

wife Mary, Bill Rolan had a major role in assisting the Congress to respond more effectively to America's servicemen and women who were prisoners of war, their dependents and survivors.

After graduation from high school in Sevierville, Tennessee, Bill entered the U.S. Army in October 1943 and spent four months in basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida. Bill subsequently joined the 45th Division in March 1944 at Anzio Beach, Italy, participated in the liberation of Rome and the invasion of Southern France. Following six months of combat, Bill was captured and spent seven months in a prisoner-of-war camp. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the European Campaign Ribbon with three battle stars, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his distinguished military service.

At the end of World War II, Bill returned to Tennessee, then later trained at Coyne Electrical Training School in Chicago, Illinois. In 1950, Bill moved to Washington, DC and began his successful 34-year career with the Army Strategic Communication Command at the Pentagon.

Following retirement in 1984, Bill organized the first American Ex-Prisoners of War Chapter in Northern Virginia. He continued his service to his fellow POWs throughout the remainder of his life, serving on the National Legislative Committee of the National Capitol Office for many years.

Bill continued his dedicated work on behalf of POWs and their families until his last days. When the House approved H.R. 2280, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999, on June 29th, this bill included a provision which would allow surviving spouses of former prisoners of war to qualify for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits without requiring that the veteran have been 100% service-connected for ten years prior to death. This provision was recommended to the Committee by Bill Rolan and, as a result of his committed and articulate advocacy, an inequity in law which unintentionally penalizes spouses of former POWs will be corrected when this measure is enacted into law.

I am proud to have known Bill Rolan and we are better for his dedicated service to his Nation and his fellow veterans. We will miss Bill Rolan and extend our condolences to his wife Mary, his children and grandchildren.

JIMMIE ICARDO, KERN COUNTY
FAIR'S AGRICULTURIST OF THE
YEAR

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23rd the 1999 Kern County Fair will name Mr. Jimmie Icardo as the Fair's 1999 Agriculturist of the Year. Jimmie Icardo's contributions to Kern County agriculture have helped make California farming the competitor it is today.

When you look at agriculture across the United States, California's ability to turn out and export quality crops is exemplary. It is through the efforts of Kern County farmers like Jimmie Icardo and the quality goods they have consistently introduced into the market place

that California is now one of the world's foremost suppliers of quality produce.

Jimmie Icardo represents a generation of farmers who sought to put out the best product they could. Successful in real estate, oil and gas and other ventures, Jimmie remains first and foremost a farmer. He did want to be the best farmer he could and his long standing reputation for quality melons, cotton, carrots and other produce says he achieved that goal. His work, along with the work of other farmers who also sought to be the best at the business, has given Kern County agriculture the reputation for quality the state enjoys today throughout the world.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND FATHER KOURKEN YARALIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute The Very Reverend Father Kourken Yaralian who passed away December 17th 1998.

Born Garo Yaralian on July 9, 1931, in Kessab, Syria, Der Hayr received his primary education at Ousoomnasiratz Miatzyl Varjaran. At age 14, he entered the seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, where he received his secondary diploma. After graduation, he returned to Kessab and taught children at the same school he previously attended. From this point on, youth education would become a vital aspect of his priestly responsibilities throughout his life.

In 1954, he returned to the seminary to enter the priesthood, and in 1955 he married his only sweetheart, Anoush Hovsepian. On July 8, 1956, he was ordained Der Kourken.

Der Kourken's first parish was St. Mary's in Beirut, and in 1959, the catholicos sent him to the United States to assist in the consecration and to become the first pastor of Sts. Vartanatz Armenian Church in Ridgefield, NJ. There he organized the church choir and established the Sunday School and Nareg Armenian Saturday School. Knowing the importance of assimilating into the American culture, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he furthered his English language skills. He was then accepted into the Master's program of Columbia University's Union Theological Seminary where he received his degree in Sacred Theology in 1963. During the Great Ecumenical movement, he was the first Armenian priest to receive membership in the World Council of Churches.

After serving the Armenian community in New Jersey for nearly 8 years, Der Kourken was asked to preside as pastor for the parish of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, and with Yerezgin Anoush and their five children, he moved the family to California in 1966.

At Holy Trinity, Der Kourken raised funds and brought new parishioners that would secure the church's financial future. He then set out to meet and seek the support of his peers and colleagues from other faiths with the hope to establish cooperation and support between the major churches and temples in Fresno. Together these religious leaders wove the fabric of the community.

