

"The best way to honor the memory of General Narinder Singh is to continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power religions cannot flourish and nations perish. India claims to be a democracy. It is time it recognized the right of self-determination for all people in South Asia."

TRIBUTE TO CORA EAVES
BRAYNON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mrs. Cora Eaves Braynon, a true leader whose rich legacy will enhance our community for many years to come.

Cora Braynon spent her entire career in public health—as a nurse, educator, administrator and as a North Broward Hospital District Commissioner. Mrs. Braynon received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan.

Mrs. Braynon was appointed to the North Broward Hospital District Board in 1999 and reappointed in 2003. Her last role was that of Vice Chair. Mrs. Braynon also served on numerous District committees including the Executive Committee, Joint Conference Committee, Minority Business Enterprise Committee, and the Quality Assessment/Oversight Committee.

Prior to receiving the appointment as Commissioner of the North Broward Hospital District, Mrs. Braynon was the first black Registered Nurse employed by the Broward County Health Department. She served as Senior Executive Nursing Director for 18 years and retired in 1994. Mrs. Braynon was also an instructor at Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University and an adjunct faculty member of Barry University Adult and Community Education Program. She also served on the Advisory Council on Nurse Education, Division of Nursing for the Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

Aside from her commitment to public health, Cora Braynon served 52 years as a life member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., a public service sorority. She was a pioneer in developing programs to help safeguard the health of teenage mothers and their babies. Her interests were reflected in her sorority work where she implemented the Reaching Adolescent Parents Program. She was also devoted to the Delteen youth program where she mentored many young women on their role and commitment to finer womanhood. Cora Braynon, the immediate past president of the Broward County Alumnae Chapter, served three terms as President. Additionally, she served on regional and national committees of the sorority.

Cora Eaves Braynon, a woman of great accomplishment, leaves behind a large and accomplished family, including her beloved husband, Ronald A. Braynon; three children: Oscar Braynon, Sr. (Patricia), of Miami, Florida; two daughters: Andrea A. Braynon, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Terri Braynon

Glasford (Jason), of Miramar, Florida; one sister, Carrie Eaves Evans (Willis), of Louisville, Kentucky; one brother, Frank Eaves (Ella) of Prospect, Kentucky; one brother-in-law, Roger Forbes of Fenton, Michigan; sisters-in-law: Betty Sharpe of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida and Rosemary Braynon of North Miami, Florida; grandchildren: City of Miami Gardens Vice Mayor Oscar Braynon, Jr., Gina Braynon and Marina Braynon Moore, a host of nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

Cora Braynon will surely be missed, but we will all remember her with wonderful thoughts and memories of the person that she was and the many ways that she touched our lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREEK
AMERICAN HOMEOWNERS ASSO-
CIATION AND ITS HONOREES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of the Greek American Homeowners Association (GAHOA) on the occasion of its annual dinner dance. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the organization's officers and members, as well as its President, George Alexiou. I would also like to salute GAHOA's distinguished honorees: George Fakiris, John Millas, Peter Stathatos, Dennis Syntilas and Rose Ann Alafogiannis.

GAHOA is a non-profit organization based in Astoria, New York that has been committed to advancing the interests of the Greek-American community since 1976. The organization provides an extensive array of educational programs and is a generous benefactor to the community.

GAHOA currently has more than 2,000 members in the greater New York area. The Association provides Greek language scholarships to local schools, citizenship and voter registration drives and monthly speakers to help educate the residents of the community. In addition, GAHOA provides Thanksgiving dinner to more than 12,000 individuals every year.

This year's dinner dance will benefit another of the Association's outstanding community service achievements: Athens Square Park. The park is a cultural center that invites people of all ethnicities to share and enjoy Hellenic music, dance and art. The park, which once served as the starting point of the Olympic flame in the United States, was the brainchild of GAHOA cofounder Dennis Syntilas. With contributions from students, the community and corporations, as well as cooperation with the NYC Department of Parks, Athens Square Park is now a cultural hub of the diverse Astoria community.

George Fakiris, the first of GAHOA's honorees, was born in Chios, Greece and immigrated to the United States in 1969. He worked as a painter and decorator before becoming a successful real estate developer and philanthropist. Mr. Fakiris is a generous benefactor of GAHOA's annual Thanksgiving dinner and scholarship fund. Mr. Fakiris' support, knowledge and experience continue to greatly benefit his community.

