TRIBUTE TO GENE KREKEL
HON. JAMES A. LEACH
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, a friend passed away this week. Who was Gene Krekel and why do we mourn his passing?

The irony in America is there are a lot of lawyer jokes. Actually good lawyers are the most respected people in the community. Gene personifies the best in his profession—the professional who is careful in judgment and caring in concern. His career and his life were charmed, his loyalty steady, and his trust fast to commitments.

Gene was a Republican, the Des Moines county Chairman and my campaign leader for many years, but Gene had as many Democratic as Republican friends. His commitment to his chosen party had little to do with partisanism and everything to do with selfless fair play.

American divides between two political teams, each with a great heritage. The mod-era-day trend is to accentuate differences, appeal to lowest-common-denominator instincts, and resort to divisive strategies. Gene was an old-fashioned political loyalist who was appalled by such tactics. He believed in principles and values, friendship rather than grudges.

None of us can imagine Gene's disappointment not to meet in this life his first grandchild due in just a few weeks. This tragedy is more poignant because Gene and Debbie suffered together one of the gravest of life's tragedies, the death of their son Eric in a car accident eight years ago.

In their close-knit family, nothing could have been sadder that the passing of this freckle faced boy who developed a genius for happiness and friendship.

Now Debbie and Molly are left alone, struck by the loss of the anchor of the family. Their grief is ours also.

This big man with a big hand and bigger heart will be much missed by all who had the good fortune to be touched by his gentleness.

GENERAL WELFARE
HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I recently spoke with a young high school student in the wake of the Katrina disaster. He was quite interested in discussing the taxpayers role in absorbing costs of reconstruction and relief in the affected areas. He was so enthusiastic, in fact, that he presented me with a research paper he drafted for his government class. The paper provides some interesting historical insights, and I submit it for the RECORD.
fire had swept through a large part of Wash-
ington D.C. leaving many people homeless
and in need of help. As one might expect,
many people wanted to help, including the
Congressmen of the States of America. The
morning after the fire, with compas-
sionate haste, Congress voted twenty thou-
sand dollars of the nation’s money to be
given to the victims of the fire. One well
known congressman in particular voted in
approval of this bill; his name was Davy
Crockett.

When Crockett returned to his home state,
he expected to be greeted with much praise
and approval for having extended kindness to
those who were in need. However, not only was
he met with a lack of appreciation from the
people, but he was also met with a lack of
appreciation from the Congressmen. Crockett
knew that he would be met with a lack of
appreciation from the Congressmen, but he
did not expect it. Crockett had voted on the bill
afore mentioned! A shocked and confused Crockett
asked him why he was not happy with his po-
tion on this bill. Bunce then reminded him
that the power to appropriate the funds was
crippled. The power to appropriate the funds was
crippled by the Constitution! Obviously, this clause is now vio-
lated which was grossly twisted and misinterpreted ever since the
Supreme Court, which has no authority to
write law, supported this ‘special welfare’
view of this clause in 1936. Now we pay taxes
and Congress uses them to pay for things
that do not help everyone equally in our na-
tion but fall instead to special people with
special needs. This is wrong and goes against
what the founder’s original intentions were
for the resource of the people’s money that
they have been entrusted to protect.

Members of Congress are supposed to
be reminded of what the Constitution actually says and
means so the abuse of this power will not
continue and true ‘general welfare’ can be
re-instated. Also today, with some recent
tragedies, do not think I am advocating for
the neglect of those in our country who are
truly in need. On the contrary, the much
needed special welfare for specific groups and
crisis can and should be encouraged where it
has always been best served—at the local in-
dividual, town, and/or state levels. Here is
where it can most effectively be given and
protected meeting the needs where they can
be more clearly understood and aided.

May we all become more respectful and re-
 sponsible with the interpretation of our Con-
stitution concerning our nation’s money
learning the lesson Davy Crockett learned so
long ago. May we also rise to the occasion
when it presents itself and dig deep in our
own pockets giving what is ours to give when
our fellow countrymen are in obvious need.
May we recognize this is what makes our
country so strong and great—this—our indi-
vidual liberty and character to do what is
right knowing one day it might be ourselves
who are in need of a helping hand!

May God bless America!

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT
INITIATIVES CORPORATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to
announce that tomorrow, Wednesday, Sept-
ember 28, 2005, the Local Initiatives Support
Corporation will celebrate its 25th anniversary
here in Washington. LISC certainly has a lot to
celebrate.

This national organization was born out of
the foresight of Mike Svirdoff and the Ford
Foundation, with just $10 million and the goal
of identifying 50 to 100 local economic devel-
ops. The Association developed a
alliance with the Toledo Warehouse District
Development Corporation to fund the Organized
Neighbors Yielding eXcellence (ONYX) CDC.
Another of LISC’s successes is a result of its
second focus is in improving
local community development environments.
The strength of the organization lies in its
abilities to forge partnerships among local
LISC programs, community organizations,
foundations, commercial interests, and state
and local governments. In addition, LISC
branches beyond its local focus by advocating
for neighborhood-based development and in-
forming related public policy decisions at
the federal level.

I have witnessed the value of LISC’s work
first hand, as our local branch has revitalized
many of the most distressed communities
in Toledo, OH. Toledo LISC currently funds one
dozen of our community development corpora-
tions, and over its 15-year presence has fund-
ed nearly two dozen. As of December 31,
2004, contributions from corporations, individ-
uals, small businesses and foundations total-
ing $3.6 million had leveraged nearly $60 mil-
ton for Toledo CDCs.

As a result of these investments, redevelop-
ment projects have replaced deteriorated
homes and buildings with sought-after housing
and commercial real estate. One such project
was the creation of Toledo’s newest sub-
division of market-rate single-family homes. Of
the ten new homes constructed thus far, nine
have already been sold. This development
was possible in part because of a pre-devel-
opment loan from Organized Neighbors Yielding
eXcellence (ONYX) CDC. Another of LISC’s successes is a result of its
alliance with the Toledo Warehouse District
Association. The Association developed
a mixed-use property with 11 lofts and 10
commercial spaces within walking distance of
a variety of entertainment venues. This project
was $2.9 million and included Historic Tax
Credits, Lucas County Linked Deposit, a city
of Toledo Economic Development Loan, a
Congressional special purposes grant, and
financing through Fifth Third and Sky Bank.
Additionally, the Corporation will celebrate
start-up funds from LISC.

Since welcoming LISC into my neighbor-
hood in 1989, it has been my honor to be
associated with the organization so important
to both our communities and the nation at large.
I congratulate LISC on its past successes and
its ongoing efforts to provide communities and
individuals alike to continue to support LISC and
its worthy mission of converting blighted
neighborhoods into vibrant communities.