

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

behind a proud and lasting legacy. The crowning achievement of an environmentalist is to leave the earth a little cleaner, a little greener and a little brighter than when they started. Ruth Galanter has accomplished this and more.

BURMA MUST STOP ITS HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IMMEDIATELY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the despicable attack on a key democratic figure in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, by Than Shwe and his brutal military regime.

A few days ago, the political arm of Than Shwe's regime, the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), launched an attack against Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade as she was traveling to give a speech about freedom in Burma. After stopping the motorcade and wielding machetes and sticks, USDA members beat on the doors of the motorcade and attempted to steal cameras and other items.

This is only one of many recent occasions in which the USDA has harassed and intimidated Aung San Suu Kyi, her political opposition group called the National League for Democracy (NLD), and their supporters. In order to interfere with her efforts to speak about democratization in Burma, the regime has threatened her supporters with water hoses on fire trucks and blared loud music so that others cannot hear her speeches. Authorities have repeatedly deterred and prevented her supporters from attending her speeches by threatening them with arrest, and have turned back several busloads full of people.

I find it appalling that Than Shwe's soldiers would threaten one of the world's great freedom fighters with blunt weapons. Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD are the legitimately elected leaders of their country—they won 82 percent of the seats in parliament in an internationally recognized election, even though the regime refuses to recognize the results. As an elected Representative of the citizens of Massachusetts, I simply cannot stand by while men like Than Shwe so grossly violate the very principles upon which this House was built.

Than Shwe continues to terrorize the population of Burma. He and his regime have forced much of the population into modern-day slave labor, locked up about 1,400 political prisoners including students, monks, nuns, and 18 members of parliament, and recruited an astounding 70,000 child soldiers—far more than any other country in the world. Perhaps most disturbing, our own State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor conducted an impressive investigation into rapes in Burma that confirmed the regime is using rape as a weapon of war. As we learned from Bosnia, using rape as a weapon is a war crime, and Than Shwe and his cronies should be brought to justice.

Most importantly, Burma's regime has proven that its words cannot be taken seriously. It has denied the use of rape as a weapon, stat-

ed that it has no child soldiers, and refuses to acknowledge the detention and torture of political prisoners. For this reason, it should not be surprising that Than Shwe has ignored the promise he made over a year ago to enter into a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, facilitated by the United Nations, aimed at a transition to freedom and democracy. Instead, he has flaunted the good-faith efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy to Burma, Razali Ismail, and by extension, the entire United Nations General Assembly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning these recent attacks and urge the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor to register our condemnation of the regime at the highest levels.

TRIBUTE HONORING SHARON COOK
OF NAPOLEON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Cook, an outstanding educator from Napoleon, Michigan, who is retiring after 31 years of teaching.

Sharon graduated from Napoleon High School in 1965 and attended Western Michigan University, where she majored in English and earned her K-8 teaching degree. She also earned a Master's of Education Degree from Eastern Michigan University. After teaching in the elementary school for a number of years, Sharon transferred to the Middle school, where she taught Math and Language Arts.

In addition to her classroom responsibilities, she has coached girl's track, Basketball, and cheerleading for both football and basketball. Sharon has also served as Yearbook and Newspaper advisor, as well as Service Squad and Class Advisor. She has also coached Michigan Mathematics League teams, reaching state level competition in 1987.

As an educator, Sharon Clark realizes the importance of helping young teachers establish themselves in the classroom and has served as a Mentor Teacher to newly hired teachers at Napoleon.

Perhaps most important is Sharon's dedication to community service. For many years, she has served as Student Council Advisor and encouraged her students to be active in many community projects. With her help, students in Napoleon have collected food for Thanksgiving Food Baskets, conducted Penny Wars for Christmas Giving, Angel Trees for children of prisoners, and most recently, packages for our armed service men and women currently serving in Operation Freedom in Iraq.

In a time when highly qualified teachers who motivate are so important, pleased to honor this outstanding educator on the occasion of her retirement. Sharon has dedicated 31 years in service to the students of Napoleon Community Schools and the community at large.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
FOR PUBLIC ATTORNEYS

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act.

Throughout the country, District Attorneys are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified and experienced attorneys. Recent law school graduates face difficult choices regarding their legal careers. While a starting salary at a private law firm now often exceeds \$100,000, the average starting salary in a district attorneys office is approximately \$35,000.

With undergraduate and law school loans frequently amounting to \$100,000, aspiring public attorneys face a crippling debt burden that drives them to other career choices. This financial burden likely hits minority students even harder and makes their decisions about a public service career that much more difficult. A system of continual turnover severely impact on law enforcement and the ability to ensure justice.

Due to the increasing fiscal constraints faced at the state and local level, public officials are unable to raise salaries to a competitive level. More than ever, America needs an effective justice system. The Department of Justice has recognized that public defenders and prosecutors should have access to student loan forgiveness programs as an important means of reducing staff turnover.

Under my legislation, a recently-recruited public attorney would enter a written agreement that specified that he or she would remain employed as a prosecutor or public defender for a required period of service of not less than 3 years, unless involuntarily separated from employment. If the attorney is involuntarily separated from employment on account of misconduct, or voluntarily separates from that employment before the end of the period specified in the agreement, the individual would be required to repay the amount of any benefits received. Successive agreements could be made to continue the loan payments until the maximum amount authorized is reached.

Under the proposal, the Secretary of Education would make the loan payments for the attorney for the period of the agreement if the funds were made available through appropriations. Students loan repayments would not exceed \$6,000 for any borrower in any calendar year or a total of \$40,000 in the case of any borrower. This legislation is supported by the National District Attorneys Association.

I hope my colleagues will join me by supporting and cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM
FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL IN
PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2003 students from Franklin High School