

to five consecutive undefeated seasons, 147 games in all.

Blood left after the 1923–24 season, but the streak continued well into the next season, finally coming to an end in a 39 to 35 defeat at the hands of Hackensack High on February 6, 1925. It had been 159 games since the Indians had experienced a defeat, and the magnitude of their accomplishments did not go unnoticed. Coach Blood was the third coach ever elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame, and one of the team's greatest stars, Johnny Roosma, was also accorded that honor.

And to this day, the wonder teams of Pas-saic High are enjoying much-deserved accolades. On May 18 of this year, they will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey. Congratulations to the families and friends of all of those connected with these special athletes. Their accomplishments are rightly being enshrined into the memory of our great State, and memorialized for basketball fans across the country.

STATEMENT HONORING RAY AND BETTY WELLS

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the Girl Scout spring gala being held by the Girl Scout Council of Bergen County, May 12, in Teaneck, NJ. They will honor Ray and Betty Wells, who will receive the Girl Scouts Outstanding Achievement Award for their many years of service to the Girl Scouts and other community and civic organizations. Proceeds from this event will benefit nearly 10,000 girls and 2,500 Girl Scout volunteers.

Ray and Betty Wells, whom I have known for many years, are community leaders who are an inspiration to us all. Each has a résumé of service, activities, and dedication that is incomparable. Their energy and enthusiasm are endless. It is their brand of volunteerism and personal generosity that has made our county an exceptional place to work and raise a family. Bergen County has been blessed to have good citizens like Betty and Ray.

Betty Wells, a Girl Scout herself for 5 years as a young girl, worked as a volunteer in Girl Scouting for more than 25 years, highlighted by 10 years as the leader of Troops 350 and 276 in Paramus. She was a charter member of the Order of the Evergreen and is a recipient of the "Thanks" badge, the Girl Scouts' highest honor for adults. She served as the association chairwoman and service team chairwoman in Paramus.

Ray Wells became involved in the Girl Scouts through Betty's involvement, serving first for several years as the fund drive chairman in Paramus before ultimately taking on the fundraising efforts for all of Bergen County. He also served on the board of directors. An architect, he also wrote a Girl Scout manual on building.

The Wells' Girl Scout activities centered, of course, around their daughter, Holly, who enjoyed Girl Scouting from age 7 to 17 with her mother as troop leader. Holly today continues the tradition of shaping young people as

owner and operator of a preschool in Pennsylvania.

Holly, of course, is only one member of Ray and Betty's lovely family, to whom they are immensely dedicated. They have two other daughters, Kerry, a secretary who lives in Fair Lawn, and Julie, a nurse in Seoul, South Korea. Their son, Tom, is an attorney, Peter is director of the Paramus Building Department and Jeff is the principal of Wells Associates, the family architecture firm.

Betty and Ray, who both grew up in Lyndhurst, moved in 1953 and began their involvement in community service almost immediately. Both served as Sunday School teachers at the Old Paramus Reformed Church, where Ray was Sunday School superintendent and Betty was a choir member, deacon, and elder. Betty joined the Stony Lane Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization after their children began school, eventually becoming its president. She also was a member of or volunteered at the Paramus Junior Women's Club, the Paramus Garden Club, the Paramus Women's Club, the Juvenile Conference Committee, the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus, the Church Guild at Valley Hospital.

Ray was a member of or worked with the Paramus Jaycees, the George Washington Cemetery Board, the Aviation Hall of Fame, the Bergen County Regional Blood Center, the Oradell Planning Board, the Bergen Museum of Arts and Science, the Boy Scouts, March of Dimes, and United Way. He joined the Paramus Rotary Club in 1964 and went on to serve as a director, president, and district governor before becoming an international director of the service organization. He headed up Rotary projects as diverse as Polio Plus—an effort to eradicate polio—Preserve Planet Earth and restoration of the gazebo at Bergen Pines.

The Rotary motto best describes Ray and Betty: "Service Above Self." Their good work and service to their neighbors and fellow men are limitless. Four decades of community service is a record that few can even come close to matching. I give my heartfelt congratulations to the Wells and wish them the best for the future. We are all blessed to have you pass our way. God bless and Godspeed.

CHANGE OF COMMAND OF ADMIRAL SKIP DIRREN

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Rear Adm. Frank M. "Skip" Dirren, Jr., who has been the commander of Naval Base Jacksonville since July of 1992, and who will be leaving us tomorrow to accept a new command in Norfolk, VA. Admiral Dirren is a man of character, courage and compassion and an outstanding naval officer. I am proud to call him my friend.

