

involved in bettering St. Helena through her volunteer work. Bonnie is a member of the St. Helena Rotary club, the Kiwanis club and she sits on the REMIF Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as Mrs. Long's professional contributions and service to St. Helena are, she would be the first to tell you that her real success has been as a dedicated wife, a loving mother and an adoring grandmother. Whether traveling with her husband John, giving advice to her daughter Samantha or playing with her grandson Zachary, Bonnie has been a shining example of how to keep your priorities straight. For Bonnie, family is the true joy of life.

Mr. Speaker, because of the many contributions she has made to the town of St. Helena and for her excellence and dedication, it is proper for us to honor Bonnie Jean Long today as she retires from the office city manager.

HONORING HENRY COVELLO

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Covello, a veteran of World War II and Korea.

Mr. Covello served our country in World War II as a young man. His honor and bravery earned him a Purple Heart for his service in the war. His lifelong dedication to the United States Army is reflected by the prestige of the Purple Heart, among the highest honors an American citizen can receive. Following his service in World War II, Mr. Covello went off to serve in Korea where he earned his second Purple Heart. I am proud to tell my colleagues that this weekend Mr. Covello will posthumously receive his third Purple Heart.

Mr. Covello served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division, 504th Parachute Regiment, the 5th Airborne Ranger Co., 25th Division, and D Company, 19 Regiment, 24th Division. He served for nearly 25 years in the Army before permanently retiring to Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Covello is an example for all Americans. Devoting himself to our armed forces, Mr. Covello's awards are the sign of a grateful nation. His service in the fight against tyranny and oppression should not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Covello, and to all of our veterans, for bravely fighting to protect our security and liberty. I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in thanking Mr. Covello for his service.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1906, THE SERVICEMEMBERS' TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND SERVICES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Servicemembers' Transition As-

sistance Program and Services Enhancement Act of 2003. This legislation would improve our servicemembers' often challenging transition process from active-duty military service back into civilian life. In the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-95), Congress made a commitment to end chronic homelessness among veterans within this decade. This legislation is a strong step forward to honoring that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this bill is a proactive measure; it aims to educate our separating servicemembers about the risk factors associated with homelessness, as well as provide them with the tools they need to obtain quality long-term employment.

Unemployment and continual underemployment can lead to poverty, which is the common denominator and root cause of homelessness. This measure would ensure that all servicemembers have the opportunity to participate and take advantage of important Transition Assistance Program (TAP) services prior to leaving military service.

TAP is jointly administered by the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs. These services generally include, employment counseling, career assistance, and veterans' benefits guidance for active-duty servicemembers returning to civilian life. Currently, only the Marine Corps requires mandatory TAP attendance for all of its separating or retiring servicemembers. The Marine Corps again leads the way!

Mr. Speaker, every veteran and servicemember I have spoken with concerning TAP has said that attending a transition workshop was a positive experience, and that the services truly helped them in their civilian job search. Additionally, as we all know, the military is comprised of a substantial number of married servicemembers. This measure acknowledges the special people that make-up our military community, and encourages full spousal participation in TAP services.

Further, this important legislation would also require that TAP workshops include homelessness risk awareness assessments. As servicemembers leave military life to become civilians, they must adjust to new responsibilities and in certain ways a new lifestyle. This transition can be particularly challenging to veterans who are at greater risk of becoming homeless.

According to recent studies, veterans: comprise 23 percent of the overall homeless population and 33 percent of the homeless male population; are twice as likely to become homeless as non-veterans; female veterans are approximately four times as likely to become homeless as their non-veteran counterparts; 40 percent of homeless veterans reported mental health problems; 49 percent reported alcohol abuse; 31 percent reported drug use; 52 percent reported chronic medical conditions.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Linda Boone and the entire staff of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. I very much appreciate their advocacy on behalf of homeless veterans.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this proactive legislation.

HONORING DR. ARTHUR O. HAZARABEDIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian posthumously for his vast contributions to his community and to the Armenian culture. His passing on March 31st of this year was a tragic loss to all who knew him.

