

sister Elizabeth Engel; and 6 grandchildren. He was a wonderful father, devoted husband, and beloved grandfather. Mr. Speaker, this was one of those men who made a lasting impact in everything that he did. We will remember with great respect everything this kind and caring man did for his community—Mr. Herman A. Engel.

MICHAEL VANG INVESTIGATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to recognize a dark anniversary for one of my constituents. Three years ago, Suzie Vang lost her friend and husband to unknown circumstances in Laos.

On April 19, 1999, Michael Vang and Mr. Houa Ly, a resident of Appleton, WI, both Americans, were traveling along the border between Laos and Thailand. According to eyewitnesses, the U.S. congressional research missions, nongovernmental organizations and other sources both Ly and Vang were seized by Lao Government authorities. Despite the building evidence, the Lao Government continues to deny knowledge of their whereabouts or the role of government security forces in their abduction.

The State Department has been asked repeatedly by Members of Congress to vigorously investigate and resolve this case since it was first reported in early May 1999. It is certainly true that we have received some assistance from them. However, there continues to be a lack of results. This is not surprising considering that the State Department continues to pursue an investigation in cooperation with the regime in Laos—a regime involved with their disappearance. While the State Department continues their slow and seemingly never-ending investigation, the trail grows colder.

We need a renewed effort. We need to initiate a new independent investigation free from coordination with the government of Laos. Three years is long enough. And, as long as this case goes unresolved, I will continue to oppose Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status for Laos.

HONORING THOMAS E. BRUNK
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas E. Brunk, upon his retirement from the Federal Government after 33 years of distinguished and dedicated service to Northern Virginia, our Nation, and the Department of Defense.

Tom's career truly can be described as an American success story. Tom began his career as a young intern in Oklahoma, somewhat bewildered by the sights and sounds of the bustling air logistics center. Now, more than three decades later, he will end his ca-

reer as a member of the Senior Executive Service and as the deputy director and the highest-ranking civilian of the Defense Contract Management Agency, a worldwide organization of 12,000 employees responsible for ensuring that the supplies and materials going to our Military Services—our men and women in uniform—are delivered on-time and are of the highest quality. His contribution has been particularly notable over the last nine years as contingency contract management has been needed to support America's military deployments at locations around the world.

Despite his relative youth, Tom quickly demonstrated exceptional managerial skills in support of major aerospace systems, including the B-2 aircraft and the Peacekeeper missile. With great vigilance and a strong sense of duty, he led operations reviews at dozens of major Defense contractors, and after having proved his mettle on the plant floor, steadily advanced to positions of increasing responsibility. In 1990 he accepted an appointment to the Defense Department's principle contract-management organization, the Defense Contract Management Command. In this capacity, Tom has been a stalwart standard bearer in the Department's pursuit of acquisition excellence.

The capstone of Tom's career came in March 2000, when he spearheaded the establishment of the Defense Contract Management Agency, a combat-support organization responsible for the management of 310,000 government contracts cumulatively valued at more than \$100 billion. As deputy director since the agency's inception, Mr. Brunk has brought to bear his considerable managerial, technical, and interpersonal skills to ensure America's fighting forces receive the material support they need to protect and defend our nation. He has helped DCMA earn a place of prominence in the Department's technology revolution, as evidenced by his role in the development and deployment of the Standard Procurement System, a Department-wide purchasing and payment system that will replace a jumble outmoded and disparate programs that for years have bedeviled financial management with the Defense community.

Whether it is on the flight line at an air logistics center in Oklahoma City, on the plant floor at a manufacturing plant in St. Louis, or at a negotiations table in the Nation's capital, Tom Brunk served with dignity, commitment, and integrity. On the occasion of his retirement from the Federal Civilian Service, I offer my congratulations and thanks to this long-time resident of Northern Virginia, and wish him and his wife, Sharon, well in their future pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Mr. Brunk as he is recognized for his years of service to the Federal Government, the people of Northern Virginia and our nation. He certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleague to join me in applauding this remarkable service.

IN MEMORY OF GALE CINCOTTA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during this reflective season of Ramadan, Passover, and

Lent, I have been reflecting on friends whose lives closely paralleled the stories of sacrifice in the Holy Books. It is this reflection that calls to my mind Mrs. Gale Cincotta of Chicago, who passed from this life to the next on August 15, 2001. I am grateful for the opportunity to encapsulate her life's work for the RECORD.

Born of humble origin and reared in Chicago's Austin neighborhood, Gale became a neighborhood activist and then national leader as her personal knowledge of injustice led her on a passionate journey. Her dissatisfaction with her sons' educational opportunities spurred her to address the issue. She became impassioned with the root causes of an inadequate educational system: poverty, lack of decent and affordable housing and the resulting decaying neighborhoods. As her understanding grew about these issues, Gale found her true vocation. Armed initially only with a small but vocal band of neighborhood residents, Gale began a crusade which would eventually lead her to national prominence. She was, the Chicago Tribune noted upon her death, "one of the most effective community activists in the nation." I would add that she had extraordinary vision, a sharp intellect, a love of those without voice or power, and a boundless sense of humor.

Feisty, blustery, and with a keen ability to cajole or badger those with influence and power into doing what needed to be done, Gale earned the respect of all with whom she worked whether or not they agreed with her. Her passion was unmistakable, her commitment unwavering, and her expertise unparalleled. She taught many people, including myself, what being a neighborhood activist is really all about: it is about changing people's lives for the better. It is about helping them gain power to improve the condition of people's lives.

Though responsible for many changes in neighborhood development and revitalization, lending practices and housing concerns across our nation, Gale's greatest public accomplishment was gaining Congressional approval of the Community Reinvestment Act in 1977. Passage of this Act, now a cornerstone of neighborhood financing that has released billions of dollars of private credit to formerly red-lined neighborhoods, was considered by the Chicago Tribune Gale's "single greatest triumph." Ever the champion of marginal neighborhoods, she persuaded not only elected officials but also bankers, insurance companies, landlords, and business leaders that neighborhood investment—while being the right think to do—could also be profitable. She taught them that the savings of people of ordinary means should not be drained from their neighborhoods, but made available for reinvestment. Her work made the capitalist system work in some of the most neglected corners of our nation. Her tireless and unmatched efforts yielded visible results by turning faded city blocks into flourishing neighborhoods from coast to coast. Gale organized other programs and works, and many awards and accolades were bestowed upon her through the years, but surely none meant as much to her as the lasting legacy of the Community Reinvestment Act and the people and communities it still helps.

Gale Cincotta lives on in the seeds she planted in the hearts of the people she served and the minds of those she battled with and against to make people's lives better. She