

and Career Development. Throughout her banking career, she has mentored employees and neighborhood youth, both personally and professionally.

Lystra is deeply involved in her community. She has been a member of the Brooklyn Canarsie Lions Club since 1995. She was elected Treasurer in her first year, a position she still holds. She also serves on the Board of Directors and is the funding co-advisor of the Brooklyn Canarsie Leos Club, which lends its support to the Guide Dog Foundation and the Vacation Camp for the Blind. She is on the Board of Directors of Canarsie By Choice and has supported the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, National Conference for Community Justice, and National Association for Breast Cancer.

Lystra has also lent her banking expertise to the community through various financial seminars in credit, insurance, investment, and homeowners' information. Small businesses have also benefited from her personal counseling and expertise. Lystra has also participated in several civic causes, working with the Office of Senator John Sampson and helping to elect HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON to the Senate.

Lystra is married to Ian Besson. They have three daughters Habika Zwena, Zakiya, and Tabia, and a granddaughter Lystra Daniella.

Mr. Speaker, Lystra Moore-Besson is devoted to serving her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING ELIZABETH MCCABE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth McCabe on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving which serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Mrs. McCabe's life has been dedicated to the growth of agriculture and education. Elizabeth has spent countless hours involved in 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America (FFA) activities. In 1972 she and a friend began the Mission 4-H Club. A leaders for 15 years, Elizabeth assumed the responsibility of making sure the kids traveled to five fairs a year. She is a 20 year member of the Merced Chapter, California Women for Agriculture and served as their President. She remains very active in 4-H, FAA, and California Women for Agriculture activities.

Elizabeth has a great respect for education which is why she works diligently for the Friends of the Library and is a strong supporter of organizations which fund scholarships. She has served as President for the Merced County School Board Association, the United Methodist Women, and as Treasurer for the Merced Senior, Inc. Elizabeth is a leader of philanthropy in her community and a guiding light to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Elizabeth McCabe for her outstanding service and commitment to education and agriculture. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Elizabeth many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY  
SWEARENGEN STRONG

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dorothy Swearingen Strong, a dynamic woman who had committed 45 years to advocating for the educational and developmental needs of African American children, especially in relation to mathematics. Making it a priority to equip at-risk youth with essential mathematics skills, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that all children are prepared to master standards-based mathematics and traditional basic skills simultaneously.

She began teaching in 1958 and has remained true to her philosophy that all children can and must complete Algebra by the end of eighth grade, in addition to attaining four years of college preparatory math by the end of high school. Strong has diligently worked from her vision of high expectations, full access, quality instruction and high achievement for all students. Always innovatively finding new ways to educate. Strong is currently directing and piloting the BiMathematics Project. This program will connect multiple definitions of curriculum faced by school districts, high stakes assessment and key mathematics principles to restructure and consolidate the mathematics curriculum for grades K-12. The project includes extended professional development, parental and community involvement components.

Impressively, Strong had developed and implemented several initiatives aimed at making math both exciting and educational for students. She has coordinated three major Mathematics and Science Motivational Projects with NASA that highlighted the achievements of African American astronauts. In an effort to increase academic achievement for inner-city students, she pioneered the MathCounts Competition, which celebrates their participation in statewide mathematics competitions.

She strives to empower students to always be prepared, be active participants in today's society and become lifelong learners. Leading by example, Strong has devoted many hours as founder and past president to the Benjamin Banneker Association. This Association provides a forum for mathematics educators and mathematicians to discuss learning and teaching math with respect to African American children. She has also developed a series of Bible Mathematics books and a Mathematics Tutor Training Manual to help Black South Af-

rican students prepare for their University Examination.

Mr. Speaker. It is with great honor that I recognize Dr. Dorothy Swearingen Strong today before Congress. She has been referred to as the Mother of Modern Day Mathematics. Her outstanding leadership and commitment to efficiently educating students makes her more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge that my colleagues join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING SEAMAN 1ST CLASS  
JOSEPH MCKENNA

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, our veterans have made America the strongest nation on earth. Their stories serve as a reminder of the costs that our nation has endured to ensure peace and freedom. I believe that it is vitally important to acknowledge the commitment and achievement of every veteran who put his or her life on the line to protect this nation.

I want to take this opportunity to share the story and bravery of Seaman 1st Class, Joseph McKenna Jr., of Melville, New York, a veteran of World War II.

In the spring of 1943, Joseph McKenna was serving as a United States Navy armed guard on the tanker, *MS Panam*. The *Panam* was making a trip from Norfolk to Lake Charles, Louisiana when it developed engine trouble. After becoming separated from the rest of the convoy, a German U-Boat attacked. The first torpedo ripped through the engine room, killing two crew members. The engines were destroyed and water started to rush in.

At the time of the attack Joseph McKenna was on the bridge. His commander, Arley Zinn, met him there and told him to return to the gun deck. At this point, McKenna realized that his buddy, Seaman 1st Class Earl Mayle, was missing and he went to find him. The door to their quarters was shut; it wouldn't budge. McKenna kicked in the bottom panel of the door and, on his hands and knees, made his way through the opening to Mayle, who was wedged under a bunk. Amazingly, McKenna, a man of only one hundred and thirty two pounds, was able to drag Mayle to what he thought was the safety of the gun deck.

Upon reaching the deck, McKenna was injured when another torpedo stuck the *Panam*. Thankfully, McKenna made it to a lifeboat with Mayle. After floating in the open ocean for six hours, the Coast Guard cutter *USS SC664* finally picked them up.

McKenna lost touch with Mayle for fifty-six years. In 1999, he tracked down Mayle's wife Shirley. She told him that Mayle passed away in 1993. She said that all Earl would speak about was McKenna saving his life. "Thank God for Joe McKenna," Earl would say. "If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here."

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to recognize Seaman 1st Class, Joseph McKenna Jr. In honor of him and his act of bravery, I have flown a flag over the United States Capitol.