

never seen him without that engaging smile and good-natured laugh. He has and continues to face the challenges of this disease with integrity and determination—he is one of a kind!

The late Rabbi Jerome Malino of Danbury, Connecticut once said, "It is much better to live one's life as an optimist and be wrong, than a pessimist and be right." This has been the motto by which Dr. Mel has not only approached his life, but his battle with cancer as well. He has given us all reason to be optimistic that we will find what we all seek—a cure. It is my great pleasure to rise today to salute Dr. Mel Goldstein for all that he has and will accomplish towards that goal. I am pleased to join his wife, Arlene, family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this very special occasion as well as my very best wishes for continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANCTUARY, INCORPORATED

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Sanctuary, Incorporated on the occasion of the organization's 35th Anniversary. Sanctuary is a community-based nonprofit organization in Guam dedicated to facilitating and supporting conflict resolution activities aimed to reconcile differences between family members and reunite estranged families.

Sanctuary was incorporated under the law of Territory of Guam in 1971. Originally the organization sought to provide counseling teenage runaways on the island. Sanctuary's primary purpose was to provide these youths with a temporary residential shelter while offering family counseling services. Sanctuary has grown over the last 35 years and it has expanded its services to accommodate the diverse needs and complex issues of today's youth.

Sanctuary began expanding its mission in the late 1980s. For instance, the organization opened its Transitional Living Program, TLP, to assist older youth who were aging out of the foster care system but who were unable to return to their families. The TLP program helped prepare these youths for adulthood by teaching them the fundamentals of independent living. Sanctuary also established a community-based Drug Prevention program in the 1990s. What is more, the organization developed the parental assistance program Ayuda Para I Manaina, APIM. Lastly, it created programs to provide for the emotional and physical needs of teens and young adults victimized by domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or other crimes. These programs have made and continue to make important contributions to strengthening our community on Guam.

Sanctuary has led other initiatives as well. The organization recently received federal funding to create theatrical productions to prevent teenage tobacco use in Guam. With those funds, the organization produced a music album and video in 2003 featuring

young musicians and aspiring actors and actresses from Guam. The project advocated a tobacco-free lifestyle and was distributed to Guam's middle and high schools for use as a classroom instructional resource. Most recently, Sanctuary opened Guam's first and only substance abuse treatment program for adolescents, Sagan Na' Homlo (Para I Manhoben). Sagan Na' Homlo provides two cycles of services and counseling to youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who struggle with drugs and alcohol. This two cycle approach is taken to ensure these at-risk youths receive the maximum benefits of the service and counseling available to them through this program. Today, Sanctuary also operates a Co-Ed Emergency Shelter that has the capacity to care for 18 youths. The shelter is designed as a safe alternative for abused, runaway, homeless and troubled youth to turn to when they are experiencing challenges.

For the 35 years, Sanctuary, Incorporated has been the leader in increasing public awareness of at-risk youth situations and providing those youths, their families, and the community of Guam with resources, counseling and support services. With the steadfast commitment, dedication, and leadership of Sanctuary's current Executive Director, Sarah Thomas-Nededog, and Sanctuary's staff, faculty, Board of Directors and volunteers, the organization has become a true force for good on Guam, helping countless youths coping with the physical and emotional abuse to become valuable, functional and contributing members of society.

On behalf of all the people of Guam, I extend a most Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po, and Congratulations to Sanctuary, Incorporated on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

HONORING THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, CONNECTICUT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Middlebury, Connecticut, on the occasion of its bicentennial.

Once a Revolutionary War camp for French General Rochambeau and his troops on their march to Yorktown, West Farms and adjoining portions of Woodbury and Southbury first formed a distinct ecclesiastical society in 1790. The society took up the name Middlebury, derived from the central position its meetinghouse occupied six miles from its three older neighbors, Waterbury, Southbury, and Woodbury. After repeated petitions to the Connecticut General Assembly for independence from Waterbury, the Town of Middlebury was formally incorporated in 1807.