Arthur graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics in 1953. He then received a Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1959 from U.C. Davis. Dr. Hazarabedian's compassion for the animal community was shown in his ownership of Harmar Veterinary Services in the East Bay of San Francisco. Most of his career as a veterinarian was dedicated to aiding pets, and he offered his services to four veterinary hospitals over the span of 40 years. Dr. Hazarabedian's love for helping other creatures is evident in his being a founding member of many veterinary organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association and their Business Management Committee. He also served as a representative of the California Board of Equalization and was a Charter member of the California Academy of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Hazarabedian has made a significant impact on many lives in the Armenian community. One of Dr. Hazarabedian's greatest accomplishments was the founding of the Armenian Technology Group, Inc. He, and the other ATG co-founders, formed the organization to assist Armenia in its transition from a subject state of the Soviet Union to a free and independent nation. Under Dr. Hazarabedian's leadership, the goal of ATG has been the advancement of democracy in Armenia through the development of a modern agricultural base in a free-market economy. ATG has sought to introduce modern farming practices and technologies to Armenian farmers and government representatives through programs designed to promote independent action and knowledge sharing.

In 1990, he received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the Faculty at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, which is the highest award for contributions, public service and excellence in the veterinary profession. Three weeks before he passed away, on March 8, Dr. Hazarabedian received the Man-of-the-Year award from the Armenian National Committee of America—Bay Area Chapter, at a ceremony held in San Francisco, CA for his outstanding service to Armenia and Armenian-American causes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Arthur O. Hazarabedian for his exceptional services to the protection of the humanitarian cause. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Arthur for an exceptional career and for his everlasting contributions.

HONORING THE DEDICATED LIFE
AND WORK OF MR. JAMES A.
WILDING

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James A. Wilding, an outstanding citizen of Northern Virginia who has served his community and country for almost half a century.

Mr. Wilding will retire from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority this month after 43 years of service. Revered as a leader in both the public and private sectors, Jim will leave behind a legacy of dedication and excellence beyond compare.

Jim graduated from the Catholic University of America as a Civil Engineer in 1959. He then joined the Federal Aviation Administration, where his key role in the transformation of the Washington region began. Jim was one of the original planners of the Washington Dulles International Airport. En route to his position as Chief Engineer, Jim advanced through the ranks of the FAA, working in many different engineering capacities on both Washington Dulles International and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. By 1979, Jim had successfully mastered the positions of Chief Engineer, Deputy Director, and finally Director of the FAA's Metropolitan Washington Airports.

Upon the 1987 transfer of the region's airports to the new Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Jim began his tenure as that organization's President. He continued to implement his vision of a globally connected Washington area, easily accessible by world-class air facilities. Of course, this vision was far removed from reality; the region's current economic prosperity may obscure the collective memory of the wholly government-centered Metropolitan area of 50 years ago. Mr. Wilding's involvement in the region's air service played a large role in changing that. He oversaw a capital development program of more than 3 billion dollars at the two federally owned airports in the region and led the modernization of Reagan National Airport. Dulles also underwent major growth in the 1990's. Under Jim's leadership, passenger activity at the two airports has almost doubled to 31 million passengers in 2002.

Widely acknowledged as an expert in the aviation industry, Jim has won numerous awards, including the highest award in the Transportation Department: the Secretary of Transportation's Gold Medal. He has served namely as Chairman of the Airports Council International—North America, as President of the Aero Club of Washington, and has served on the Board of Directors of the regional organization, and on the Board of its worldwide parent based in Geneva, Switzerland. Currently, he serves on the Policy Review Committee of the American Association of Airport Executives.

The United Way Campaign of Arlington County, Virginia is only one of the many regional groups indebted to Jim for his support and active participation. Jim is a member of the Economic Development Commission of Arlington County and has served on the Board of Directors as well as the Executive Com-

mittee of the Arlington County Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Eno Transportation Foundation, and currently serves on the Board of the Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation, on both the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Dulles Area Transportation Association, and has served on the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board.

