

sabotaging the canal in an effort to rob the state treasury. History and mystery fans should enjoy this well-told tale.”

Again, I would like to thank Michael Doyle for his continued service to the Central Valley of California and the general public through his work in journalism and his latest example of literary excellence in *The Forestport Breaks: A Nineteenth-Century Conspiracy* along the Black Forest Canal, enlightening us to some of the history that marks the only time New York state officials have charged men with conspiring to destroy canal property and detailing the evolution of this important transportation waterway.

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#### HONORING SMALL BUSINESSES

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### HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor small businesses, especially, the small businesses in Puerto Rico. Small businesses represent the foundation of the economies of the United States and Puerto Rico. Their success both depends on and supports a successful economy. Since arriving in Washington, I have had the pleasure and honor of sitting on the Small Business Committee. Through this committee and the leadership of our ranking member, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, we have fought for the success of small businesses, particularly minority owned businesses.

The Small Business Committee recently sent a joint bi-partisan letter to the Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee requesting \$79 million for the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan guarantee program in FY 2005. I hope that my colleagues will understand how severe the situation would be without this fundamental program. The 7(a) program is highly utilized in Puerto Rico. I join my Ranking Democratic Member, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, and the committee Chairman, DONALD M. MANZULLO, in urging the Chairman, Congressman FRANK WOLF, and the Ranking Democratic Member, Congressman JOSE SERRANO, to provide the necessary funds to continue this highly successful and highly utilized program.

I would like to close by honoring one small business owner from my district, Evaristo Freiria-Villamil. He was chosen as the 2004 Small Business Person of the Year from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. I applaud his work as a small business owner and wish him continued success.

Lastly, I wish to applaud the efforts of all small business owners in Puerto Rico. Through their hard work and dedication, we will build a stronger economy for Puerto Rico.

CONGRATULATING UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 50th anniversary on Monday at Genetti's in Dickson City, Pennsylvania.

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania is an agency that exists solely to serve people with disabilities.

UCP was founded in 1953 by a group of people, including parents of teenagers and young adults with cerebral palsy. For the first few years, the agency consisted of volunteers who developed recreational activities for those disabled by cerebral palsy. The organization received funding from the community contributions and special events conducted by various groups.

After becoming a member agency of the United Fund, the precursor to the United Way, and through several cooperative agreements with other local organizations, UCP began providing professional services. Government funding began in 1970, and made possible the extension of the area that the agency serves.

Government funding also expanded services and increased the eligibility for services of persons with disabilities other than cerebral palsy. In fact, while the agency specializes in serving children and adults who have cerebral palsy, more than 75 percent of its clients have other related disabilities.

The growth of the agency over these past five decades mirrors the changes that have come about in society for persons with disabilities. However, the commitment of this agency to people with disabilities is something that has not and will not change. There is no higher calling than being part of an organization that served those less fortunate, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Executive Director Sarah Drob, Director of Operations Timothy McHugh, Coordinator of Residential Services Karen Himchak, Coordinator of Children's Services Cheryl Astolfi, Coordinator of Adult Services Faith Smith, Accountant Ruta Labutis, Coordinator of Communications and Development Barbara Siarkiewicz and Administrative Assistant Tessie Bauer.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to represent this fine organization that has shown its commitment to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Today I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. EBERLY, SR.

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary individual, Mr. Robert Eberly Sr., of Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

As with all great humanitarians, it is impossible to fully assess the impact Robert Eberly's life has had on his community and our country. A true gentleman and tireless philanthropist, known for his grace and humility as well as his passion for bettering the lives of others, Robert Eberly's generosity is legendary not only in Pennsylvania but across the country.

Bob often said that others worked just as hard as he did, but were not as fortunate because of circumstances beyond their control. Guided by this basic belief, he donated tens of millions of dollars to support education and economic development.

Robert Eberly was a man of incomparable energy and was actively involved in many of the projects he funded. Though he could have resided anywhere in the world, his heart and home remained in Fayette County, Pennsylvania where his father, a coal miner, raised him on the importance of education. His desire to help the economically depressed region in the wake of the downsizing of the steel and coal industry led him to found Fay-Penn Economic Development Council to support economic development in his home county.

He believed that education is a key to economic development—that the two are intertwined. He therefore donated heavily to colleges and universities throughout Pennsylvania as well as across the United States to promote education in the sciences and to make education accessible to those who could least afford it.

Robert Eberly passed away yesterday at the age of 85. He will be remembered for the example of true character he set for everyone who knew him as well as for the profound legacy of his work. His was a life well spent in the effort to help others. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched—and we will never know all of them.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on rcall no. 182, I was not present in the House due to a medical consultation at the Howard University hospital. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

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#### MEMORIALIZING ROBERT MASAHIRO YOSHIKAWA

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Mr. Robert Masahiro Yoshikawa who recently passed away. He was a pillar of the community and a personal friend of mine. Mr. Yoshikawa made an immeasurable impact on all those around him through his career, his volunteer work, and his devotion to family. His tireless efforts improved the lives of countless people in his community.

I met Robert Yoshikawa many years ago when we were both students at San Jose