Der Kourken continued to be active in the local and Armenian community, and with the Sisters of Saint Agnes Hospital, he established the first hospice program in the San Joaquin Valley. Responding to the needs of Vietnam and other veterans of war, he served as Chaplain of Veterans Hospital for several years and provided counseling services in the hospital's drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic.

Der Kourken's influence extended into the political arena, supporting Armenian candidates for both local and State government offices. Of his many accolades, he was proud to be recognized by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for his achievements in both civic and religious contributions to the Fresno Community at large.

Of his major accomplishments, the one that gratified him most was the inception 22 years ago to establish the first Armenian Community Day School in the United States. He was recognized as the school's Founding Father.

Always striving to better the Armenian community and to make the Armenian Church Services more accessible to the Church youth, Der Hayr devoted an immense effort in the translation, transliteration and final publications of The Sacred Music and Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The texts are now widely used in Armenian Churches throughout the U.S.

Der Kourken also made major strides in promoting Armenian culture and religious music throughout the country. In 1984, in conjunction with the Music Department of San Francisco State University he initiated an accredited course in Armenian Church Music and Hymns, where he assisted in the music workshop instruction for the two semester course.

In 1980, he established the first Armenian Church in Vancouver, BC; in 1984, the first Armenian Church in Salt Lake City; followed by the first Armenian Church in Boulder, CO, in 1985.

Der Kourken passed away in his home Thursday, December 17, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to The Very Reverend Father Kourken Yaralian for his accomplishments and services to his community, the United States, and internationally. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Yaralian family.

TRIBUTE TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to welcome home the members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, and to salute their heroic efforts to rescue survivors in Izmit, Turkey in the aftermath of the country's worst earthquake in history. Called Virginia Task Force One, this highly trained team of rescue specialists are a credit to our nation both as ambassadors and humanitarians.

On August 17, 1999 at 3 a.m., Turkey was shook by a catastrophic earthquake recorded at a magnitude of 7.4. The ground's rumbling came in the still of the night while most people were sleeping, and sent others running out

into the streets in a panic. In just 45 seconds 60,000 buildings crumbled to the ground, entombing at least 20,000 and perhaps as many as 40,000, with another 30,000 people injured, and 600,000 people left homeless.

Just a few hours after this tragedy hit, the 72 operational members of the Virginia Task Force team, comprised of urban search and rescue technicians, cave-in experts, canine teams, physicians, paramedics, logistician, and command and control personnel, prepared for one of their toughest missions. They brought with them 56,000 pounds of specialized equipment and supplies, including thermal imaging cameras, listening devices, advance life support medical equipment and supplies, communications equipment, food and water. They soon joined rescue teams from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Japan and Israel to work round the clock to uncover victims buried under the once protective walls of their home.

Amid the tragedy and destruction of Turkey's massive earthquake, the Virginia Task Force courageously searched in perilous conditions for signs of life. More than 1,000 aftershocks continued to shake the earth and rain pelted against them creating muddy quagmires which complicated their efforts to clear debris and rescue survivors. Yet they demonstrated exemplary perseverance in their mission and successfully pulled four survivors from the twisted ruins. The first rescue was a frightened seven-year-old boy who had been trapped in bed for more than two days when his apartment building collapsed around him. Miraculously, he was not injured. After 4½ hours of chipping, shoveling and sawing through 15 feet of rubble, they saved the life of a vivacious 24-year-old woman in surprisingly high spirits. Another 8 hours of digging uncovered a second woman who had been entombed in the rubble. And 64 hours after the quake struck, miraculously they saved the life of Ayse Cesen, 46, whose brother had given up hope and brought a coffin to collect his body.

I join the country of Turkey in offering our heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Virginia Task Force Team who selflessly demonstrated their invaluable skills and knowledge to locate survivors and recover victims. I salute the valiant efforts of Anthony MacIntyre, James M. Strickland, Barry Anderson, William Baker, William M. Bertone, Bernard D. Bickham, Donald C. Booth, Edward M. Brinkley, Jon P. Bruley, Gary B. Bunch, Gregory A. Bunch, Carlton G. Burkhammer, John Chabal, James M. Chinn, Brian Cloyd, David P. Conrad, Dean W. Cox, Kevin R. Dabeny, Michael B. Davis, Jeffrey L. Donaldson, Robert C. Dube, Benjamin A. Dye, Garrett L. Dyer, Thomas P. Feehan, Thomas H. Galvez, Thomas J. Griffin, Dan Hafling, Sonja Heritage, Kit R. Hessel, Andrew J. Hubery, Michael A. Istvan, Gerald Jakulski, Joseph M. Kaleda, Joseph E. Knerr, Elizabeth Kreiter, Randal A. Leatherman, Evan J. Lewis, Jeffery S. Lewis, Mark F. Lucas, Ramond Lucas, Craig S. Luecke, Michael J. Marks, Christopher M. Matsos, John C. Mayers, Shawn K. McPherson, Charles Mills, Susan Mingle, Gerard Morrison, Dewey H. Perks, Mark J. Plunkett, Thomas W. Reedy, Michael P. Regan, Michael T. Reilly, Jerome A. Roussillon, Charles S. Ruble, Dean A. Scott, William E. Shugart, Dallas L. Slemp, Frank Stoda, Rex Strickland, Michael Tamillow, David L. Taylor, William E.

