

was given the name Nana Yaa Serwaa II and she is now an official elder of the township of Pankese in Ghana, West Africa. She and her husband, Johnnie Ray, have six children and they are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Freddie Hamilton for her dedication to her family and her community.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH COMRIE

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the career of one of Los Angeles' leading public officials. After 35 years of public service, Mr. Keith Comrie is retiring as the City Administrative Officer for the City of Los Angeles. During his illustrious career, Mr. Comrie served both the City and the County of Los Angeles, making significant contributions to both governments.

Mr. Comrie grew up in South-Central Los Angeles and first entered public service with the City of Los Angeles in 1963, after earning a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He moved to the County government in 1969 where he rose to become the Director of the Department of Public Social Services receiving statewide recognition from Governor Ronald Reagan for saving County taxpayers \$120 million per year and for making the welfare system one of the most responsive and efficient in the state.

In 1979, Mr. Comrie returned to the City of Los Angeles at the request of Mayor Tom Bradley to serve as the City Administrative Officer. He has served in that position for 19 years, including one year as interim Administrator of the \$200 million Community Redevelopment Agency. During Mr. Comrie's tenure of service, the City of Los Angeles has seen its economic base expand to keep pace with population increases that have made it not only the second largest city in the nation but a city of world class status.

Today, Mr. Comrie can look with pride at his role in successfully steering the City through the recession of the early 1990's with balanced budgets. During this time, he helped maintain the City's position as one of the best managed cities in the nation. Additionally, he played a key role in most of the major developments in the City, including such landmark projects as the renovated Central Library, the Los Angeles Convention Center, and the Staples Center Arena. He also played a central role in rebuilding the City after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and oversaw over \$3 billion in capital improvement projects such as libraries, fire and police facilities, and sewer system reconstruction.

Many of these projects are in my Congressional District, which includes much of the central business district of the City of Los Angeles. Therefore, I can attest to the significance of these projects, many of which were started under Mr. Comrie's watch.

Mr. Comrie oversaw a staff of more than 100 and worked with over 30 council members during the terms of two mayors. Mr. Comrie's accomplishments on behalf of the City of Los

Angeles have been recognized by his peers. Of his many prestigious awards, he is very proud of being named the "Best City Administrative Officer in America" by City and State Magazine.

At 59, Mr. Comrie and his wife Sandra McNutt-Comrie can look forward to many productive years in retirement during which he can pursue his interests in cars and auto racing while taking satisfaction in a job well done for the City of Los Angeles.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA CHRISTINE DRESCHER OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 395

### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Cahaba Girl Scout Council in Birmingham, Alabama. She is Amanda Christine Drescher of Girl Scout Troop 563. She has been honored for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The award can be earned by a girl aged fourteen through seventeen, or in grades ninth through twelfth.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than twenty thousand Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout Volunteer.

As a member of the Cahaba Girl Scout Council, Amanda Christine Drescher began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award on February 12, 1998. She completed her project, Art Day Camp, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when the House was taking rollcall vote No. 39, an amendment by Representative GEORGE MILLER to the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, I was unavoidably detained and unfortunately missed the vote. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

72ND ANNIVERSARY BANQUET OF YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH

### HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 1999*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Yeshivah of Flatbush and its honorees on the occasion of its 72nd Anniversary Banquet.

The Yeshivah of Flatbush has long served as a pillar of strength for my constituents by providing our children with the tools they will need to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Dr. Mayer Ballas, recipient of the Keter Shem Tov Leadership Award, has dedicated himself to helping members of the community as an advocate and spokesperson for Jewish people in need. He is the founding President of the Council of Rescue of Syrian Jews and has served as a member of the Federation Oversight Committee, the arm of Operation Abraham concerned with the resettlement of the most recent wave of immigrants from Syria. At the Yeshivah of Flatbush, Dr. Ballas sits on the Board of Directors and Board of Education and is a member of the Tuition Assistance Committee. He participates in all school functions and generously gives of himself and his time to the Yeshivah.

Hon. Steven Cohn, recipient of the Keter Shem Tov Community Service Award, is staunchly committed to both the Yeshivah and his community. For the past sixteen years, Mr. Cohn has served as the Democratic State Committeeman for the 50th Assembly District. He is the Vice-Chair of the New York State Democratic Party, Secretary of the Democratic Party of Kings County and has served as Parliamentarian to the Democratic National Convention. Working side by side with community leaders, elected officials and neighborhood residents to protect the environment, improve homeless shelters and maintain quality medical care in his district. His affiliation with the Yeshivah of Flatbush parallels his children's education and has strengthened over the years. In addition to working on the Banquet Journal, Chinese Auction and Building Committees, Steve is currently an Associate Treasurer on the Executive Board of Officers and sits on the school's Board of Trustees and Board of Education.

Dr. Cheryl Fishbein, recipient of the Alumna of the Year Award, is an alumna of both the Elementary School and the Joel Braverman High School. Throughout her adult life, Cheryl has focused her efforts on serving the community. She is President of the Jewish Community House in Bensonhurst and is currently overseeing its capital building campaign. She serves as the Metro Chair of the Institutional Trustees Campaign for UJA and sits on the organization's Planning and Allocations Committee. Additionally, Dr. Fishbein devotes much of her time to the Board of Jewish Education and serves as a Vice President of its Board of Directors. She also sits on the Boards of Geshet and the National Board of the Jewish Community Center Association.

Each of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those they come into contact with. In recognition of their many accomplishments on