

Mary Bianchini is turning 92 years young this month, and her friends, family, and numerous admirers are coming together not only to honor her but also to initiate a scholarship fund in her name. Mary has devoted so many years of service to others—as a nurse, as a media personality, and as a linchpin in numerous charitable concerns—that it is only appropriate that we return some of our love to her which she has showered upon us all these many years.

A cover story in the January-February 1987 issue of "Geriatric Nursing" recounted how Mary emigrated to the United States from Italy with her family at a young age. In 1929, she married the man her parents had chosen for her but before long that union found a firm foundation in love. In fact, Mary remained married to the same man until his untimely death in the late 1950s, nearly thirty years after their nuptials.

Mary had planned to become a sterling housewife and mother, but as happened with all too many Americans at that time, the Great Depression threw a monkey wrench into her plans. Forced to find employment in a shoe factory, Mary had to seek new employment when that establishment burned down and she applied to become a telephone operator at the Rockland State Hospital. Mary was told there were no vacancies, but would be hired if she would help out in patient care. From that experience on, Mary was hooked on helping others.

Mary demonstrated a natural skill at caring for the ill. She became a licensed practical nurse in 1938, and soon earned a reputation statewide for her compassion and skill, as well as her common sense.

Mary served as an officer in the New York State Practical Nurses Association from 1948 until 1962. In these positions, her reputation as a feisty defender of the underdog was assured.

In the 1960's, Mary began a completely new career as host of her own radio, and cable television, programs. Soon, the movers and shakers in all aspects of society were seeking to be interviewed by this remarkable woman, not quite five feet high. Her insight broadcast interviews continued until well in the 1980s.

Mary Bianchini was the American Heart Association "Queen of Hearts" in 1985, was cited by Governor Mario Cuomo for service to our state, and was a strong supporter of my Congressional Citizens Advisory Committee on Drugs.

Perhaps Mary's greatest pride in her own family. Her son Dr. Valentino Bianchini is a respected member of the medical profession who has raised his own family following Mary's guidelines to life. She is also proud of her large, loving family.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with us in saluting this wonderful woman on the occasion of her 92nd birthday, with wishes for many many more, as well as our profoundest hopes that we will be able to join her in celebrating many birthdays to come.

TRIBUTE TO MERVIN G. MORRIS

HON. ANNA G. ESCHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mervin G. Morris, an extraordinary man

and my constituent of Atherton, California, who will be presented the Leading Citizens Award by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula on Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

As a third generation Californian, Mervin Morris was raised in the farming town of Delano, California. He joined the family business after serving four years in the United States Army during World War II. In 1949, he founded Mervyns Department Store in San Lorenzo, California. From that original store in San Lorenzo, he built a department store chain that currently employs over 70,000 people worldwide.

Mervin Morris has provided over a decade of service to the Boys & Girls Club. His vision resulted in the development of a new clubhouse to serve the youth in East Palo Alto which is slated to open next spring. The clubhouse in Redwood City is named in his honor, and he has been instrumental in garnering volunteer and donor support for a fully renovated facility in the Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park.

Mervin Morris' volunteer activities do not stop at the Boys & Girls Club. He currently serves as a Trustee of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Eisenhower Medical Center. His involvement in countless other community organizations include the California Academy of Sciences, the Jewish Community Federation, Jewish Home for the Aged, the Palm Springs Desert Museum, the Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf, Scott Street Senior Housing, and the Stanford Athletic Department. Mr. Morris also continues his service to our military as a civilian advisor to the Commanding General of the Army and Air Force Exchange Services.

Mervin Morris and his wife of almost fifty years, Roslyn, who is also being honored by the Boys & Girls Club, have four loving children and twelve beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mervin Morris is a man of outstanding character and I salute him for his remarkable contributions to our country and our community. We consider him a great blessing amongst us and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him as he receives the honor of being named a Leading Citizen by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula. No one deserves this more.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Con. Res. 68 because it is a magician's trick. It tricks the American people into believing that the Republican budget plan is good for retirees; good for baby boomers and the solvency of Social Security; and good for our working families. Mr. Speaker, their plan is smoke-and-mirrors. Their plan is full of short-term, feel-good, pretax day "fuzzy-wuzzies." However, I submit that we need to be making investments toward America's fu-

ture, not siphoning off the surplus. I am opposed to such trickery.