Today, recreational facilities and year-round cultural events are close by; Quassy Amusement Park, a local ski trail, and a town lake are some of the more popular amusements. Teikyo Post University is a short drive away, offering a variety of courses for students in pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Town of Middlebury in the United States House of Representatives, and extend my best wishes to the city and its citizens for another 200 years of prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP AND MRS. ODIS A FLOYD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop and Mrs. Odis A. Floyd as they celebrate their 37th Pastoral Anniversary. The congregation is planning several events to commemorate this anniversary throughout the month of November starting with a banquet on November 4 and ending with a day of celebration on November 26.

Bishop Floyd accepted his call to ministry in April 1964. Working with his grandfather, Reverend L.W. Owens, he helped organize the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church and in November 1969 was unanimously elected as pastor. In 1991 he changed the church's name to New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

Over the years New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church has grown under Bishop Floyd's guidance. As a "Church on the Move for Christ" the congregation has answered the Bishop's call to expand the ministry beyond the sanctuary doors. The church operates several outreach programs including the New Jerusalem Intervention Ministry Team, Operation Blessing, Nurses and Health Team, Philadelphia Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Singles Ministry. Mrs. Floyd heads the United Women of New Jerusalem. Bishop Floyd's message of salvation is broadcast throughout the week through several media outlets. The New Jerusalem Tape Ministry makes available copies of church services, special programs and Bible Study. The Christian Education Department runs the vibrant Children's Church, Sunday School, Adult Bible Class and the Upward Bound program. As part of the foundation of church life, the Prayer Ministry is at the forefront of the Wednesday Night Intercessory Prayer services and the 24-hour prayer vigil, "The Jerusalem Watch." The church moved into the present worship complex in 1994.

Bishop Floyd is the 2nd Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, a board member of Concerned Pastors for Social Action, the Visually Impaired Center, and Gospel Today Magazine. He is the Past President of the Baptist Assembly of Free Spirit Churches, the Past Youth Director of the Great Lakes District Congress of Christian Education, he has received the Good Scout Award, and he was a nominee for the Soul Train Award, the Gospel Music Workshop of America Excellence Award, and a Grammy nominee for Best Soul Gospel Male Performance. Music has played an important part in the church ministry and Bishop Floyd can be heard performing on several albums.

His participation in the Flint community goes beyond New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church. Bishop Floyd has served on the boards of several organizations and is involved in improving the quality of life in the Flint area including the Bishop International

Airport Authority Board and the Flint Urban Insurance List Steering Committee with the Governor's Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. In addition to their service to Our Lord, Bishop Floyd and his wife Brenda are the devoted parents of Anthony and Nikki.

Mr. Speaker I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bishop Odis and Brenda Floyd as they celebrate their 37th Pastoral Anniversary. May Our Lord bless them and bless New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LATORRACA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in extending my sincere congratulations to Robert LaTorraca as he celebrates his retirement after more than thirty years of dedicated service to American Medical Response.

In each of our communities, we have emergency response services which we depend on. However, ambulatory services, like those provided by American Medical Response, are often overlooked with police, fire, and other services at the forefront of discussion and debate. American Medical Response serves more communities and customers than any other private ambulance service provider in the nation. But more importantly, the organization's employees, those like Bob LaTorraca, serve their local communities on a personal basis, as part of the community where they live and work.

A graduate of Hamden High School and alumni of Quinnipiac College and Southern Connecticut State University, Bob has spent a lifetime in the community and his dedication to its protection and safety is unquestionable. Bob began his career as a field emergency medical technician with the New Haven Ambulance service and quickly earned his way to the position of Vice President of Operations. During the beginning of his career, Bob distinguished himself as an innovator by developing the first proprietary accounts receivable system in the state and establishing the first neonatal transport contract with Yale-New Haven Hospital. When, in the early nineties, New Haven Ambulance Service became one of the four founding companies of American Medical Response, Bob was named Chief Operating Officer for Connecticut and for the Northeast Operations just a few years later.

