

qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

#### TOURISM

### HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act of 1995. This bill establishes the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization to promote international travel and tourism to the United States.

Tourism is one of this country's largest exports. Presently the United States does not have an effective mechanism for promoting U.S. tourism. H.R. 2579 establishes a national tourism organization as a nonfederal and non-profit organization to implement a national travel and tourism strategy.

Tourism is the second largest industry in the Virgin Islands. In 1993 St. Croix, VI, had 23,740 jobs, but that amount decreased in 1995 to 17,850, according to the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce. When tourism in the U.S. Virgin Islands suffers it has a rippling effect—small businesses and retail shops who depend on tourism feel the impact when tourists are absent. The tourism market currently is depressed because of Hurricane Marilyn and because of the limited resources of the Virgin Islands government. The Virgin Islands is unable to attract tourists to spend money because they do not have the tax base to support national and international marketing activities.

The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act will enhance the limited resources of the Virgin Islands. Presently we do not have a national strategy which links State and local marketing with national marketing activities. This legislation will create a national and local marketing strategy for tourism.

#### THE CAIRO-DURHAM ELKS LODGE PROMOTES RESPECT FOR OUR FLAG

### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, back on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress of the United States adopted a resolution that gave us the stars and stripes that are our American flag. This June 14, 1996, we will celebrate the 219th Flag Day and this Sunday, June 9, 1996, the Cairo-Durham Elks Lodge will be holding their annual Flag Day celebration to commemorate that most significant occasion.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you why it is so important that organizations like the Elks Lodge No. 2630, serving the towns of Cairo and Durham, NY, take the time to recognize Flag Day

and the American flag. It is because our flag is unique and so is Flag Day. To my knowledge, no other nation has a holiday like it. No other nation has a special day when its people gather, as those will gather at the Catskill Elks Lodge, to honor the flag as a special symbol.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is what makes our flag and Flag Day unique. It represents a unique nation, the strongest, freest, greatest nation on Earth. No other flag is anchored so securely in the hearts of a people like Old Glory is in ours.

Let us stop for a moment and consider why that is. It is because of civic organizations and people like those in the Cairo-Durham Elks Lodge who continually remind us of the importance of our flag. It is because of their efforts to raise public awareness of the flag and all that it stands for that Old Glory commands the devotion, respect, and reverence that it does.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to address the members of the Cairo-Durham Lodge as Brother Elk. The Elks are devoted to promoting pride, patriotism, and voluntarism and do more than anyone when it comes to those goals. The benevolent and protective order of Elks have helped to relight the fire of patriotism in every American citizen and through their voluntary acts on behalf of the community, they have helped to reach our young people in whose hands the future of America depends.

But, Mr. Speaker, I owe my Brother Elks in the Cairo-Durham area and around the country another expression of my personal gratitude. That is because they stood beside me and the overwhelming majority of Americans, who wanted to see Old Glory, our most visible and beloved symbol, protected by the Constitution, our most sacred and beloved document. I am referring, of course, to the constitutional amendment to prevent the physical destruction of our flag that passed overwhelmingly right here in the House Chamber, only to be defeated by just two votes in the Senate. As long as lodges like those serving Cairo and Durham continue to impress upon our fellow Americans the significance of our flag and what it means to America, I am confident we can afford it this ultimate protection it so richly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and all Members of the House join me in tribute to the Cairo-Durham Elks Lodge for all they have done to spread appreciation for the American flag and our country throughout their community. For those efforts, they are all truly great Americans.

#### TRIBUTE TO KARL DEROUEN

### HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a friend from Eunice, LA, Karl DeRouen.

Karl DeRouen, better known as King Karl in Eunice for his long standing career in radio broadcasting, was recently inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Fame [LHOF]. The LHOF is a relatively new organization which salutes men and women in the music and entertainment industry who are originally from Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, King Karl exceeds all the criteria for this honor. Karl was born in Eunice in 1934 and grew up on the same block as the present location of KJJB and KEUN radio stations. Back then though, there were no stations on the block.

Throughout his high school years he would listen to sportscaster Bill Stern and had dreams of some day becoming a sportscaster. That dream has become a reality as Karl is the broadcaster for the Indian Creek bass tournament and voice of the Eunice High Bobcats and Saint Edmund High Bluejays for over 25 years—both well known athletic teams and followed by the locals of Eunice.

