

loving wife of 57 years, Madeline; his son Thomas and daughter-in-law Molly; his son Daniel and daughter-in-law Julia; his grandsons Thomas John Souza Jr. and Timothy Manuel Souza; his brother David Souza and sister Mamie Angelo; and numerous nieces and nephews. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join the Souza family and my hometown of Atwater in remembering my dear friend, John Joseph Souza. His life was dedicated to his family, friends and service to his community, and in his passing we have lost greatly.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GERARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 18, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of George Gerard and his auto mechanic team at Madison Auto Body Shop in Madison, Connecticut. Over the past 5 months, the Madison Auto Body Shop donated time, talent and resources to refurbishing a historic 9/11 Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle, EVR, #1054.

On September 11, 2001, the Red Cross' ERV #1054 was one of the first vehicles on the recovery scene. Following a six-month service period of laborious cleanup duties, the vehicle fell into disrepair and was retired to the American Red Cross of South Central Connecticut in New Haven. In the fall of 2007, the New Haven Register ran an article, outlining the New Haven Red Cross chapter's hope for restoring ERV #1054, to use for local disaster response. George and the Madison Auto Body Shop team responded to the article, volunteering countless hours and resources, to refurbish the historic ERV #1054. Today with new, polished parts, everything down to the smallest screw, the ERV #1054 stands in pristine condition.

The Madison Auto Body team that worked on the ERV #1054's reconstruction was led by George Gerard and included Amanda Wigham, Jeff Tuthill, Ryan Dudley, Carlos Reva, Robert Rich, Ernie Bozza, Juan Roque, Augie Cozaeatal, and Fernando Sambreo.

Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, our world changed. We witnessed the worst of mankind, incited by destructive hatred. The destruction of the day, however, was eclipsed by the continuity of our Nation led by all American communities, large and small, from all demographics, from coast to coast. Today, our Nation remains stronger than ever, and efforts like those of the Madison Auto Body Shop remind us of this. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing their contributions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ROSEMARY MARGARET FORAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 18, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I submit for the record comments on the life of a great citizen of East Hartford, Connecticut.

Rosemary Margaret Foran passed away on April 5, 2008. She was a remarkable lady and the matriarch of an even more remarkable family. I've known the Forans all my life. They exemplify everything that is rich in the human experience, and they learned that from their mother, Rosemary, and their father, Tom.

The Kennedy family is known for its compound in Hyannisport, Massachusetts. Its rival in Connecticut is the Foran compound on Goodwin Street. The family Rosemary raised is at the heart of what makes the community of East Hartford a great place to live. The truth is without the vaunted Foran Legion, the Little League, the school system, and town athletics in general would suffer. Rosemary and Tom raised a family of nine who gave back to the community more than they have ever received. For the first time in their lives the Forans are orphans, but the love and devotion of their mother and father live on and the Foran Legion continues to grow, and continues to give to our hometown of East Hartford in a way that has enriched all of our lives. Their oldest son, Tony, wrote this obituary for his brothers and sisters, which says it all:

[From the Hartford Courant]

On Saturday evening (April 5, 2008), the day of the ancient Sabbath, Rosemary Margaret (Donlon) Foran (80) fulfilled her baptismal promise, turned her spirit ship to home and leapt to celestial joy. She was born, raised, lived and died in East Hartford. She was the living embodiment of the thought that treasure is measured not in personal wealth but in the warmth of a home.

In that home and around that round table a family shared the smell of fresh baked bread, the sounds of babies cooing, the laughter of the carefree young with friends, the tears and sorrows of all as the siege that is life went on. She welcomed any and all to the round table, providing sustenance for the body, mind or soul as each one needed. A cup of tea, a bite to eat, an ear to listen or a hand to help, our daunting obstacles shrank around that table. "Bonitam, et Discipliniam, et Scientiam, Doce Me, Domine." Life is a home.

Her nurturing skills were taught to her by her beloved mother and father, Mary Ellen (Berry) and Thomas J. Donlon, Sr. She in turn passed those nurturing skills on to her daughters-in-law, Lynne Masiuk (who predeceased her), June Jaskulka, Nikki Samela, Christine Niziankiewicz, Mary Jo Quinn, Marie Mullaney, Evelyn Owens, Rachel Elder, and Mary Margaret Maleskis, all of whom she loved as her own and who loved

her with tenderness as if she was their own mother. Rosemary had many monikers in life, Blondie, Mame, Liz, Big Lou, Bun, Pumpkin, Gramma, but none so dear as Ma.

Before efficiency became important in the workplace, Rosemary had perfected this skill. With a brood of children that numbered nine, Anthony, Joseph (who predeceased her), Patrick, Stephen, Michael, Thomas, Gregory, Nicholas and her best friend, constant companion and unwavering advocate and caregiver, Mary Ellen, she managed every minute of her daily double shift. Every movement during her day was with purpose and a daily task to complete. The tasks were many for such a large family. And yet, her efficiency allowed for three meals a day for all. Thomas R. Foran, Sr., her sweetheart and husband (who also predeceased her) had lunch at the round table with Rosemary every day of his healthy life. He praised and flattered her with this inscription on a pizza board he made in 1963: "Charm is deceptive, Beauty fleeting, A good cook lives in a man's memory, From one meal to the next. Love, Tom. El Gourmet."

A special blessing came to Rosemary's table in 1998, with the arrival of her new and only son-in-law, C. Gary Knell, with whom she shared her home. Gary's work ethic matched in every way his new mother-in-law's. As Rosemary's health began to fail over the last five years, Gary became a sentry for her every need. Rosemary's earthly remains will be lovingly enclosed in a casket made by her son, Tom, and her son-in-law, Gary, wrapping her in the same love which she gave to all of her family.

The precious jewels of Gramma's life number 25, each and every one of them nurtured at the round table and on her knee: Daniel and his wife Becky, Gregory and his wife Tricia, Stephanie and her husband Eric Barrett, Kathryn and her husband Steve Borla, Michael and his wife Malinda, Matthew, Danielle and her fiancé Matthew Currey, Nicholas, Emily, Will, James, Joseph, Rosemary, Mary Ellen, Laura, Annie, Thomas, Katherine, Rebecca, Benjamin, Lynne, Sarah, Patrick, Stephen and Luke. Rosemary's DNA of love also runs in the veins of 6½ great grandchildren: MaKayla, Dylan, Michael, Matthew, Gavin, Devin and one soon to be born. She was blessed with many nephews and nieces of the Foran and Donlon families.

Rosemary, born on December 26, 1927, and graduated from Mount Saint Joseph's Academy in 1946, was the youngest of five children: Thomas J. Donlon, Jr. and John P. Donlon predeceased her; her sister Ann Rita Thayer and her brother Joseph G. Donlon will cherish her memory in the deep recess of their hearts. She also leaves beloved brothers-in-law, Nicholas A. Foran, Jr. and his wife, Doris, and John Foran and his wife, Pat, sisters-in-law, Mary "Bette" (Meskell) Foran, Mary (Sauve) Foran, Elizabeth (Anderson) Foran, and cousins Richard, Walter and Jack Foran.

When her children or grandchildren asked Rosemary about what gift she might like for a birthday or Christmas, her answer was always, "The grace of God and a holy and happy death." The Good God answered her prayer on Saturday evening, as she was enveloped in the web of love she created.