

On December 15, 1997, Bill Lann Lee was appointed Acting Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice. In this position, he has worked to strengthen our nation's hate crime laws, make society accessible to Americans with disabilities, fight housing discrimination, and protect reproductive health care providers and combat modern day slavery. His accomplishments as Acting Assistant Attorney General have been remarkable, and that taken together with his previous accomplishments in the NAACP and the Center for Law in the Public Interests make him an excellent choice for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Lann Lee has established a remarkable record of service as Acting Assistant Attorney General, and it is most fitting that President Clinton made the recess appointment of Mr. Lee as Assistant Attorney General because of his deep commitment to protecting the civil rights of all Americans. Bill Lann Lee deserves to serve in this position, but more importantly, our country needs to have Bill Lann Lee in this post.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Clinton for appointing Bill Lann Lee to the post of Assistant Attorney General, and I applaud the appointment of the first Asian-American to America's top civil rights post.

HONORING MACLOVIO MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the outstanding service of the Honorable Maclovio Martinez, of Costilla County, Colorado. Mr. Martinez is retiring after two decades of service as Costilla County Assessor. Before serving the great state of Colorado, Maclovio began his public service with the State Department in the Foreign Service, where he served for eight years in Paraguay.

Mr. Martinez's achievements as a public servant are many in number. As Assessor, he helped to form the Costilla County Conservancy District, serving as its president. He also served as a member of the then Colorado Gov. Roy Romer's Cost Containment Committee, as well as Chairman of the San Luis Valley Health Care Foundation and president of the San Luis Museum.

Maclovio has served his community admirably and has ensured that Costilla County and its surrounding communities are a better place to live. His outstanding commitment to public service will be missed and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

On behalf of the citizens of Costilla County and the United States Congress, Maclovio I thank you for your contributions.

IN HONOR OF ROSE MARIE LOVANO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember Rose Marie Lovano, a woman who

dedicated her life to improving her community and the lives of those who lived in it.

While Rose was active in her community it was through politics that she felt that she could best help those around her. Rose believed in politics as a tool to help improve people's lives. Rose's long and distinguished career in public service started in 1960, as precinct committeewoman. Rose went on to serve as president of the Garfield Heights Democratic Club and has been a ward leader since 1981. Rose has also been awarded the distinct honor of representing her community at every Democratic National Convention since 1980.

Born in Cleveland, Rose, before her career in politics, served as a dedicated union member throughout her working life. She joined Bakery Workers Local 19, during her six years working for J. Spang Baking Co., then joined the Upholsterers Union during her seven years working for Krohler Furniture. Rose went on to work for Greyhound Bus Lines, and was a steward in Local 1517 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, serving also as president of the Greyhound credit union.

Politics was Rose's true passion. Rose is a true example of how politics can serve the needs of the people, and benefit people's lives. Rose never turned her back on any of her constituents. Residents would constantly call her at the home she shared with her family, and Rose would never turn her back on them. If she couldn't help she would find others who could. Rose's life serves as model, to all, of how politics can be used as a tool of good, to help the people who often need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I knew Rose, and the dedication, passion, and persistence that she brought to politics, and her life long commitment to helping others has had a profound effect on my life. It is for this reason, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this truly remarkable human being who dedicated her life to helping others.

IN HONOR OF EII, INC., AT THE INFENIUM BAYWAY CHEMICAL PLANT, FOR RECEIVING APPROVAL FROM OSHA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STAR VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS (VPP)

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor EII, Inc., at the Bayway Infenium Chemical Plant, located in Linden, New Jersey, for its exceptional employee safety and health programs.

EII, Inc.'s recent approval for participation in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) is a testament to a company that puts the well-being of its employees above the careless and irresponsible desire to increase profits at all costs—rare behavior at a time when profits often seem more important than people.

EII, Inc. is an electrical contractor providing maintenance and process support at the

Infenium Chemical Plant, a VPP Star for five years running. EII, Inc.'s employees, all represented by their respective trade unions, include electricians, pipefitters, millwrights, and carpenters. Each employee has been incremental in OSHA's evaluation and approval of EII, Inc.

OSHA's recognition of EII, Inc. is the result of a special relationship that has developed between management and employees, a relationship established by the management's commitment has to the safety and health of the hard working men and women at EII, Inc.

In addition, EII, Inc. is the only electrical contractor to receive VPP approval, with less than 20 construction companies participating nation-wide—only two of which are in New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as I honor EII, Inc., a company that truly understands the safety needs of its employees, and a company that puts people before profits.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL "MITCH" BOICH, FOUNDER OF THE BOICH COMPANIES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mitch Boich who passed away on August 25, 2000. Mitch was the founder of the Boich Companies and a man of tremendous vision who never lost his sense of tradition.

Mitch was a native of Steubenville, Ohio who served in the Army after graduating from Winterville High School in 1944. After the war, he attended the Ohio State University.

Since the late 1940's, Mitch founded several successful businesses in construction, coal mining and related industries. He and his wife of nearly 50 years, Doris Jean, have three wonderful children; Michael, Cynthia and Betsy and three grandchildren.

Mitch spent his life serving his community and was well loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a man known for his pizzazz and his strength.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to pay my last respects to a man who gave so much of himself to his community and his family. Mitch will be missed by all whose lives he touched. I am honored to have known him and to have been able to call him a friend.

HONORING ROY MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to extend my gratitude to the Honorable Roy Martinez. Mr. Martinez's commitment to improving his community through public service has made San Luis, Colorado a better place for everyone who lives there. After donating 26 years to his community, Mr. Martinez is stepping down from public office.

