

to advance the cause of liberty for human-kind. We remember Reddingites who perished in the Revolutionary war, and those whose legacy echoes from places named Antietam, and Bull Run and Gettysburg; we remember the gallantry of doughboys, the bravery enshrined on battlefields from the Marne to Iwo Jima, from Bastogne to Korea, from the jungles of Viet Nam to the mountains of Afghanistan to the streets, cities and villages of Iraq. And we humbly offer prayers, not only for their patriotic souls, but also for the families they left behind, and for families who, even now, pray each day for the safe return of a soldier son or daughter, father or mother.

Thus we ask your guidance, O Holy One. We ask your guidance that our patriotism be filtered through the prism of your divine justice and love, that our nation's power might ever serve the cause of human dignity, that our most noble impulses be laced with humility and a wisdom that fosters solidarity and understanding among the world's nations.

And so we must close our prayers this Memorial Day weekend, O God, with a prayer for ourselves and our own stewardship of our beloved democracy. Give us, we pray, the strength, the grit and the insight to be citizen soldiers in the cause of peace. . . such that our children and our children's children never know the horrors of war. . . that our collective legacy might be a world of greater harmony, a nation of less internal enmity, and a community with an unwavering appreciation for all who've labored and fought, lived and died, to make our nation a beacon of light and our flag a signal of hope for all your peoples. May God bless the United States of America. And may each one of us, in ways great and small, be a blessing to our nation, and to God's world. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
FARRICKER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Richard Farricker as State secretary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Rich has served the AOH as its secretary for the past 5½ years with great distinction. Over the years Rich has undertaken a significant number of pursuits while remaining actively engaged in his community.

Enlisting in the Army in the first year of the Vietnam war, and serving two tours there immediately following high school, Rich has traveled much of the world. Upon returning to the United States, Rich traveled the country playing in a band before eventually settling in Monmouth County where he raised his family.

Rich's dedication to public service was instilled in him at a very young age and he has demonstrated throughout his life a commitment to the Hibernian ideals of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

Rich's service to the State board as secretary has seen the introduction of a comprehensive website where the minutes for State board meetings are posted within days. A variety of other measures have been taken to improve communications between the State board and the various divisions during Rich's tenure as secretary.

Proud of his Irish heritage, Rich has a deep love for genealogy that has led to membership in the Irish Federation, Irish Northern Aid, and his studying of the Irish language.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rich for his tireless service to the AOH and the Irish-American community. I hope that he continues to remain actively involved in the AOH and in promoting the values of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 504
DEMOCRATIC CLUB AND ITS DIS-
TINGUISHED HONOREES COUNCIL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 504 Democratic Club on the occasion of its annual banquet and award dinner. I am pleased to offer my best wishes to the club's members, friends and honorees for another year of outstanding public service.

The 504 Democrats derive their name from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which mandates that all federally funded programs must be accessible to people with disabilities. This landmark legislation was the precursor to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For 21 years, the members of the 504 Democratic Club have been vocal advocates for people with disabilities. The club's membership works within the democratic process to promote policies that recognize the barriers faced by people with disabilities. Furthermore, the group strives to remind the people of New York to remain vigilant in the effort to improve access to housing, health care, education, voting, jobs, public transportation and other areas.

I am pleased to congratulate the club's distinguished awardees: my esteemed colleague Congressman JERROLD NADLER, who has always worked to promote the rights of the disabled; James Weisman, chairman of the American Association of People with Disabilities and counsel to the United Spinal Association; Alexander Wood, executive director of the Disabilities Network of NYC; Pamela Bates, president of 504 Northstar; and Micah Kellner, New York State Democratic Committeeman and former member of my staff. These five individuals are outstanding advocates. Individually, they have made significant contributions to improving the lives of the disabled. Collectively, they would be a force to be reckoned with.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the 504 Democratic Club for its longstanding tradition of advocacy and public service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN
M. COLLINS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of September 11 casts a long shadow that still

haunts our lives. Our buildings will be replaced, our streets repaved, the infrastructure repaired. But the people we lost, and the promise they had for us, can never be anything but a loss. They leave a vacuum in us that cannot be filled.

John Collins was a firefighter when he died for us, a policeman who protected us before that, and always a generous and caring son, a loving brother, and a good friend, companion, and neighbor.

He was also generous. He knew that when hard times came on someone, it was not always their fault and he would help in any way he could. He was a key part of the Skehill Foundation, an annual softball tournament that has raised more than \$100,000 in scholarship money for several schools in the Kingsbridge/Riverdale area. As a police officer, friends tell of his often buying groceries for the people in his precinct or sneakers for their children.

On a personal note, John was, like my father, an Ironworker, a group I have known, loved, and admired since I was a boy and my father took me to work.

John Collins lived here and so it is appropriate that this memento of him be placed here. It is said that a man never truly dies as long as he is remembered. This small tribute will help us to remember that a true man, a hero, walked among us here, helping us in dozens of ways that, perhaps, we took for granted because he did it so effortlessly.

I want to borrow some words from a remembrance of John Collins by Karen Donnelly that so eloquently tells of our grief:

We all, have given pieces of ourselves to each other. We have taken from each other. This is bravery; this is courage. If we had not ventured out into life with both arms wide, we would not know this grief. If we had not courageously given, and taken, friendship from each other, we would have no memories of immeasurable joy and happiness. To know this sadness is our right. We have earned it. We are courageous enough to accept life's rewards, knowing we risk this almost unbearable, profound grief.

JUDGE BRUCE McMARION WRIGHT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Judge Bruce McMarion Wright, who passed away this week. His commitment to humanity and justice were hallmarks of his tenure in the judiciary. Rather than being honored for his courage and uncompromising stance in defense of the Eighth Amendment, Judge Wright was unjustly mocked by the system, which did not want to recognize the protection of the rights of the accused.

Judge Wright had known the challenges of a just and equal system on his life and had