Mr. Speaker, their plan uses irresponsible tax cuts for the next 10 years as opposed to investing in our economic future. Their plan ignores the challenges that working families and/or the struggling poor face in consequential areas such as job training, education, health care, and affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report sets nondefense discretionary spending for FY 2000 at \$43.7 billion less than provided for in 1999. Where do our priorities lie? This budget sounds like a dream, a nightmare for those who are most vulnerable—\$2.5 billion less in budget authority for community and regional development; \$800 million less for health programs; \$4.1 billion less in low-income programs; and finally \$13.7 billion more in budget authority for defense spending in FY 2000.

This budget does not reflect the needs of my district where the median income is \$25,250. This budget cuts the heart out of senior citizens with the \$9 billion Medicare cuts and puts health care at risk for millions with the \$1.2 billion cut in Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, only as this process moves into appropriation reality will the American people understand the basic unfairness, the cold-heartedness which lie at the base of these numbers presented here today.

I end with a quote by the great Franklin Delano Roosevelt to remind my colleagues of achieving a great society in a true democracy.

True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

TRIBUTE TO JIM SCHUETTE

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to briefly provide some comments about a great friend of the people of northeastern Wisconsin, and a personal friend of mine—Jim Schuette.

This month marks the end of Jim's term as Outagamie County Executive, a position he has held for the last three years.

But Jim's history of serving the people goes back a full 45 years—and we're truly fortunate he decided to dedicate his life to public service.

As a young man, Jim joined the U.S. Marine Corps and later went on to serve for 19 years with the U.S. Army Reserves.

For most of his working life, Jim delivered letters for the U.S. postal service—and was always a smiling face folks could count on.

For the 12 years before he became county executive, he served on the Outagamie County Board, where he earned a reputation for approaching problems with his trademark common sense.

I couldn't dream of letting this occasion go by without telling Jim how much his time and hard work have meant to me and to the people of northeastern Wisconsin.

So, on behalf of myself and the countless other people whose lives have been made brighter by Jim's efforts, I want to say "thanks!"

HONORING THE SHEPELS AND
MARIA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding citizens from Beaver, Pennsylvania. To the delight of the community, George and Maria DiLeonardo-Shepel reopened a fine family restaurant known as Maria's on April 1, 1999. The Shepels' hard work and commitment to this neighborhood institution are testimony to the strong work ethic of western Pennsylvania.

I would like to recognize the Shepels for their contributions to their community. Without these types of individuals, many of our neighborhoods would lose their local traditions. Their dedication and hard work are deserving of commendation.

The Shepels bought Maria's in 1988 and successfully modeled the restaurant after an authentic Italian eatery. For six years, this establishment was a popular neighborhood meeting place. During my first campaign for the U.S. Congress, the Shepels were among my first supporters, and invited me to dine in their restaurant. I will never forget their friendship or their kind words of support.

The couple has spent the last few years renovating the restaurant and restoring it to its original condition. By providing quality food and friendly service, the Shepels have ensured that Maria's will be a permanent fixture in this community for years to come. My fellow colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I rise and applaud George and Maria DiLeonardo-Shepel. I hope they continue to enjoy tremendous success and wish them the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, people who give back to their community are a precious resource. For my home town of Bay City, one wonderful example of how valuable this precious resource can be is Knights of Columbus, Council #414, which this week celebrates its most special 100th anniversary.

Forty-nine men from Bay City and Saginaw met on April 16, 1899, to organize Valley Council 414, with its first home at the Old Cottage Hall on the corner of Sixth and Madison. While some members withdrew from 414 in order to form other new councils in Saginaw and the surrounding area, by December 29, 1915, the Bay City Council 414, renamed as such in 1902, had grown to over 1,500 members. A proud but sad point of history was made when in 1917, Francis McCauley became the first Bay County and Council 414 member casualty in France during World War I.

