

and other gifts at Christmas for students who came from families in need. She fostered the notion of Holiday cards for ACES—cards designed by students which were used as an outreach tool to the school districts which they serve. It is from these special contributions to the ACES students that Sandy was able to pass on a very unique lesson—they learned the value and reward of giving back to their community. It is easy to see why Sandy will be missed by staff and students alike.

In addition to her career at ACES, Sandy has been married to her wonderful husband, Henry, for forty-two years and has raised two exceptional daughters, Robyn and Jennifer. She has also recently become a grandmother—a role which no doubt she will happily dedicate more of her time to in her retirement. I could not speak about Sandy without also personally thanking her for her many years of special friendship. She is more than a friend—she is family. Words cannot begin to express my appreciation and gratitude for the tireless support she has shown to me and my family.

And so, it is with deep admiration and affection that I stand today to join her husband, Henry; her children, Robyn and Jennifer; her son-in-law, Kevin, her grandson, Ian; family, friends and colleagues in extending my sincere congratulations to Sandra Cosenza as she celebrates her retirement. Sandy is a remarkable woman whose generosity and compassion has left an indelible mark on the lives of all of those who know her and many that do not. Though she will be enjoying her retirement years, I am certain that Sandy will continue to touch the lives of others—her extraordinary warmth and kind heart making all the difference. I am happy to extend my very best wishes to her for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO MEIKLEJOHN CIVIL
LIBERTIES INSTITUTE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute (MCLI), a non-profit organization in my district. The MCLI, founded in 1965, is a think tank that works on national and international human rights issues as they relate to the U.S. In 1995, the Institute's Human Rights Reporting Project began using U.S. treaties as tools to work for human rights.

In 2005, the MCLI issued a report entitled Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11 in response to the failure of the U.S. government to submit timely and accurate reports to the United Nations (UN). According to 3 U.N. treaties ratified by the U.S. in 1992 and 1994, the U.S. is required to submit regular reports to U.N. oversight committees about human rights abuses and enforcement measures at the local, State, and Federal levels.

On March 15, 2005, the Berkeley City Council passed Resolution 62,841 in which the City Council resolved to submit a copy of Challenging to the U.S. State Department, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Human Rights Committee. On March 31, 2005, MCLI presented Challenging

to the U.S. State Department for use in the preparation of its late reports to the oversight committees.

Although the second and third reports for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) treaty were due in 1998 and 2003, the U.S. State Department did not file a report until October 21, 2005. According to the MCLI, this combined second and third report fails to contain various instances of U.S. human rights violations and lack of enforcement measures. The combined U.S. Report will be discussed by the U.N. Human Rights Committee in March 2006 in New York and will be examined in greater detail by the committee in the summer of 2006 in Geneva.

The Challenging report raises important enforcement and reporting violations committed by the U.S. I encourage my colleagues to read this report for more information. The U.S. must comply with the treaties it signed in order to protect the rights of individuals both domestically and abroad and to realign the U.S. with the principles it was founded on. I appreciate the work of MCLI to promote and protect human rights around the globe and congratulate them on this report.

HONORING CAROLYN MEEKER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolyn Meeker, a community champion whose activism has been missed by those in the small community for which she once fought.

Carolyn Meeker was a community treasure in the tiny town of Lutz, located in my congressional district. A native New Yorker, she moved to Lutz in the mid-1960s and quickly became immersed in issues affecting her and her neighbors. She led the charge against suburban sprawl and excessive development. She successfully restricted zoning laws and helped impose limitations on public well field pumping.

Mrs. Meeker became a regular at Hillsborough County Commission meetings. She firmly, but politely, shared her well-reasoned arguments with commissioners, many of whom favored that which she opposed. Her arguments often carried the day because, as a long-time friend once noted, she let facts, not emotion, guide her.

She eventually ran for the Commission herself, narrowly losing the election but nonetheless continuing her crusade to protect the rural lifestyle which so many in Lutz love. She subsequently served on many County-appointed boards working for better growth management. She also headed the Lutz Civic Association. She died in 2003 after a determined fight against cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Meeker was a shining example of what community service and citizenship is all about. Her life reminds me that we all share a responsibility to be civic-minded and to fight for that in which we believe. Many of my constituents are better off because she did.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RADNOR FIRE COMPANY, SERVING RADNOR AND PARTS OF DELAWARE, MONTGOMERY AND CHESTER COUNTY, PA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Radnor Fire Company for 100 years of dedicated service to the residents of Radnor, Tredyffrin and the surrounding communities in Pennsylvania.

On a historical note, after 30 years of service in 1904, the Wayne Hose Company & Wayne Chemical Company disbanded leaving no fire protection for the community. Following a devastating fire that completely destroyed the Wayne Suburban newspaper building in March of 1906, 24 men organized the Radnor Fire Company to protect the community and incorporated on March 15, 1906.

The Wayne steam plant agreed to sound the steam whistle if there was a fire and it sounded its first alarm on May 24, 1906 for a working house fire near Strafford train station. In that first year of existence the Radnor Fire Company responded to 13 fire calls.

In 1907, looking to improve the firefighting capabilities the members were tasked to find a motorized fire truck. Since none existed at that time they drew specifications and The Knox Company was hired to build the first motorized fire pump in the United States.

The firefighters of the Radnor Fire Company have an impressive record when it comes to firefighting. The fire company has fought such spectacular blazes including four at Villanova University, six at Valley Forge Military Academy, the Pennsylvania Fire Works Company explosion in Devon, the Wayne Opera House, Caley Nursing Home and crashes of P-40 fighter planes during World War II. During that time, the fire company manpower was augmented by a "school boy fireman"—Rick Taddeo, who is still a member today.

The first ambulance was purchased in 1947 with funds raised by the Rotary Club following the death of a Radnor firefighter. By the 1970's the fire company was responding to 390 fire and 890 ambulance calls annually. Today they answer nearly 800 fire and 4,000 ambulance calls annually.

From its beginning with a horse-drawn fire apparatus to the first motorized firefighting equipment to its modern new trucks of today, Radnor is a leader in firefighting capabilities and continues to protect the citizens of Radnor, portions of Tredyffrin and the surrounding communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their lives, to the safety of all Radnor residents as well as surrounding communities. As a former fire chief in Marcus Hook, I am aware of the risks firefighters face each day, under intense pressure, in life or death situations. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, courage and dedication of the Radnor Fire Company members who continue