

Together with Joseph Gruss and the Reichmann family of Toronto, they worked to fund the construction of magnificent new accommodations for the children. On May 28, 2003 Shirley Gralla's commitment to the school will be recognized when the girls' elementary school will be dedicated in her name.

I commend Shirley Gralla for her continued dedication to the field of education and her commitment to improving the lives of Jewish immigrant children. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating Shirley Gralla on the dedication of the Shirley Gralla Girls' Elementary School at Be'er Hagolah Institutes.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the silver anniversary of the Lowell National Historical Park.

Twenty-five years ago, President Jimmy Carter signed into law former Congressman Paul Tsongas' legislation to establish the Lowell Park. At the time, Lowell was a struggling community with an uncertain future. Nevertheless, Tsongas knew that as the cradle of America's Industrial Revolution, Lowell was a dynamo waiting to be harnessed.

Today, the Lowell Park receives nearly three-quarters of a million visitors a year and its revitalized and reused mills are home to high technology companies, a state university, and housing for all income levels.

The Lowell Park has told the story of our Nation's industrial history using world class museum exhibits and innovative programs and events such as canal boat tours; a recreated weave room and interactive exhibits at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum; the Mill Girls and Immigrants exhibit; the annual Lowell Folk Festival, the largest free folk festival in the nation, now in its 17th year; and numerous other heritage-based special events.

Furthermore, as a pioneer in the National Park System (NPS), Lowell has been a model for telling America's industrial history across the Nation, in such places as Dayton, OH, where stories are being told about the history of aviation; in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan about copper mining; in the Monongehela Valley of Pennsylvania about the steel industry; and in Scranton, PA, about railroading.

At the local level, the Lowell Park's contribution to the area's economic development has been immeasurable, and nationally, it is a treasure of America's rich industrial heritage.

The Lowell Park staff has been highly innovative, winning state and national recognition and awards. Here are just a few examples of their achievements:

Partnering with the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Education, the Lowell Park boasts one of the most successful educational programs in the Park Service, with over 65,000 participating school children per year. The National Parks Foundation and the NPS have awarded their Partnership Award to this innovative heritage education program.

Working closely with the city, the park has guided the rehabilitation of nearly 350 historic

buildings in the park's Preservation District, improving the downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. These efforts have been repeatedly recognized, most recently with a National Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a statewide award for "Visionary Leadership in Community Preservation."

Most of the five and a half miles of canals—a National Engineering Landmark—are now accessible to the public via walkways and interpretive signage. The Park's Canalway Program has won a national "Excellence on the Waterfront Award" from the Waterfront Center in Washington, DC.

Its community programming through the Mogan Cultural Center reaches out to underserved populations and over three dozen ethnic communities, earlier generations of whom worked in textile mills.

The community has built upon the presence of the Lowell National Historical Park by attracting museums, sports facilities, an arts community and major festivals to the Preservation District, making Lowell truly a "Destination City." The National Trust for Historic Preservation designated Lowell one of its first "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" in 2000.

New projects are underway in three major mill complexes—Lawrence, Boott and Dutton Yarn—that are generating 400 new market rate apartments and condominiums because Lowell is now a place to which people want to move. Over a dozen other historic buildings in the national park's Preservation District are also in the process of rehabilitation at this time, signaling that the marketplace has responded to the Federal investment.

Congratulations to the Lowell National Historical Park for reaching this auspicious milestone. Its 25th anniversary is as much a celebration of Lowell's rebirth, as it is a stark reminder of the inherent value of preserving our history for future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF FORMER SPEAKER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MATTHEW J. RYAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker I rise today in support of H. Res. 178, a resolution honoring the life and work of Matthew J. Ryan, the former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The basic facts of Speaker Ryan's career in the Pennsylvania House were that he served for over 40 years and that he was the longest serving Speaker in the chamber's history. But as is often the case, the simple facts do little to explain the man or his impact on the lives of his fellow Pennsylvanians—including my own.

Speaker Ryan was an almost legendary figure in Pennsylvania politics. He was a powerful man, to be sure. But more to the point, he was a man who had the trust and confidence of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He was universally respected for his non-partisan style of presiding over the Pennsylvania House, his parliamentary skill and his

formidable debating abilities. And, not least among his qualities, he was a tireless booster of Pennsylvania and her citizens.

I came to know Speaker Ryan when I served under him for two terms in the Pennsylvania House in the early 1990s. Speaker Ryan earned the devotion of freshmen classes session after session because he was accessible, he was genuinely interested in helping new members learn the ropes, and because he was committed to helping all members do their best to better the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Like many of my colleagues in the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, I am personally indebted to Speaker Ryan for his mentorship, his leadership and, above all, his friendship. I shall miss him greatly.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RUTH GALANTER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a close friend, a remarkable public servant and courageous advocate for the people of California—the Honorable Ruth Galanter. Ruth is retiring from the Los Angeles City Council after 16 years of service, where her insights, legislative acumen, and keen intellect will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, there is no magic formula for determining what makes a good public servant, but in Ruth Galanter all the ingredients for success were there. Ruth brought her intelligence, wit, and political skills to bear on behalf of her constituents, her community and countless important causes. And all the people of Los Angeles benefited from her ability to get things done.

It has been my great pleasure to work with Ruth on many of these causes. Just last month, Ruth and I participated in a ceremony with the Army Corps of Engineers commemorating the installation of tidal gates along the Ballona Creek in my district. The gates will help preserve scarce wetlands, restore critical habitat, and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community for years to come.

The project, more than 10 years in the making, is a perfect illustration of a top-notch public servant at the peak of her powers. Ruth Galanter's ability to focus on a particular outcome; to build and nurture diverse coalitions; to bring together all levels of government in support of a common goal; her fundamental and unwavering commitment to a healthy environment—these are the gifts that she unselfishly shared with the community.

Over the years, Ruth's work resulted in the preservation of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and the El Segundo Dunes, and she spearheaded efforts to clean up Santa Monica Bay and conserve the Ballona wetlands. She led the effort to renovate Venice Beach and preserve the Venice Pier.

She has promoted smart growth and sustainable development, advocated for a regional airport system and high-speed rail, and tirelessly promoted water conservation and recycling.

While this chapter of Ruth Galanter's public service may be coming to a close, she leaves