Leading a team of more than eight thousand employees in 23 states prior to his retirement, Bob achieved great professional success, however, his innumerable contributions to communities in need are what set him apart. Most recently, and perhaps most notably, were the actions he took following two of the most devastating events in our Nation's history. On September 11, 2001, he personally led a contingent of American Medical Response personnel from both Connecticut and New York to support of Fire Department of New York, and, just this past year, Bob has made a number of trips to assist in the on-

going relief efforts in Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Bob has also left an indelible mark on his own community with his outstanding efforts on behalf of a variety of local organizations and committees. The Hamden Fire Commission, the Shirley Frank Foundation, the Clelian Adult Daycare Center, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving are just a few of those who have benefited from Bob's support. The myriad of awards and citations that he has been honored with are testament to his enduring commitment to our community.

I have often said our communities would not be the same without the efforts of those who dedicate their time and energies to making a difference. Bob is a reflection of all that we want our community members to be. His compassion, generosity, and faithful service has touched countless lives. It is an honor for me to stand today to join his wife, Marby; his children, Maresa, Rob, and Jared; as well as the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered today in extending my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Robert LaTorraca for all that he has given to our community. He is an inspiration to many and leaves a legacy that will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of others for generations to come. I wish he and Marby the very best as they enjoy his retirement and many more years of health and happiness.

PETE WHEELER, COMMISSIONER,
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Pete Wheeler, the Georgia Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, who is being honored this Veterans Day as Georgia's "Veteran of the Century." Pete Wheeler is an incredible person and a true friend to all those who have served in our country's armed forces.

Pete Wheeler's dedication to public service and our veterans is deep-rooted. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in the Army Infantry. He retired as a Brigadier General in the National Guard in 1978. After graduating from the University of Georgia, he began his career with the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in 1949, and has worked personally with the 11 U.S. Presidents and 11 Georgia Governors since then. In 1954, he was appointed Georgia Chairman, National Veterans Day Committee and he still serves in that capacity. He was appointed to the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967. Upon his appointment in 1994, he served as chairman of the World War II Memorial Advisory Board for President Clinton and President George W. Bush.

A true and faithful friend to veterans, Pete Wheeler has been an advocate of their causes for more than half a century. On a national level he is looked upon among the State Directors and Commissioners as the "Dean of Veterans." He has been instrumental in many innovative programs to benefit veterans and their families, including starting the first ever "State Supermarket of Veterans Benefits" in

1966, a one-stop service for veterans and their families to gather information regarding Federal and State benefits to which they might be entitled. During his tenure, established two State veteran's cemeteries and played an influential part in the establishment of the GA National Cemetery in Cherokee County, Georgia, and the Annual Service Officer School was established. This workshop brings together veterans benefit counselors from field offices as well as leadership from the State's veterans groups and national offices involved in veteran's issues. This has been an annual event for 47 years.

His awards include the Silver Helmet Award, presented by AMVETS; Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge George Washington Honor Medal; the American Legion Gold Honor Medal and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Silver Medal of Merit.

Veterans and all Georgians are fortunate to have Pete Wheeler working for them. He is a model of civic pride and community service. Pete Wheeler has made an immeasurable contribution to our State, and our Nation.

WELCOMING THE UNITED JEWISH
COMMUNITIES GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO LOS ANGELES

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome the 2006 United Jewish Communities General Assembly to Los Angeles. It is an honor to host this national gathering and showcase our very own LA Jewish Federation, which has deep roots and a long and accomplished history of community service.

The UJC's tireless advocacy on behalf of seniors, children, and countless others in need is critically important and deeply valued. The reach of their care and concern extends across the United States, Israel and to Jewish communities around the world. I am particularly proud of the UJC's efforts to expand the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) program, which brings dignity and much-needed help to the elderly. I would also like to commend their immediate mobilization to rebuild neighborhoods and kibbutzim in Northern Israel recovering from Hezbollah rocket attacks.

Collectively, UJC shines as a beacon of the Jewish value of tzedakah. Individually, each one of the dedicated UJC staff, volunteers and contributors deserves recognition for making a real difference in people's lives, one person at a time. I look forward to working with UJC in the future to achieve the goals we share.

TRIBUTE TO DARLENE HUNTER
DAVIS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Darlene Hunter Davis, the Illustrious Commandress of Oman Court Number