If it is true that "nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else," as J.M. Barrie once said, then Skip Dirren has not done a lick of work since he joined the Navy in 1964. He loves his job and is the quintessential Navy man—patriotic, loyal, and devoted to duty. A decorated veteran heli-

copter pilot, he has made the Navy his life, and he exemplifies the virtues that I associate with the service at its best.

Skip is also a fine leader and good man to have in your corner, as he has consistently demonstrated during his tenure in Jacksonville. His turn at the helm of our Navy complex has helped to steer our facilities and personnel through some very rough waters, and he has strengthened the already good relationship between the community and its Naval facilities in many ways.

His community activism has particularly endeared him to our citizens, and his warmth and eloquence have made him a much sought-after speaker. In short, he has become a respected and beloved member of the community, and his generosity, his kindness, and his many talents will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, although the business of the House prevents me from attending Admiral Dirren's change of command ceremony tomorrow, my thoughts will be with him and his lovely wife, Susan, as they celebrate a job well done and prepare to enter a new chapter in their life together. I hope they know that they take with them the gratitude and affection of our entire city. I wish them both fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO MORTON GOULD: COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND FRIEND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight merely a few of the countless accomplishments in my dear friend Morton Gould's distinguished career, recently capped off by his receipt of the Pulitzer Prize for music composition.

A New York native, Gould began this career at the early age of six, when his first composition was published. His tutelage in piano and composition continued, and by age 21, he was conducting and arranging weekly orchestra radio programs for the WOR Mutual Network.

Perhaps Gould's most performed instrumental piece is his "Pavanne," from his "Second Symphonette." Other works familiar to all of us include "Latin-American Symphonette," "Spirituels for Orchestra," "Tap Dance Concerto," "Jekyll and Hyde Variations," and "American Salute."

The Library of Congress has commissioned his work, as well as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, The New York City Ballet, and the American Ballet Theater. He has composed scores for Broadway musicals, films, and both television movies and series.

Conductors worldwide have had the pleasure of directing performances of his compositions, and, as conductor, Gould has appeared with major orchestras in the United States, Japan, Australia, and Israel.

Some of Gould's other awards include a Grammy Award, several Grammy nominations, the 1983 Gold Baton Award, the 1985 Medal of Honor for Music from the National Arts Club, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1994. He received the Pulitzer Prize this year for "Stringmusic," which was composed at the

request of Director Rostropovich, to commemorate his last season as director of the Washington, DC, National Symphony Orchestra.

Gould served as president of ASCAP [American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers] from 1986 to 1994. He has been an ASCAP member since 1935 and a board member since 1959.

Certainly we have all benefited over the years from his work and know that future generations will benefit as well. Please join me today in honoring one of America's truest virtuosos.

SALUTE TO MR. ROBERT HEENAN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert T. Heenan, the business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 542, who is the 1995 recipient of the Salute to Labor Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Heenan joined the Operating Engineers Local 542 in 1948 after completing his service with the U.S. Army. He has served as the business agent, collection manager for the welfare and pension fund and the business manager for local 542.

In addition to his work with local 542, Mr. Heenan has served with distinction on the Pennsylvania State Housing Authority, the CETA board of Bucks County, PA and the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Heenan is the current vice president of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council and the Pennsylvania State AFL-CIO Council.

Mr. Heenan's commitment to community service has led to significant strides in neighborhoods throughout the Philadelphia region. Under Mr. Heenan's leadership, local 542's apprenticeship program has donated a great deal of assistance to local nonprofit groups. For example, Mr. Heenan is responsible for the reconstruction of two ballfields at seventh and Packer Streets in Philadelphia.

Mr. Heenan is also a long-time supporter of UNICO Charities the American Diabetes Association, and the Marine Corps League's toys for tots campaign.

I join the Philadelphia chapter on UNICO, Bob's wonderful wife Mary Heenan, and the Heenan children and grandchildren in recognizing Mr. Robert Heenan for his fine contributions to his country and community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and am confident that he will continue to be a great contributor to communities throughout the Delaware Valley.

THE MILITARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing H.R. 1611, the Military

Housing Assistance Act of 1995. The purpose of this measure is to enable active duty military personnel to purchase homes for themselves and their families in areas where the supply of suitable military housing is inadequate. As a result, the Department of Defense's on-base housing costs could be significantly reduced. This joint Department of Veterans' Affairs/Department of Defense [VA/DOD] program would be an excellent example of Federal agencies working together to enhance the lives of our armed services personnel while reducing DOD construction expenditures.