Teal, Scott Tezak, Dean Tills, James H. Tolson, Jack Walmer, James J. Walsh, Peter West, Charles A. Williams, Kea A. Zimmerman, and Robert J. Zoldos.

The Virginia Task Force Team and their families deserve the highest praise possible for the sacrifices they have made to come to the aid of the grief-stricken people of Turkey. As they have proven in the past, Fairfax County rescue workers are among the best trained in the world. The expertise they bring to such devastating scenes helps shine a ray of hope on an otherwise desperate situation.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. At a time when our economy is at its strongest in a generation, we should be working to ensure that working Americans can afford a roof over their heads. Unfortunately, the bill the Republicans chose to bring to the floor would leave 128,000 families out in the cold.

By failing to fund the President's request for 100,000 new Section 8 housing vouchers, Republicans will leave 128,000 families out in the cold.

This bill undermines low and moderate income Americans struggling to make ends meet. It fails to fund the President's request for 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers, cutting the legs out from under people making the transition from welfare to work. And it comes at a time when the number of people in need of rental assistance is at an all-time high of 12.5 million—nearly half of whom are children and the elderly.

Mr. NADLER's amendment would help move us back toward investing in affordable housing opportunities for working Americans by funding 50,000 new Section 8 vouchers. We should not leave working Americans out in the cold to help pay for a tax cut that the American people don't want and that our children's future can't afford. I urge members to support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASS. PIONEERS, NATIONAL CHAMPIONS D3 PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exciting achieve-

ment of the Western Mass. Pioneers soccer team. On Saturday, September 11, 1999, the Pioneers defeated the South Jersey Barons 2-1 in the National Championship match of the D3 Professional Soccer League. The Pioneers organization became the national champion in just its second year of existence and was also awarded Franchise-of-the-Year status.

Western Massachusetts has long been a hotbed of soccer in America. Immigrants from countries such as Portugal, Poland, Italy, and Ireland brought their passion for the world's game with them as they settled in places like Ludlow, Chicopee, the South End, and Hungry Hill. The fan support at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, MA, the home field of the Pioneers, can only be described as phenomenal. The raucous, yet knowledgeable crowd numbered 5,223 for the final game. In their final three matches, the Pioneers had an average attendance of 4,478, setting a new record each night. Clearly evident of the faces of both the young and the old were the passions of the old countries, as well as the growing American soccer pride.

The strength of Western Massachusetts soccer can be seen on the roster as well, as seven members of the champions are local products. These players include starting goalkeeper John Voight, starting defenders Paul Kelly and Brad Miller, starting midfielder Chris Legowski, defenders Greg Kolodziej and Nate Allen, and backup keeper Danny Pires. Voight was named Championship MVP, and Kelly was named to the 1999 All D3 Pro League All-Star First Team, as was forward Rob Jachym.

As Champions of the D3 League, the Pioneers may be considered for promotion to the A-League, the division two of American professional soccer. Whether they choose to pursue promotion or to remain in the D3, the Pioneers, led by general manager Rick Andre, have plenty to be proud of this year. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to recognize and congratulate the Western Mass. Pioneers, the 1999 National Champions of the D3 Professional Soccer League.

SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE SAFER SCHOOLS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we have done a very good job in this Nation bringing class sizes down. But we have made a bad mistake going to large, centralized schools and closing down thousands of small neighborhood and community schools particularly at the high school level.

This point was made in a very articulate way in a letter entitled "Smaller Schools are Safer Schools" in the August 30th issue of the Christian Science Monitor. I commend this letter by Michael Klonsky to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE SAFER SCHOOLS

Regarding "Safer Places of Learning" (Aug. 20): The new "militarization" of schools may do more harm than good. Tens of millions of dollars are now being spent, without much thought or planning, on security cameras, metal detectors, and police