The people of Northern Virginia join these organizations in their debt of gratitude to Jim Wilding, and extend him heartfelt thanks for his continuing role in advancing the prosperity of the Washington region. Mr. Chairman, the life and service of this Virginian serve as a shining example to all who wish to improve the well-being of their community through dynamic public and private activity.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MYLES MARTEL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Myles Martel in celebration of his 60th birthday.

Dr. Martel has been involved with the United States political process for decades, leaving behind him a legacy of leadership. He came to prominence serving as former President Ronald Reagan's personal debate advisor, after which he moved on to become an advisor to the White House Office of Communications. Dr. Martel has also served as a speech advisor to ambassadors, congressmen, senators, governors and cabinet members. His expertise has awarded him many honors, including the George Washington Honor Medal, and the Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional from the University of Connecticut. Dr. Martel has published five books, and has been quoted by many nationally recognized newsmagazines and newspapers.

I am honored today to recognize Dr. Myles Martel for his many accomplishments, and to wish him the best on the celebration of his 60th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD
L. BAILEY, D. MIN.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serving others, the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Bailey, D. Min., who on April 26 of this year was elevated to the position of Bishop by the Love Gospel Assembly, a non-denominational church serving over 2,500 members within my Congressional district in the South Bronx.

Dr. Bailey was born and raised in Harlem, New York, and is the Senior Pastor of Love Gospel Assembly, one of the larger multi-faceted, multi-cultural ministries in New York City.

Dr. Bailey was ordained in 1987 by the late Bishop Gerald Julius Kaufman, founder of Love Gospel Assembly, who also mentored

Dr. Bailey in full-time ministry for eight years. Dr. Bailey's life and work as he labored beside Dr. Kaufman have built on the foundation of ministry to and for the poor and inner cities that was clearly articulated and demonstrated by Dr. Kaufman and continued the important work of Love Gospel Assembly.

Dr. Bailey has a Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies, a Master of Arts in Theology from Evangelical Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) from United Theological Seminary in conjunction with Robert Schuller's School for Preaching (Fuqua School of Communication).

Dr. Bailey sits on the Board of Directors for The Urban Youth Alliance Inc., the Steering Committee for the Bronx National Day of Prayer, and the Board of Directors for the Concerts of Prayer, Greater New York.

Dr. Ronald L. Bailey has been married for 35 years to Dorothy Bailey and they have three children, Ron, Jr., Rachel, and Danielle and one grandchild, Anaiah.

Among other things, Dr. Bailey serves meals to over 700 people weekly, conducts a food pantry and provides clothing to the needy.

As it is written in Hebrews 6:10, "for God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them," the community recognizes him and honors him with this consecration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and in congratulating the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Bailey, D. Min. on his consecration as Bishop of Love Gospel Assembly.

CONGRATULATIONS, MONSIGNOR
JOSEPH SEMANCIK ON 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to congratulate Monsignor Joseph Semancik as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. He will be honored by his parishioners with a luncheon following an 11:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in East Chicago, Indiana on Sunday, May 2, 2003.

A native of Northwest Indiana, Monsignor Semancik was born in Whiting on March 3, 1929 to Frank Semancik and Lillian Duray. He attended St. John the Baptist School and Catholic Central High School. After graduating from high school, Monsignor Semancik's passion for his faith led him to study at Sacred Heart Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and later at St. Meinrad Seminary in Southern Indiana. He was ordained into the priesthood on May 1, 1953, and this important event became a stepping stone for his lifelong dedication to the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

Monsignor Semancik began his career as an Assistant Priest for Assumption Parish in East Chicago and at St. Catherine of Siena in Hammond, Indiana. He was appointed administrator at Sacred Heart Parish in 1960, a position he held until being named pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Gary in 1969. After five years as pastor for Holy Trinity, Monsignor