

for her perseverance in meeting many personal and professional challenges, for her accomplishment in winning NIB's Testimony to Work Essay Contest, and for setting an example of excellence for others.

Linda Overmoyer's submission to NIB's Testimony to Work Contest embodies the pride and accomplishment that results from pursuing excellence in her everyday life. Ms. Overmoyer, 47 and the mother of four grown children, and her husband Robert Overmoyer II, recently purchased their own home. Her employment at North Central Sight Services, Inc., in Williamsport, PA, has provided Ms. Overmoyer with full-time employment and benefits such as medical insurance and a retirement plan.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act was created by Congress to provide job opportunities for Americans who are blind. Through this act, Linda Overmoyer, who has been legally blind for 20 years and totally blind for 13 years, now has the satisfaction of helping other people who are blind. Ms. Overmoyer is a member of the Williamsport Lion's Club, through which she received her guide dog, and travels throughout central Pennsylvania speaking to other Lion's Clubs and youth groups about the ways in which her job and guide dog have increased her independence.

The following is Ms. Overmoyer's winning Testimony to Work essay:

PARTICIPATING IN THE "AMERICAN DREAM"

In May of 1983, my husband and I entered into a new phase of our lives. That was the time we began our employment with North Central Sight Services, Inc. It was also the beginning of something we had thought would be beyond possibility for us.

Some people in our society do not look upon this as anything great or beyond an everyday occurrence. Much like getting a glass of water. But when you're visually impaired, this becomes a challenge much like climbing that last great mountain.

Before our employment, we were like so many who are always on the receiving end of things and never able to fully participate in the natural flow of life. We were living in government housing, participating in the food stamp program, and dependent on government medical assistance.

Since our employment, and especially since the involvement of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB), life has become more concrete and provides more of a purpose. We are no longer in government housing, we are no longer in the food stamp program and we no longer partake of the medical assistance we once did.

When NIB became a part of our production facility and work became more secure, we felt the freedom to invest in the purchase of our own home. Also, benefits have come to us such as: paid holidays, sick leave, medical coverage (Blue Cross/Shield), bereavement days, and retirement plans. All of which have improved our present life and hopes for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRE SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the American fire service who answered the call

when fire threatened my district in Long Island. In a situation that could have been catastrophic to the people of Long Island, I learned firsthand the skills and generosity of the American fire service.

As everyone knows, the recent drought in New York led to the terrible wildfires which swept across Long Island this fall. The local fire service, aided by colleagues from across the country, fought heroically to fight the fires. Despite arid conditions and a heavy fuel load, the terrific firefighters were able to protect the residents of Eastern Long Island from any loss of life.

I am extremely pleased to report that all is now quiet on Eastern Long Island. The raging fire is no more; thanks to the determination and hard work of 3,000 firefighters who came from all over Suffolk and Nassau Counties, New York and even Connecticut; along with county, State and Federal fire experts.

Tired and exhausted, our firefighters dug deep to find the strength to carry on the face of such an ominous foe. They put the health and welfare of an entire Eastern Long Island community ahead of their own safety to stop the raging flames. The perseverance, determination, bravery, and courage of some 5,000 firefighters, police, emergency medical and other personnel can be summed up simply with the words of Bruce Stark, a 24-year-old firefighter from East Islip: "Citizens are depending on us, and if they bail out we have no hope."

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every firefighter who selflessly worked for days to extinguish the mammoth fire.

In those few days we witnessed first hand the acts of Long Island's solid-gold, true blue American heroes and on behalf of all of us in the community, I express the utmost gratitude to all who worked so successfully to save our homes, our businesses, our schools, and our churches and synagogues.

It is a tribute to the hard work and training of the American Fire Service and the firefighters of Long Island that the fires on Long Island didn't do more damage than they did. It is my pleasure to use the occasion of Fire Prevention Week to thank all the firefighters for what they did for the people of Long Island.

NATIONAL DAY

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Taiwanese people in celebrating the 84th anniversary of National Day which commemorates the revolution and overthrow of the Ching Dynasty.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has a dynamic economy that is the envy of the world. Taiwan has the 19th largest economy in the world and it holds nearly \$100 billion in foreign exchange reserves. The United States, moreover, is Taiwan's main foreign investor and trading partner.