Over the years, Council 414 has grown in members and has moved through several facilities that have served its diverse needs. At the same time, it has held true to the main

purposes of the Knights of Columbus, founded by Rev. Michael McGivney in 1882—charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. It has held its loyalty to the Catholic Church and the Pope. The Knights of Columbus have promoted solid values through its promotion of family life, charitable disbursements to needy people and disaster victims, its "Crusade for Life" in defense of the unborn, insurance for its members, an educational trust for children of members who are killed or totally disabled due to military service or in performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers or firemen, and student loans to Knights, their families, and members of the clergy.

Council 414 has worked particularly hard to provide charitable assistance to the crippled children and adults of Bay City, as well as to the mentally challenged. Its "Clown Unit" provided more than 2,200 hours of enjoyment to children at schools, hospitals, special events, and the Special Olympics last year. The Knights have been wonderful friends through their visits to senior citizens. They also provided, without charge, assistance with their Pall Bearers Group at over 400 funerals since the group's inception more than a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we ask whether or not our people have a sense of values, and whether or not they are prepared to recognize that the government alone cannot provide all of the assistance that people may require, we need look no further than the Knights of Columbus, and inspirational units like Council 414 of Bay City. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Grand Knight James F. Morrisette and the more than 640 members of Council 414 on this very special 100th anniversary, and in wishing them many more successful and fulfilling years to come.

HONORING RONALD ANSIN

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the fine work and outstanding public service of a true philanthropist, Mr. Ronald Ansin. On this Saturday, Ron will receive the 1999 National Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award for Community Service, United Way of America's highest honor given for volunteer service.

A native of central Massachusetts, Ron graduated from Harvard College cum laude in 1955 and continued his education at Yale Law School graduating in 1958. Both a civic and business leader in Massachusetts, Ron heads two successful companies, the Anwelt Corporation in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and L.B. Evans's Son Co., Inc., in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Over the past 30 years, Ron has committed himself to civic and community service on many local, state and national issues.

Locally, Ron has been a philanthropic force in North Central Massachusetts, supporting the Thayer Symphony Orchestra, HealthAlliance, Inc., the Fitchburg Art Museum, and local educational institutions including the Applewild School, Fitchburg State College and Mount Wachusett Community College. Ron has been the recipient of the Distinguished

Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America and has received a Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Fitchburg State College.

Within Massachusetts, Ron held the position of the Commissioner of Commerce and Development in the mid-1980's. He also served on a number of state-wide boards and councils including the Governor's Commission on Co-generation, the Mental Health & Retardation Area Board, and the State Job Training Coordinating Council. Ron currently serves on the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Nationally, Ron is the treasurer of the Center of National Policy in Washington, DC, a non-partisan and non-profit public policy think tank. In 1977, Ron served as an industry advisor (footwear) to the Office of the President.

Mr. Speaker, few people in public life ever make the type of contributions made by Ronald Ansin. I can sincerely commend Ron as a true humanitarian, a role-model for our youth, and a man worthy of honor and respect. It is only appropriate that the House join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ansin today.

THE FAMILY FARM PROTECTION
ACT**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce my first bill before this house.

It's a bill designed to bring some desperately-needed relief to farm families across America and in my home of northeastern Wisconsin.

It's a simple proposal, really—and rather than increase government's role in agriculture, it actually eliminates one of the burdens government places upon our family farmers.

This bill—the Family Farm Protection Act—will exempt farmers from the Federal capital gains tax when they sell their farm to a family member.

This bill removes one of the multitude of burdens our farmers face, and will help to keep family farms within the family.

Our farmers are suffering through the toughest farm crisis in 15 years—maybe longer.

We used to call farming "agriculture," today, it's more often called "agribusiness."

I think there's a reason for that.

America used to be an "argi-culture"—farming was more than a business.

It was America's way of life—we were a culture built around an agrarian center.

Washington and Jefferson were both farmers.

But today, we can see our "agri-culture" slipping into history.

As more family farms go under, the farming way of life—America's "agri-culture" goes with them.

We cannot let that happen.

While the U.S. economy is booming, farmers face a real crisis—no matter how hard they work.

In the past, we in the Congress have had a tendency to get government more involved in the midst of a farm crisis.

But this bill—the Family Farm Protection Act—recognizes that government is often a