

of the presidential cabinet, and other policy-makers in extensive dialogue about the legislative process. I am extremely honored to salute Mrs. Gussie Jones, who has been selected as my Congressional Senior Citizen Intern. Mrs. Jones was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. A graduate of Case Western Reserve University, she is the type of person that my district is proud to have produced. Not only has Mrs. Jones handled the responsibilities associated with being a mother, grandmother and most recently being a great grandmother, but she is also a political activist and public speaker whose words of wisdom are well sought after in the Cleveland area. She has on many occasions represented me at various functions.

Mr. Speaker, for 32 years Mrs. Jones dedicated her career to being an assistant manager in the General Services Department and a member of the Ohio Bell Speakers Bureau. Her affiliations include the Inner Church Council, the Executive Board #1 of the Eliza Bryant Home for the Aged, the League of Women Voters, and the National Council of Negro Women. She also shares an affiliation with the Tau Gamma Delta Sorority Iota Chapter.

In particular Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Jones is very involved in the church environment. She is a very active member of both African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church. In addition to serving as administrative assistant to her Pastor and Presiding Elder, Mrs. Jones is the Director of Home Mission of A.M.E. Zion Church Conference, Secretary for the Cleveland District Connection, Executive Secretary of the Connectional Claims Committee, Member of the Home Mission Board, and the Stewardess Board #2. She is also the Chairperson of the Life Members Council for the Missionary Society, Chairperson of the Scholarship Fund Committee, and an honorary member and narrator of the Chancel Choir.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in honoring Mrs. Gussie Jones. She is an exceptional Christian woman who serves her community well. I am certain that Mrs. Jones will do an outstanding job as a Congressional Senior Citizen Intern. I want to congratulate her and express my appreciation for her participation in this very important program.

HONORING HOWELL CARNEGIE  
LIBRARY

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mrs. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the Howell Carnegie Library, which will receive a Michigan Historical Marker on May 17, 1998.

The Howell library originated as the Ladies Library Association in 1875. That year, the ladies began offering books for lending. In 1902, this service grew to such lengths that a need developed for a town library. With the financial help of steel entrepreneur Andrew Carnegie, Detroit architect Elijah E. Meyers, who in previous years designed Michigan's Capital, designed the Neoclassical library with fieldstones collected throughout the country on land donated by the four sons of Howell pioneer William McPherson.

Reading is one of life's greatest pleasures and the knowledge gained through libraries is critical to maintaining our great democracy. With this dedication, we need to honor not only this important structure but the people who were so committed to this important community service many years ago. From A.G. Kuehne, a Howell native who hand built the library; to Andrew Carnegie, who funded over 2,500 free public libraries throughout the English-speaking world; to the people of Howell who established and supported the library throughout the years, this is an example of what can happen when dedicated people come together to meet the needs of the community. The Howell Carnegie Library is an important landmark and I am pleased it is getting the recognition it deserves.

COMMEMORATION OF SECOND AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN  
CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIA-  
TION

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association on their second anniversary. This celebration is due to two years of community outreach. This organization began as a group of concerned citizens who wanted to better their community. Despite lack of funding and resources, the group managed to become an organized entity providing an array of vital services to the community.

The Brooklyn Chinese-American Association provides essential services in the areas of health, service, and education. They conduct a variety of health related workshops and provide medical check-ups, free eye-exams, blood pressure monitoring, and yearly flu shots. The organization also renders services to people of all ages from providing day care to supporting youth and senior citizen cultural activities. Educational programs such as citizenship classes, language skills, and music and dancing classes are also included in this multi-human service center. Enough cannot be said of the many services this organization provides to the community.

Despite the lack of government funding and manpower, the organization has already enrolled more than 1,600 members and serves more than 150 people per day. In its efforts to improve the overall quality of life, the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association has maintained ties with their local elected and public officials. Through town meetings and voter registration drives, the center has made efforts to increase the political participation of the community.

This organization has truly evolved in a short period of time to become integral to the community. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in commemorating the efforts of the many who have struggled to make the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association what it is today. Let this organization be held as a prime example of how much can be accomplished when citizens care enough to make a change in their community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VALENTINA  
UMANETS

**HON. JACK METCALF**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 1998*

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Mrs. Valentina Umanets of Bellingham, Washington. Valentina passed away at her home on Friday, May 15th 1998. Valentina was instrumental to the Sister Cities agreement between Bellingham, Washington in my district and Nakhodka in eastern Russia.

In 1989, long before Perestroika allowed for the openness that is now sweeping across Russia, Valentina worked to bring about the Sister City agreement. She worked as the central staff member for the City of Nakhodka on this agreement. In 1993, Valentina immigrated to the United States at the request of Western Washington University and the City of Bellingham to enhance the Sister City program. Because of Valentina's hard work on this project, Bellingham and Nakhodka now have a vibrant Sister City agreement that has flourished in recent years with many valuable exchanges between the local governments, businesses and the citizens of these two communities.

Valentina worked as a Professor of Russian at Western Washington University, and had recently completed work on a new text book for teaching the Russian language. She was loved by her students, and her home always had visitors from either the University or the many Russian immigrants that call Bellingham and Whatcom County home. She was always willing to help those in the community that were in need of assistance with a government agency, a school or those that just needed something translated.

She also held events at the University and parties at her home to celebrate the rich Russian culture. Most recently, Valentina organized "An Evening of Russian Romance" at the University which featured Russian dance and music. The food for the evening was carefully prepared in Valentina's kitchen by her students and friends, but always under her watchful eye. Her home would be open each New Years Eve for a Russian celebration of one of the big holidays in Russia. On March 8th of each year, Valentina would again play host to a party in celebration of Womens Day, again an event of great importance in Russia.

Several American men in the Bellingham area, including a member of my staff, have married Russian women, and Valentina was often of great help for these couples as they worked to overcome cultural differences. She became a "den mother" of sorts to these women that were so far from home and their own mothers. Valentina was a very happy, caring person.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of both Bellingham and Nakhodka have suffered a great loss with the passing of Valentina. She has started a wonderful program between these two cities, and has kept it going to the point that it will continue to prosper without her. But to those that have already made friends across the vast Pacific or to those that will in the future, a great deal of thanks is owed to Valentina Umanets.

Mr. Speaker, Valentina is survived by her husband Eugene of Bellingham; her daughter