The Association's next honoree, John Millas, is from Evia, Greece and moved to the United States in 1963. Mr. Millas worked in the restaurant business before starting his own real estate management firm. A GAHOA co-founder, Mr. Millas also dedicates his time to the Pan Eviakos Society of New York and other worthy causes. In 1977, he married Amalia Calogrides, and they have two children, Sofia and George.

The Association's third honoree, Peter Stathatos, was born in Kefallonia, Greece. Also a co-founder of the Greek American Homeowners Association, Mr. Stathatos has held several positions within the organization and has served on the boards of the Kefalos Society and St. Gerasimos Church. In 1997, Mr. Stathatos was honored by Borough President Claire Shulman for his outstanding work in the community. He and his wife, Anastasia, have three children, Irene, John and Mamie, and three grandchildren, Anastasia, Nicholas and Matthew.

The next honoree, Dennis C. Syntilas, is a retired banker, a cofounder of the Greek American Homeowners Association and the driving force behind Athens Square Park. He is a member of Community Board 1 and has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life in his neighborhood. Mr. Syntilas's awards are too numerous to list—though his friends will attest to the fact that he is most proud of his wife, Rita Koletti, his daughter Vayia and his son-in-law, George D. Apergis.

The final honoree, Rose Ann Alafogiannis, is another GAHOA co-founder and an active member of the Astoria community.

She is a former President of the Kiwanis Club, a member of the Board of Directors of Astoria Civic Association and a member of Community Board 1. Ms. Alafogiannis also donates her time to SHAREing and CAREing, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting those affected by breast cancer. She and her late husband, Thomas, have four children, Paul, Jennifer, Joseph and Vasilli.

Mr. Speaker, as the founder and co-chairperson of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Greek American Homeowners Association, its President George Alexiou and its distinguished honorees.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR RAYMOND K.
DUSZA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great labor leader, public official and dear friend and colleague who at the end of this year will retire from active public service as a member of the Erie County Legislature—the man commonly known as "Mr. Cheektowaga," Legislator Raymond K. Dusza.

During the 1990s, I worked closely with Ray, and saw firsthand his gentle yet persistent leadership style. Ray's leadership on so many issues important to taxpayers and consumers won kudos from countless local residents and praise from local taxpayers' groups.

Ray's call to public service came early in life. He enlisted in the United States Army and

defended this country as a Paratrooper in the unit known as "America's Guard of Honor," Ray's beloved 82nd Airborne Division. When Ray came home after his military service, he started at the Westinghouse Electric corporation, where his reputation as a "man of the people" became apparent. Ray rose through the ranks and was chosen to represent 4,000 of his labor brothers and sisters as leader of the International Union of Electrical Workers, Local 1581.

In 1988, the 8th District seat in the Erie County Legislature became vacant. After many years of active service in the community and in the Democratic Party, Ray contested and won election that November, representing the residents of the Town of Cheektowaga and the Village of Depew. Over the past 17 years, Republicans and Democrats alike have bowed to the high regard with which this man has been held—Ray has never been seriously challenged for re-election.

Local consumers soon learned that they had no greater defender of their rights than Ray Dusza. Ray led the fight for a new Item Pricing/Scanner Accuracy law for Erie County, to ensure that prices consumers were charged for goods were properly reflecting prices on store shelves. Through Ray's work, scanners in supermarkets, home centers and other retail stores that were estimated to be accurate only 50 percent to 70 percent of the time must now offer consumers 98 percent accuracy. In addition, Ray will always be remembered as the "Coupon King" for his successful fight against the Proctor & Gamble Corporation's attempt to deny local shoppers free access to manufacturer's coupons. Ray fought hard for consumers, residents and taxpayers as Vice Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, and as Chairman of two legislative standing committees, the Government Affairs Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee.

Ray Dusza added one more very important element to his service in County Hall: a robust sense of humor. Ray's philosophy was to "be serious about what you do, but don't take yourself too seriously," and he was indeed good to his word. Ray always added a refreshing sense of humor to the deliberations within County Hall, consistently entering committee meetings with the declaration that "the paratroopers have landed," and sarcastically questioning what time the perennially tardy "nine o'clock caucus" would begin.

Ray's dedication to his community was not limited to his role in the Legislature. The following are just a few of the organizations Ray has dedicated his time and energy toward: the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Knights of Columbus—Father Justin Council, Polish Falcons Club, American Legion Gierlach Post, Depew/Cheektowaga Taxpayers' Association, AMVETS Buddy Knaus Post, Catholic War Veterans Post 1313, the Ushers Society at St. Philip the Apostle Church, and St. Joseph's Parish Holy Name Society. In addition, Ray is the leader of the eponymously-named "Ray Dusza Booster Club," a grouping of political supporters that Ray sentimentally refers to as his "commandos."

