

selflessly devoted himself in service to our nation, his fellow trade union members, New York's Irish-American community, and his family and friends.

A remarkable union leader, Jack Ryan served as the president of Local 74 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for almost 14 years. During that time, he increased its membership ranks dramatically through a series of successful organizing campaigns and mergers. Local 74's membership now surpasses 14,000 members, of whom 4,500 are employed in the custodial division of the New York City public schools.

In 1959, Jack Ryan began his career of service to others by joining the U.S. Marine Corps after high school. He proudly served his country as a Marine for 4 years, and then returned to New York, began working for the United Parcel Service in Albany, and commenced his career in the trade union movement. In 1964, he was elected shop steward, representing more than 500 coworkers, and proudly held that position until 1980. During this time, Jack Ryan also served as elected trustee and a member of the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 294 in Albany, becoming the full-time business agent of Local 294 from 1980 through 1983.

After leaving the Teamsters, Jack Ryan became an International Representative for SEIU. In recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, he was promoted to Regional Coordinator, and then named International Trustee for SEIU's Local 74 by the Union's International President, John Sweeney. Because he was so effective and respected as trustee, Jack Ryan was asked by Local 74's Executive Board to run for its presidency. In June of 1990 he was elected president of Local 74 by an overwhelming majority.

Because of his outstanding leadership abilities, Jack Ryan was also elected to positions in both the SEIU and other prominent labor organizations. He serves on SEIU's Executive Board, and has been elected Secretary of the SEIU New York State Services Council and Vice President of the New York City Central Labor Council. In 1991 he was elected a Vice President of New York State AFL-CIO and 1st Vice President of SEIU's New Jersey State Service Council.

Proud of his heritage, Jack Ryan has also been awarded numerous accolades and honors by New York's Irish-American community. A member of the Irish American Labor Coalition, he was named an honoree at its annual dinner in 1998. He also received the Pro Deo et Patria award from the New York City Board of Education Emerald Society in 1991, was honored by the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, and served as Grand Marshal of the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1995. His achievements have also been recognized by Black Trade Unionists, the Jewish Labor Coalition and the Greater New York Boy Scouts of America.

Jack Ryan has always remained devoted to his family. He is the caring father of three wonderful children, Patrick and Meghan Ryan and Colleen Simmons; and the beloved grandfather of five, Gregory and Alyssa Simmons, and Nathan, Jeremy, and Matthew Ryan.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack Ryan on the occasion of his retirement. He will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GREGG
FROEHNER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the great heroism of Mr. Gregg Froehner of Chester, New York, who courageously gave his life on the morning of September 11, 2001. The people of Gregg's hometown of Wayne, New Jersey, gathered on Saturday, October 11, 2003, to dedicate Froehner Memorial Park as an eternal commemoration of Gregg's lifetime commitment to serving others.

Through his thoughts and actions on the fateful morning of September 11th, 2001, Gregg Froehner demonstrated his great love for mankind in the face of unthinkable terror and confusion. His selfless assistance to the men and women who were trapped in the North Tower, without any regard for his own danger, was an unforgettable manifestation of the unique strength and spirit that makes the people of America so special. It is only fitting that Gregg he honored for his unwavering commitment to others in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Born on March 22, 1955, Gregg Froehner and his family first moved to Wayne, New Jersey when he was four years old. Growing up, Gregg took an active role in the community, volunteering as a Little League Coach, becoming an Eagle Scout, and enlisting as an active member of Preakness Volunteer Fire Company No. 4. By 1978, Gregg had graduated from William Paterson University with a degree in Public Administration, had been promoted to the rank of Captain at the fire house, and was working full time as a dispatcher for the Wayne Police Department. The following year, Gregg was hired by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, thereby realizing his life-long dream of becoming a police officer.

As an officer with the Port Authority, Gregg continually underwent specialized training, graduating from the New York City Police Department Emergency Service Unit's elite specialized training school, attending Army Chemical Identification and NBC Warfare School, completing a counter-terrorism course in toxic bio-chemical agents, graduating from courses in hazardous materials and confined space rappelling, and attending rescue diver training. Gregg applied this training daily during his 21 year career, receiving countless citations and awards for his rescues.

What made Gregg Froehner such a special individual, however, was neither his training nor his frequent acts of heroism, but rather his capacity to give of himself to everyone he encountered. When called upon to assist others, Gregg was often the first one to respond, sacrificing rest and his personal time until the job was completed. Despite his gratitude for the many awards, commendations, and citations that Gregg received during his tenure at the Port Authority, he never let the praise of others be the guiding force in his life. In fact, upon Gregg's passing, his wife was astonished to find a number of citations and medals that she had not been aware that Gregg had received. It was this sense of humility and

compassion that led Gregg to be one of the first responders to the scene on that tragic morning in 2001.

Arriving a mere six minutes after the first plane hit the North Tower on the morning of September 11th, Gregg Froehner led an Emergency Services Unit into the burning tower to rescue the private citizens who were still trapped inside. Without a moment's hesitation, he and his team rushed in and started making their way up through the building, floor by floor, ultimately reaching the 40th floor before the building collapsed.

On a day when Americans everywhere were forced to witness the very worst that mankind had to offer, the actions of men such as Gregg served as a reminder of the compassion that still existed in the world. To this day, foremost among the many unforgettable images that have been permanently inscribed in the minds of the American people are those of the courageous men and women who worked so valiantly to save the lives of others. The great sacrifice and love that was demonstrated by men and women such as Gregg Froehner has left an indelible mark on the lives of every American citizen, and will have a profound impact on generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Gregg's family and friends, and myself in recognizing the great compassion and bravery of Gregg Froehner.

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue of great importance to our children—afterschool programs. The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home, and the Urban Institute estimates that at least seven million and as many as 15 million "latchkey children" go to an empty house on any given afternoon. It is during these after-school hours that children are more likely to be involved in crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy. As a result, it is essential that we provide children with organized activities or programs to go to after-school.

To highlight the ongoing need for after-school programs, the Afterschool Alliance—a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to after-school programs by 2010—has organized the fourth annual nationwide day of awareness for after-school programs called Lights on Afterschool! This event is the only national event celebrating after-school programs and the important role they play in the lives of children, families and communities. Sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, with additional support provided by the C.S. Mott Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Open Society Institute, Lights on Afterschool! was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. This year's event will be its largest yet with over 5,000 communities organizing more than 6,000 events. These activities will take place at schools, 4-H clubs, YMCAs, churches, parking lots, on fair grounds, at shopping malls and State capitols.