Under this program, DOD would be authorized to buy down the interest rate for certain active duty personnel purchasing off-base housing using the VA guaranteed home loan. This buydown would lower the monthly mortgage payment during the first 3 years of the loan. Loans covered by this proposal would, as is currently the case with VA home loans, be made by private lenders. The escrowed funds needed for the buydown would be provided to the lender by the VA. DOD would then reimburse the VA. These loans would be processed in the same way as any other VA loan which includes a buydown except that these loans would be underwritten at the second-year rate rather than at the full note rate, thus enabling more individuals to qualify for the loans. Additionally, DOD would be authorized to indemnify mortgagees against any loss, thereby covering the difference between the VA guaranty and any actual loss on the sale of the property.

Eligibility for these loans would be limited to all enlisted members and officers in the pay grade O-3 or below who are first-time users of the VA home loan program. Application for participation in this program would be made within 12 months of assignment to a housing shortage area. The service Secretaries would designate those bases that have a housing shortage.

An important component of this bill would require individuals participating in the program to participate in comprehensive prepurchase counseling. It has been demonstrated that counseling of this type results in borrowers who are better prepared to assume the responsibilities of homeownership. Additionally, VA would be authorized to assign qualified VA loan guaranty personnel to the bases designated as having housing shortages. These VA personnel would provide prepurchase counseling and loan servicing assistance and assist GI's with the purchase and subsequent sale of their homes.

After consulting with and obtaining the agreement of the VA, DOD would be authorized to transfer its property management jurisdiction to the VA. Thirty VA FTEE would be authorized to fulfill these responsibilities.

Under this bill, DOD would be authorized \$104 million and \$6 million would be authorized for the VA. VA estimates these amounts would provide for 32,000 loans per year.

I believe the Military Housing Assistance Act of 1995 would establish an excellent program, and I urge my colleagues who would like to cosponsor this measure to contact Bo Maske at 225-5031 or Beth Kilker at 225-9756.

REMARKS BY MAJ. GEN. VANG PAO AT THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 30, I was at the Vietnam Memorial here in Washington. I met personally with many Vietnam veterans and their families at the Wall there to remember the sacrifices of our soldiers and the 20th anniversary of the tragic fall of South Vietnam to communism.

One of the important ceremonies that I attended at the Wall was held by the Counterparts organization where thousands of Montagnards, Hmong, Laotians and Vietnamese attended to mark the 20th anniversary of the tragic and bloody Communist takeover of their homelands. Some of those in attendance at this somber and important event were Grant McClure, Commanding Officer of Counterparts and former advisor to the Montagnards in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, Ambassador Bill Colby former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Maj. Gen. Homer Smith head of the Defense Attaché Office during the fateful last hours in Saigon; Brig. Gen. Kor Ksor, a Montagnard leader; Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, Commander of Military Region II for the Royal Lao Army and head of Hmong Special Forces; General Thonglit Chokbenbun, Royal Lao Army Commander; Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt the distinguished Lao/Hmong scholar, author and photojournalist; and Philip Smith, Senior Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Congressman Don Ritter and current Director of the Center for Public Policy Analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is crucial for the United States and Thailand not to forget the tremendous sacrifices of our former Vietnamese, Montagnard, Hmong and Laotian allies during the Vietnam War. I call upon all Vietnam veterans and Americans to oppose the current U.S. State Department and Thai policy of forcibly repatriating many of these former Hmong and Vietnamese Special Forces Commandos and combat veterans from refugee camps back to the repressive Communist regimes that they fled.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to make a part of the public record the speech that Maj. Gen. Vang Pao gave at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony which describes so well the major contribution made by many of our former allies and so many American soldiers during the Vietnam war.

STATEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL VANG PAO

Dear Honorable Guests, Fellow Veterans, Ladies and Gentlemen: We are gathered here today at this ceremony to mark the 20th Anniversary of the tragic fall of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to invading Communist forces. But, we are also gathered here to recognize and honor those men and women who sacrificed and lost their lives in the Vietnam War—the Second Indochina War—fighting for freedom, democracy, and for the peace and security of Southeast Asia and the United States.

Tens of thousands of Lao and Hmong soldiers and their families who fought against the invading Soviet-backed North Vietnamese Army during the war are buried in unmarked graves in Laos and Vietnam. They