

Dr. Brook's involvement in the Houston Jewish community began in 1959 when he joined the board of the Congregation Emanu El Brotherhood. From there, Dr. Brook continued his support for the congregation by serving as chairman on both the Religious School Committee and the Administration and Personnel Committee. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1973–2000, demonstrating his leadership as board treasurer, vice president, senior vice president, and then president of the Congregation Emanu El from 1989 until 1991.

Additionally, Dr. Brook has been extremely active in the Jewish community nationally, playing an instrumental role in the establishment of several programs, including the Becker Preschool Program. As chairman of the Leadership Planning Conference of the Presidents of Large Congregations at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations from 1990 to 1998, Dr. Brook demonstrated his commitment to the larger Reform movement through his exceptional leadership skills.

Ed Brook's compassionate demeanor stretches far beyond the care he provides to his patients, as he is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife Darna are the loving parents of Julie and Drew Alexander, Helen and John Brook, and Sara Brook, as well as the proud grandparents of five.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Edward Brook is truly a committed civic leader, as well as a distinguished health care professional. I applaud the Texas Medical and Health Professions Division, State of Israel Bonds in recognizing his selflessness and commitment to the public good. I also commend Dr. Edward Brook on receiving this award and more importantly, his work to provide necessary dental services to the residents of the Houston community and to promote the health of citizens from all walks of life.

TRIBUTE TO ANNALISA MOLINE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miss Annalisa Moline of Denver, Colorado. Annalisa is the first resident at the fifth, and newest, Colorado State Veterans Home located at the old Fitzsimons VA facility in Denver.

An immigrant from Sweden, Annalisa Moline grew up in South Dakota where she graduated from high school in 1924. Upon graduation, she moved to New York to become a nurse and in 1940 joined the Army because she said, "I thought I should always do something better."

Mr. Speaker, Annalisa Moline was stationed in Paltava, Russia where she cared for American pilots sent on bombing runs in Europe. It was here that she helped set up a field hospital for the injured while weathering attacks from German bombers. For her courage and honor during this period she was awarded the Bronze Star for valor. She came home from World War II with the rank of major and put in another ten years of service with the Veterans administration. In 1995, Annalisa was awarded the highest honor for nurses in Colorado, the Nightingale Award.

Annalisa has not only made her community proud, but also her state and country. On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask the House to join me in extending thanks and congratulations to Miss Annalisa Moline for her service and contributions to the United States.

COMMENDING THE LAO AND HMONG-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF RHODE ISLAND

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, concerned individuals and organizations from the Laotian-American community in my district in Rhode Island and throughout the United States participated in key sessions of the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos, held on both July 17 and October 1, 2002, in the U.S. House of Representatives. They presented testimony and provided critical information to the Congress about the deteriorating human rights situation in Laos and the plight of missing Lao student leaders, political and religious dissidents as well as the ongoing persecution and horrific massacre of minority peoples, including the Hmong people in the closed areas of Saysamboun Special Zone and Xieng Khouang Province.

Mr. Speaker, right now many Laotian and Hmong-Americans in Rhode Island have family members who are still suffering and dying in Laos under the brutal Pathet Lao regime. I am concerned that Laos remains a one-party Communist system that has nearly bankrupt the nation—both economically and morally, in terms of the lack of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, including lack of religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to honor and thank Mr. Thongsavanh Phongsavan, and his colleagues from North Providence, Rhode Island, who have helped to so honorably represent the Laotian-American community in Rhode Island as well as the Lao-American Council and the Lao Progressive Institute of Rhode Island. I also want to recognize and commend Mr. Philip S. Smith, Executive Director, of the Center for Public Policy Analysis for his important work and leadership in helping to coordinate the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos with Members of Congress as well as assisting the freedom-loving people of Laos in Rhode Island and elsewhere in the Laotian Diaspora community. Special recognition and thanks also to: Mrs. Nouamkham Khamphylavong, Mr. Aly Chantala, Mr. Oudong Saysana and the members of the "Lao Students Movement for Democracy"; Mr. T. Kumar, Amnesty International; Ms. Christine Hines and Mr. John Tai, of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; Mr. Paul Martin, U.S. Department of State; Mrs. Kay Danes, former Australian political prisoner in Laos; Mr. Makram Ouais, National Democratic Institute; His Excellency Kat Dittavong, former Royal Lao Ambassador to Thailand 1973–75; Mr. Prakian Viravong, of the "December 14" organization, as well as a distinguished Lao poet and author; Mr. Khampoua Naovarangsy, of the Laos Institute for Democracy; Mr. Bounchaloune Phouthakhanty; Mr. Alan Sananikone, Col. Bounmee Sananikone,

Mr. Bounthone Rathigna, Mr. Thongchanh Boulum, Col. Khamthene Chinyavong and Baramy Mitthivong, of the United League for Democracy in Laos, Inc.; The Honorable Dr. Sin Vilay, of the Royal Laos Foundation; Mr. Bounleung Ngonevolalath; Col. Khambang Sibounheuang—decorated officer and "White Dragon Two" author—and his colleague, Mr. Eugene Prater, of the Lao Nationalist Reform Party; Bon and Laura Xiong, Hubert Yang, Chuhu Xiong, Xieng Xiong and Ying Xiong, of the Hmong International Human Rights Watch and Hmong Reform Party; Mr. Moua Sao, of Lan Xang Democracy, Inc. and son of the legendary Hmong resistance leader Cher Pao Moua; Dr. Kayasith Rattanavongkoth, of the national Laotian-American Association; Jacqueline Sun; Dr. Edward Samada, International Buddhist Fellowship; Pastor Pat Kearney; Pastor Sidney Kahn; Mr. Kingsavanh Pathammavong, researcher, Lao history and culture; Mrs. Bounchan Senthavong, Lao Community Advisor; Col. Thai C. Vang, Col. Wangyee Vang, Chertzong Vang, Mr. Chang Ger Xiong, Nao Lue Kue, Mr. Toua Kue, Xia Xu Kue and many others from the Lao Veterans of America, Inc.; Touy Manikhham, former RLAF pilot; Professor Onsy Inthavong, Mr. Vanhlang Khamsouk, Manisakhone Sinhbandith and Nick Hanthaley, of the Federation for Free Elections in Laos; Mrs. Yer Ly, daughter of missing Hmong-American, Mr. Houa Ly; Mr. Bee Moua, Representative, Chao Fa Party; Mr. Bounheuang Manivong, Editor, Phendin Lao Magazine; Miss Rattavone Yotharath, President, Miss Lao-American, Inc. of Rhode Island; Mr. Vue Lee, Hmong Community Advisor and businessman; Mr. Southalavong Boutah, Lao Veterans Association; and, George Vue and Dr. Houa Yang, of the Hmong National Council, Inc. as well as so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply concerned about the plight of the suffering people of Laos and the deplorable human rights and economic situation under the current Pathet Lao regime. I join my colleagues in Congress in commending the Lao and Hmong-American community and the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos for the important effort they have put forward to help raise further awareness about the difficult situation in Laos, including human rights violations, religious and ethnic persecution—and the terrible plight of missing Lao student leaders and Hmong-Americans.

HONORING MARTY DRIESLER

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, it is such an honor and privilege to serve in the United States House of Representatives. This honor and privilege is made all the greater by the people I work with on a day to day basis, particularly my Chief of Staff, Marty Driesler.

Marty has toiled for the betterment of her country for more than thirty years by working as the chief of staff of two members of Congress, a campaign consultant, a political fundraiser, and in various high level administrative jobs working with key state and local government officials.

For the past three years, I have been fortunate to benefit from her service as my chief of