By any measurable standard, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse that has earned its rightful place in the world community. Taiwan has unequivocally demonstrated that it cannot be relegated to the ash heap of history.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan can no longer be treated as a pariah, as a second class citizen within the international community of states. The Taiwanese people, through their sweat and toil, have built a great democratic nation that shines like a beacon of hope throughout Asia. Taiwan is a thriving and bustling democracy of 21 million people who demand their rightful place on the world stage.

Recent developments such as Beijing's guided missile test off the coast of northern Taiwan represents nothing more than a crude attempt at intimidating the Taiwanese people. Such efforts will not succeed in cowering the indomitable spirit of democratic reform in Taiwan.

It is time for the United States to take the lead in actively supporting Taiwan's full participation in and representation on major international organizations like the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. A political and economic force as important as Taiwan deserves no less. Taiwan's participation in these international regimes would in no way diminish, prejudice or challenge mainland China's current international status.

Moreover, private visits by Taiwanese officials to America, such as President Lee Teng-Hui's historic visit this past June, should be welcomed by the United States Government. This does not mean we should disregard the legitimate concerns of the People's Republic of China. Nor does it mean the United States should kowtow to Beijing's unwarranted threats.

The ultimate fate of Taiwan must be the product of peaceful negotiations between Beijing and Taipei, between the Chinese and Taiwanese people. Military force is not and can never be a viable option to resolve the Taiwan-Straits question. There is simply too much at stake for both Taiwan and China, and for the geopolitical stability of the Pacific-rim.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute the people of Taiwan for their tremendous democratic and economic accomplishments. Taiwan deserves and has earned our respect, admiration, and steadfast support.

HONORING JOSEPH KAMANSKY

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Kamansky who on October 20, 1995, will be honored by the West End YMCA by being inducted into their Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kamansky was born in Ontario in 1914 and attended Euclid Elementary School, Chaffey High School, and Chaffey Junior College. In partnership with his brother Louis, he began ranching in south Ontario. Five years later, in partnership with Fred Beal he began a 21-year career as the owner of a service station and garage. In 1962 he and his wife Rosalie, whom he married on August 1, 1936, began their successful real estate career. Joe quickly became active on many committees for the Inland Empire West Board of Realtors, and in 1975 was presented their first Realtor

Associate Award, followed with life membership in 1981 and membership for life by the California Association of Realtors in 1989. In 1976 Joe was elected to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors from the 2d district where he served with distinction until 1978.

The community and service to others has been a constant part of the life of Joe Kamansky. He was a sustaining member of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for many years. He served on the board of directors of the West End Boys Club for 5 years, volunteered as a Little League coach for 5 years, officiated at the Chaffey High School Invitational track meet for 33 years, and for 10 years sponsored the Eagle Scout Annual Dinner. Throughout all of his civic and community involvement, Joe is most recognized for his more than 40 years of service as a member of the board of directors for the West End YMCA. In 1975, he was named the YMCA Man of the Year. He found that through the YMCA he could do the most to benefit the community, working hand in hand with the youth of our community, helping to sustain and nurture our young people. Joe has found that the friendships and good people in the community made for a fine and lasting YMCA. His dedication and enthusiasm will always be appreciated, and will be passed on to the youth of our neighborhoods.

Joe truly deserves to be named to the West End YMCA Hall of Fame, and I salute his tireless efforts.

TRIBUTE TO COL. CHARLES P.
MURRAY, JR.

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, in a joint meeting, the Congress honored World War II veterans, their families, and those who served on the home front to ensure that freedom prevailed in that great conflict. This moving ceremony was part of the closing activities of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

Representing the Second Congressional District of South Carolina at the joint meeting was Medal of Honor recipient Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., who was accompanied by this wife, Anne. Colonel and Mrs. Murray reside in Columbia. Colonel Murray served valiantly in World War II. He is an outstanding patriot who is most deserving of the recognition that he has received. I would like to take this opportunity to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the entry of Colonel Murray, which appears in the publication "Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1978," prepared by the Committee on Veterans' affairs of the United States Senate. I feel that his example is an inspiration to all as we honor those, like Colonel Murray, who dedicated themselves to the call of duty to our great Nation in World War II.

