

colleagues join me in congratulating all past and present members of the Morris Center YMCA on this special anniversary year.

IN RECOGNITION OF GIL IBERG,
"BIG BAND MOUTH OF THE
SOUTH"

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today my constituent, Gil Iberg, known by many as "Big Band Mouth of the South." Gil Iberg has distinguished himself as a true connoisseur of big band music and has amassed an extraordinary collection of roughly 1,000 cassettes and 100 albums, containing the music of over 200 big bands. To make sure he misses no opportunity to add to his collection, Gil keeps a radio/cassette recorder on his bedside table so he can tape big band broadcasts.

Gil learned to play the trumpet when he was young, following the footsteps of his father, who played a bass fiddle in a local band in his hometown of Highland, Illinois. Although he caught big band fever when he was young, he didn't start collecting records and tapes until the 1960s, when the popularity of the music began to wane. Afraid that he might lose access to the music he loved, Gil began to collect his own supply. Gil has also seen many big bands in person, including Glenn Miller's and Artie Shaw's ensembles.

In the words of Gil himself, "I could talk about big bands all day and all night. I live and breathe and eat big band music. I play big band music every day of the week, and I exchange tapes and letters with other big band buffs from all over the country."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Gil Iberg for following his dream and becoming an expert in his chosen hobby. In more of his own words, "Some men fish or hunt. Some men golf. My thing is big bands. For me, there's nothing like it."

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. HAGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Robert Hagan, an exceptional father, a dedicated public servant, and a brilliant humorist.

Mr. Hagan grew up in Youngstown, OH, one of six children in his family. He served as a Marine Corps flight instructor during World War II. Following the war he worked for his father's steel-erecting business, where he patented a new steel-scaffolding process.

Always aspiring for something new and challenging, Mr. Hagan hosted his own TV variety show in Youngstown. He also appeared occasionally on the Mike Douglas syndicated television show when it was broadcast from Cleveland.

In 1956, Mr. Hagan embarked on his political career by running for Trumbull County commissioner. He lost that election, but ran

again in 1962 and won. He served eight years at that position, resigning in 1969 in protest of a local judge's disregard for the commissioners. As a politician Mr. Hagan was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and an ardent supporter of civil rights and labor unions.

In 1970, while making a bid for the presidency, George McGovern hired Mr. Hagan as a special assistant in charge of one-liners. This offered Mr. Hagan the chance to merge two things he loved and understood best, politics and humor. He explained why this combination worked so well when he said, "the very concept of humor, to me, is a very important one because it communicates ideas in a most pleasant way."

Mr. Hagan was elected to the Ohio State House in 1981, where he served with his son Robert Hagan. After he failed in his bid to win re-election in 1988, Mr. Hagan continued to perform stand-up comedy and contribute editorials and guest columns to area newspapers.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have known Robert Hagan. He set an example of how to do a job well, and have fun at it too. I will miss him.

Mr. Hagan was the father of 14 children. His commitment to them, as well as his contributions to politics and humor, will be greatly missed.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
ORGAN DONOR LEAVE ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, during the last 20 years, important medical breakthroughs such as tissue typing and immunosuppressant drugs have allowed for a larger number of successful organ transplants and a longer survival rate for transplant recipients. Certain organs, such as a single kidney, a lobe of a lung, a segment of the liver or a portion of the pancreas, can be transplanted from living donors, making it possible for them to save the lives of family members, coworkers, and friends.

Currently, federal employees may use up to 7 days of leave in each calendar year to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor. Yet, experience has shown that an organ transplant operation and post-operative recovery for living donors may take as long as six to eight weeks. In order to address this disparity, I worked with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in drafting this legislation to increase the amount of leave that may be used for organ donation to 30 days. The amount of leave that may be used for bone marrow donation will remain at 7 days because that is generally adequate for recovery from bone marrow donations.

Under this legislation, donors will not have to be concerned with using their personal sick or annual leave for these vital medical procedures because the leave granted is in addition to what they routinely earn.

The bill passed the House during the last Congress but the Senate failed to act on it before adjournment. I reintroduced this bill at the beginning of the 106th Congress in the hope that there will be ample time to win its enactment.

The Organ Donor Leave Act has the support of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), the largest professional transplant organization in the United States. In a letter expressing its support, the ASTP stated, ". . . a lack of leave time has served as a significant impediment and disincentive for individuals willing to share the gift-of-life.

Since the first kidney transplant in 1954, hundreds of patients have received successful transplants from living donors. Yet, each day, while 55 people receive an organ transplant, another 10 people on waiting lists die because not enough organs are available. A new name is added to a waiting list every 18 minutes in the United States. In 1997 only 15,000 people donated organs, leaving 35,000 people desperately in need. Currently, over 58,000 are waiting for a life saving organ transplant.

One lung can help another person breathe. One kidney can free someone from dialysis. A portion of a liver could save the life of a patient dying from disease. One's bone marrow could help repair another person's damaged joints.

This legislation will give federal employees who may consider becoming organ donors the assurance that they will be granted an adequate amount of time to recuperate from the life saving process that they voluntarily undertake. It will also serve as a guide and encouragement to other employers, public and private, to provide similar benefits to their employees. I urge all members to give it your support.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KAREN M.
PHILLIPS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Karen M. Phillips, a Peace Corps volunteer who was killed late last year near her home in Gabon, West Africa.

Karen Phillips dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Starting in June, 1998 when she was sworn in as a volunteer in Gabon, she worked to help local farmers market their products. She had also previously worked for five years for the international development organization CARE. According to her peers, she was a well-liked and dedicated volunteer.

In today's world, people often bemoan the lack of positive role models and heroes for our children and ourselves. Karen Phillips proved that this is not necessarily true. We would do very well to follow her example of selfless service.

SOUTH FLORIDA TEEN GIRLS
RECEIVE POSITIVE ATTITUDE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the accomplishments of a woman who has served as a wonderful example for teenage girls in the South Florida area