Mr. Speaker, I am a lifelong resident of another great Western New York community—South Buffalo, NY, and the highest compliment that folks can pay to someone from South Buffalo is that they remember where they come from, and remember the people

who sent them to serve in public office. Few public officials remember from whom and from whence they came the way Ray Dusza does. I am delighted that you have allowed me to take a few moments to honor Ray's service to our community here today, and I am honored even more to call Ray Dusza my friend. To Ray, his wife Terry, to their children, grandchildren and to the entire Dusza Family, I want to offer my sincere thanks, and my wishes of good luck and Godspeed for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
PARKER DAVIS WORK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Micki and Ryan Work of Falls Church, Virginia, on the birth of their new baby boy. Parker Davis Work was born in Washington, DC, on October 1, 2005, at 1:32 pm, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring over 19 inches long. He has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future.

His mother Micki serves as a Legislative Assistant in my office and is a tremendous asset to the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. She is extremely knowledgeable about healthcare and other legislative issues, and is a valuable contributor to my decision making process. Today, I am pleased to congratulate the Work family on Parker's birth.

CONGRATULATING MRS. SALLIE H.
FLAVIN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Sallie Flavin upon her retirement from the Federal Government after more than 30 years of distinguished service.

Mrs. Flavin began her career as a young clerk typist and through years of tenacity and diligence, rose to the top echelons of the federal acquisition community. After a brief stint with the Geological Survey, Mrs. Flavin entered the Air Force Copper Cap Intern Program and soon found herself immersed in the daily welter of the procurement office at Pope AFB in North Carolina. That assignment would prove to be the first rung in a career ladder that Mrs. Flavin would climb to reach the pinnacle of the intricate and demanding realm of defense contract management. Now, some three decades later, she will end her career as a member of the Senior Executive Service and as the deputy director and highest-ranking civilian of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). DCMA is a worldwide organization of 11,000 employees responsible for ensuring that the supplies and materials going to our men and women in uniform are delivered on-time and are of the highest quality.

Over the past year, her contribution to the efficacy and integrity of defense acquisition

was particularly notable. She led a high-profile team that investigated and successfully identified recent improprieties at executive levels within the military acquisition community. Moreover, she was recently selected as a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, a highly prestigious Executive Branch honor recognizing her unwavering integrity and her role in making her agency a pacesetter in the government's adoption of performance-based management principles.

Having served in high-level positions with the Air Force, the Missile Defense Agency, and the Army Materiel Command, it is indeed fitting that she will end her career while employed with a joint-service agency. During her long run on the defense acquisition stage, she has played key roles in the introduction of many major systems, including the Theatre High Altitude Area Defense Missile System (THAAD), the Space-Based Infrared Systems (SBIRS), the Aegis Missile System, and the Stryker.

During her 3-year tenure as the deputy director of DCMA, Mrs. Flavin demonstrated true result-producing leadership that advanced acquisition excellence within the Defense Department. Additionally, she served as the agency's standard bearer in its campaign to invigorate and refashion its workforce to meet the challenges of today's fast-paced, technology-driven acquisition environment. The indelible mark Mrs. Flavin has left on DCMA will ensure its viability as a combat support agency for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Sallie Flavin for her service to our country. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding her past accomplishments and wishing her and her husband, Mark, the best of luck in all future endeavors.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN
CONVENTION VERY SUCCESSFUL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan, which leads the movement to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation, held its annual convention in the Detroit area October 7 through October 9. It was very successful. Delegates came from around the country and from Canada to participate.

I recently made a statement about Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's apology to the Sikh Nation for the Delhi massacres of November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs lost their lives. This established India's culpability for the violence and terror that swept Punjab and other parts of India at that time. That underlines the need for a sovereign Khalistan to put an end to these kinds of acts. Recently, an organization called ENSAAF published a report detailing the ongoing human rights violations committed by Indian security forces in recent-militancy related arrests. From June 2005 to August 2005, Indian police claim to have arrested several dozen individuals on charges that they were trying to "revive militancy" in Punjab. They have been held incommunicado and tortured, according to the report.

In June, 35 Sikhs were arrested and several were charged simply for making speeches in