled individuals can qualify for coverage.

This waiting period poses a serious problem for many newly disabled Americans. Faced with the loss of their employment due to their disability, their situation is only made worse because they cannot access the health care services they need. The Medicare program was designed to help people in need—not make their situations worse by denying them necessary health care.

That is why I am introducing legislation to eliminate the 24 month waiting period under the Medicare program. This legislation would allow individuals to enroll in Medicare immediately upon their disability determination. This is a necessary change in the law which will help countless Americans access the health care they need upon becoming disabled.

#### HONORING THE HEROISM OF MIKE MCGEHEE OF RED BUD, ILLINOIS

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroism of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Freshman Mike McGehee of Red Bud, Illinois for saving the lives of his fellow students during a tragic fire in their Cougar Village apartment on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Early Saturday morning, October 12, 2002, Campus police received a call that a fire was underway at the Cougar Village Student apartment complex. The fire started at about 4:40 a.m. in the kitchen of Apartment 1B on the lower floor in the complex. Mike McGehee and his roommates were upstairs in Apartment 2C. Mike, normally a sound sleeper according to his parents Len and Ruth McGehee, woke up about 4:30 a.m. and smelled smoke. He woke up five other people in the apartment and guided them towards the front door. When they discovered that the front door was hot,

Mike's roommates went to the balcony to jump. Upon reaching the ground, Mike didn't follow. Campus Police Officer, Tony Santiago who was on the scene helped some students who were trying to jump off balconies to escape from the second story apartments.

With the fire fully engaged and Edwardsville Fire units arriving on scene, Mike became disoriented with the smoke and broke out a window, he fell to the floor and called out for help. By then Edwardsville Firefighters were evacuating other apartment units. Mike's friends alerted fire fighters that Mike was still inside. Firefighters, moving through the building, felt Mike's grasp on his leg. According to Mike's parents, Mike had already mentally said his goodbyes, as he thought he was going to die.

Mike was taken from the building, to a local hospital and then transferred to the burn unit at St. John's Mercy Medical hospital in St. Louis where he is currently being treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Mike is expected to be released from the hospital in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the heroism of Mike McGehee and his efforts to help save the lives of his fellow students. It was through his efforts that so many lives were saved that day.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALICE SANTANA

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Alice Santana, a woman of many roles—a wife, a mother, a friend, a business woman, a community activist, a rising star in the ranks of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a political advisor, a supporter and kingmaker—just to name a few. Alice was tough, exuberant, and smart in every one of her roles. She brought her awesome zest for life to others, and enjoyed the pleasure of working and playing, while wholeheartedly advocating the causes in which she believed.

Alice came to Santa Cruz with her family in 1962 when the circle of those committed to action for social change and support for the arts was small indeed in Santa Cruz County. This was an emerging time of change—Cabrillo Community College had just been established, UCSC was on the verge of opening its doors, and Alice was a forceful and driving member within that small circle for reform. Alice's commitment continued with resiliency. There is hardly an arts organization or initiative for social change in this county that did not benefit from Alice's truly generous support.

It is no secret that Alice Santana has always been an ardent Democrat. Her willingness to generously support endeavors that didn't always look shiny and bright, in a community dominated by the other party, was a critical force for change. She was an early and crucial supporter for Leon Panetta, our first Democratic Congressman. Alice supported and worked hard for Henry Mello, Supervisor, State Assemblyman and the State Senator. She worked vigorously for my races as well as for Fred Keeley, our current State Assemblyman. And at the local level, she was an important and initial supporter for a line of Democratic Second District Supervisors, Ralph