MURRAY, CHARLES P., JR.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company C, 30th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Kayserberg, France, 16 December 1944. Entered service at: Wilmington, N.C. Birth: Baltimore, Md. G.O. No. 63, 1 August 1945. Ci-

tation: For commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kayserberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory. Descending into a valley beneath hilltop positions held by our troops, he observed a force of 200 Germans pouring deadly mortar, bazooka, machinegun, and smallarms fire into an American battalion occupying the crest of the ridge. The enemy's position in a sunken road, though hidden from the ridge, was open to a flank attack by 1st Lt. Murray's patrol but he hesitated to commit so small a force to battle with the superior and strongly disposed enemy. Crawling out ahead of his troops to a vantage point, he called by radio for artillery fire. His shells bracketed the German force, but when he was about to correct the range his radio went dead. He returned to his patrol, secured grenades and a rifle to launch them and went back to his self-appointed outpost. His first shots disclosed his position; the enemy directed heavy fire against him as he methodically fired his missiles into the narrow defile. Again he returned to his patrol. With an automatic rifle ammunition, he once more moved to his exposed position. Burst after burst he fired into the enemy, killing 20, wounding many others, and completely disorganizing its ranks, which began to withdraw. He prevented the removal of 3 German mortars by knocking out a truck. By that time a mortar had been brought to his support. 1st Lt. Murray directed fire of this weapon, causing further casualties and confusion in the German ranks. Calling on his patrol to follow, he then moved out toward his original objective, possession of a bridge and construction of a roadblock. He captured 10 Germans in foxholes. An eleventh, while pretending to surrender, threw a grenade which knocked him to the ground inflicting 8 wounds. Though suffering and bleeding profusely, he refused to return to the rear until he had chosen the spot for the block and had seen his men correctly deployed. By his singlehanded attack on an overwhelming force and by his intrepid and heroic fighting, 1st Lt. Murray stopped a counterattack, established an advance position against formidable odds, and provided an inspiring example for the men of his command.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN CUBA
POLICY

HON. DICK ZIMMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's proposed changes in our Cuba policy are wrong. Allowing U.S. news agencies to establish bureaus, allowing academic exchanges, and easing currency restrictions will only reward the Castro regime for maintaining an oppressive dictatorial regime over the Cuban people and will undermine congressional efforts to tighten the noose by strengthening economic sanctions. Castro will be succored by President Clinton's proposals.

There can be no reconciliation with the murderous regime that has enslaved the Cuban people for more than 36 years and continues to sustain itself by inflicting pain on the island nation. I must disagree with the comments attributed to Richard Nuccio, President Clinton's special advisor on Cuba, as reported in the Sunday edition of the New York Times when he characterized the administration's propos-

als as steps to help the Cuban people produce change.

I deeply regret the suffering of the Cuban people, but the greatest pain one could inflict on them is to allow Fidel Castro to continue in power.

I urge the Clinton administration to support congressional efforts to isolate the Castro regime and to create an international coalition that will force the end of Castro's rule.

I also urge my congressional colleagues to oppose the administration's policies of appeasement and to repudiate them unequivocally.

A 300TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE
TO PHILADELPHIA'S CHRIST
CHURCH

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Philadelphia's most renowned religious and historic institutions. As Christ Church of Philadelphia prepares to celebrate its tercentenary anniversary this November, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable longevity and history of this most special congregation.

Since the opening of its doors on November 15, 1695, Christ Church of Philadelphia has influenced and witnessed the development of our Nation. On July 20, 1775, the Continental Congress gathered at the church to worship. Before penning the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in 1776 and 1787, our Founding Fathers entered the halls of Christ Church for strength and guidance. The list of Christ Church's early congregants reads like a history text book. George Washington, Betsy Ross, and Benjamin Franklin were all members of the parish. Christ Church's adjacent graveyard is the final resting home for scores of American patriots including three of the six men who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Throughout its sacred history, the congregants of Christ Church have dedicated themselves to public and community service. The first African American Episcopal priest, Absalom Jones, was ordained Deacon at Christ Church in 1795. During the Civil War, members of Christ Church helped wounded soldiers. In World War I, Rector Louis Washburn established medical clinics and soup kitchens which assisted community residents through the Great Depression. In recent years, Rector James Trimble has led Christ Church in their coordination of the Philadelphia Interfaith Action Alliance which has raised more than \$4 million to build 1,000 low-cost homes for families in Philadelphia.

Commencing on November 10, 1995, Christ Church has planned a 10-day schedule of events to celebrate its Tercentenary. The highlight of this occasion will be a three day conference entitled, "The Soul of America in a World of Violence: A Religious Response." Continuing in Christ Church's rich history of social progress, this vital conference will assemble leaders from throughout the Nation to address how violence affects our cities, our children, and our Nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has already recognized the historical significance of Christ