For over a quarter of a century, Mr. Martinez has generously given of his time and personal resources to the citizens of Costilla

County. During the past four years he has served honorably as County Commissioner, where his diligent work helped to bring the county into this technological age. Before becoming Commissioner, he served as Clerk and Recorder for over two decades, again, with great distinction.

Mr. Martinez has served his community admirably and his dedication and drive to succeed will be missed.

Roy, you have made your community, state and nation proud. I commend you on your service to the citizens of Costilla County and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support of H.R. 1871, the Mother Teresa Religious Worker Act of 1999, by adding my name as a cosponsor. H.R. 1871 is an important bill that permanently extends the religious worker visa program, which is set to expire at the end of this month. Under the current program, 5,000 religious workers enter the United States each year to participate in spiritual and charitable work in communities throughout our country, including many communities in my native California.

The visa program allows religious organizations to sponsor non-minister religious workers from foreign countries. These volunteers often work with our most needy individuals through church programs to ensure they have shelter and food. Aside from assisting with the bare necessities, they minister to the sick, work with adolescents at risk, and assist refugees and immigrants when they first arrive in the United States.

This program is due to expire on September 30 of this year. I call upon my colleagues to extend this religious worker visa program before this date to avoid any disruption for those seeking to enter our country.

At the same time, both the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have expressed concerns that the religious worker visa program is vulnerable to fraud. I share many of these concerns. Therefore, as this legislation moves through Congress, we must address the issues raised by the State Department and INS and ensure that only those persons who perform religious work enter on these visas.

I urge the permanent extension of the religious worker visa program at the earliest possible date.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHLAND YWCA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fortieth anniversary of the Southland YWCA. This non-profit organization has been serving women and their families in the Southwest area of Cleveland since 1919, and it deserve our recognition and congratulations.

The Southland YWCA in Middleburg Heights, Ohio is commemorating its 40th Anniversary on September 8 and 9, 2000. These two days of celebration should prove to be embraced throughout the community, as women and their families show their appreciation for an organization that has continually served the people of its area with a large variety of beneficial programs.

In 1960, the Southland YWCA moved to its current location in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, and it has continued to serve families in the area ever since. The Southland YWCA serves the Southwest area of Cleveland in the areas of fitness, child care, and diversity programming, among many others. It has implemented many programs and activities for the community, including swimming lessons, summer day camp for children, exercise classes, karate lessons, homemaking lessons, craft classes, divorce support programs, help for battered women, and even an investment club. Through these many services, the YWCA has encouraged women to become activists in their own communities.

I take their opportunity to applaud the fine service the Southland YWCA has provided to Cleveland for forty years because I believe that organizations such as this one are essential to the development of our communities throughout the country. I would like to wish the YWCA the best of luck in the future, and hope to see the organization commended again forty years from now.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR GERARD T. LA CERRA DISTINGUISHED AND BELOVED CHANCELLOR AND FRIEND

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I note the passing of Reverend Monsignor Gerard T. La Cerra, one of South Florida's most beloved and distinguished residents.

With selfless devotion and love, Monsignor La Cerra served the Archdiocese of Miami not only as its Chancellor from 1978 to 1993, but also as a source of strength and inspiration to all who knew him. Although we will all remember his important position in the Church for he was designated as Prelate with Honor with the title of Reverend Monsignor by His Holiness Pope John Paul II and was appointed Founding Supervising Principal of the new Catholic High School in South Dade, Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll High, we will remember most his extraordinary acts of kindness to the people of South Florida.

We were fortunate to have Monsignor La Cerra and the love and kindness that he expressed to our community and our church will forever be remembered and cherished. My office and the rest of the South Florida Congressional delegation had the opportunity to get to know Monsignor La Cerra more closely and to retribute some of the work he did for his parish by organizing an effort to increase public awareness on the need for organ transplant and donations. He underwent a successful heart transplant surgery and was able to continue his work in the Archdiocese of Miami.

I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this devoted spiritual leader and to express our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, may they find peace and comfort in the knowledge that he made significant differences in the many lives he touched. He will forever be remembered.

HONORING PAT LATRONICA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a very distinguished woman, Pat LaTronica of Pueblo, Colorado. Mrs. LaTronica passed away July 3, 2000 at the age of 62. She was best known for her work at a local restaurant as well as her charity work. With her warm heart and great eye for classy fashion, she brought a smile to patrons of her restaurant, no matter their age or background.

In addition to her work at the restaurant, Mrs. LaTronica was also an enthusiastic volunteer in her community. If it wasn't helping serve holiday dinners to those less fortunate, it was working hard on the board of directors of the Salvation Army. No matter the time of year, this wonderful woman could be found bringing smiles to the faces of citizens through her considerable volunteer efforts.

Mrs. LaTronica brought a spirit of joy to all of those around her no matter where or what she was doing. It is this sense of joy and happiness that will be missed, but not soon forgotten.

Ms. LaTronica was a great citizen and an even better person. She will be greatly missed by friends, family and the citizens of Pueblo.

IN HONOR OF THE UNION CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY, CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Housing Authority of Union City, New Jersey, celebrating a half-century of providing affordable housing to area families.

The 50th anniversary of the Union City Housing Authority is a wonderful cause for celebration. However, the real celebration lies in the extraordinary success the Authority has achieved in community building, which has led to its recognition as one of the top performing housing authorities in the nation.

This success has been accomplished through a clear understanding that building houses alone will not build communities. Compassion, hard work, dedication, and solid planning are the heart and mind of the Union City Housing Authority, and it is this heart and mind that builds prosperous communities.

When people envision public housing, they do not envision communities that provide for the spiritual and social needs of residents. Most picture dismal, neglected houses, empty streets, and residents disconnected from the mainstream.