Karl began his career in radio at the age of 18, signing on each morning at 6 a.m. He became the early morning wake up voice for the people of Eunice. He was the entertainment during breakfast and the local voice delivering the local news. It was his voice of kindness who would recognize someone's birthday, mention a person by name who suffered an illness, or praised a local person who had rendered a good deed. As Karl puts it, "We can please people" and he realized his road to success would be determined by those whom he pleased.

Karl DeRouen's life-long ambition was to be a radio personality. He recently said, "I would like to be remembered 50 years from now as someone who has made someone's life a little brighter and a little better".

Mr. Speaker, Karl DeRouen, now the owner of KJJB and KEUN, not only has fulfilled a dream but has generated a legacy for his family which will be remembered by the people of Eunice, LA for decades to come.

King Karl is the father of my scheduler, Mrs. Anne Jasien.

#### HONORING BALTIMORE POSTAL DISTRICT MANAGER RICHARD RUDEZ

### HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service and its employees take great pride in providing a basic service to the American public. They are dedicated to excellence and I know this from firsthand experience delivering mail 1 day earlier this year in the Highlandtown neighborhood of Baltimore. So it is particularly gratifying when the top area manager of these dedicated employees receives formal recognition.

On May 8, the Maryland Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration selected Baltimore Customer Service District Manager Richard Rudez of Bel Air, MD, to receive the Clifford R. Gross Award for Federal Public Service.

As a 25-year Postal Service veteran, Baltimore Customer Service District Manager Rudez is responsible for post office operations throughout the State of Maryland, except those in southern Maryland and the Washington, DC suburbs. The Postal Service's Baltimore District is the ninth largest employer in the State of Maryland. It employs over 9,400 employees in 305 post offices, and provides mail delivery to 1.3 million addresses and a population of 3.5 million.

Mr. Rudez was selected for this award because of his outstanding sustained contribution as a public administrator. His achievement is not limited to the Postal Service. Mr. Rudez serves as chairman of the Federal Executive Board, and has contributed his services to a number of community organizations including: Member, vice president, and recording secretary, parish council, St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church; vice chairman, United Negro College Fund Walk-A-Thon; Federal Executive Board cochair for the Combined Federal Campaign; member of Greater Baltimore Committee; and member of the Baltimore and Hartford County Chambers of Commerce.

As the chairman of the Federal Executive Board, Mr. Rudez has sought to improve the coordination between the various Federal agencies and other governmental jurisdictions. Working with the Baltimore City Schools, he revitalized the Postal Service Wee Deliver Program and joined in a partnership in education to encourage other groups to commit their expertise, skills, and time in a united effort to enhance the public school curriculum and student matriculation. In 1995, the Postal Service Baltimore District was the recipient of the Greater Baltimore Committee's Mayor's Business Recognition Award.

This award exemplifies excellence in public service and I am pleased to join the American Society of Public Administration in saluting Rich Rudez and his record of service to the postal customers and citizens of the State of Maryland.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRED RICHARDSON

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an accomplished educator, a community leader, and a dear friend, Mr. Fred Richardson. After 38 quality years spent in school systems across Michigan and Indiana, Mr. Richardson will be stepping down this year as superintendent of St. Joseph Public Schools.

Mr. Richardson began his education career as a teacher in 1958 in Shipshewana, IN. He was quickly promoted to principal and spent time at the helm of a number of schools in Indiana before returning to teach and become principal in Fennville in his native Michigan. After spending many years with the Hillsdale Community Schools, he was eventually recognized for his talents and promoted to superintendent.

In 1982, he left Hillsdale to assume the same role in the St. Joseph Public Schools. During his tenure there he was able to turn the cash strapped organization around, balancing the system's books and creating an abundance of financial reserves. In fact, the district just recently became debt free thanks in part to Mr. Richardson's guidance.

Praised by staff, faculty, and school boards, Mr. Richardson has always cared most about the kids. Time and time again, his efforts with the children of Michigan have earned him high marks. A truly first-class individual, Mr. Richardson has also found time in his busy schedule to share his experience with the next generation of educators by teaching at Western Michigan University.

As Fred enters this next stage of his life, my wife Amey joins me in wishing him a long and healthy retirement. Thank you, Fred, for so many great years of quality service to southwest Michigan. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Fred Richardson on his retirement from a remarkable, 38-year-long career in education.

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 1996*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, June 5, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

After years of stop and go growth with periods of high inflation and high unemployment, the U.S. economy seems to have settled into a state of moderate growth during the past five years, with low inflation and unemployment and steady job creation. Southern Indiana has benefited from these broad economic trends. Almost 50,000 new jobs were created in Indiana last year and the state unemployment rate fell to 4.6%, a full point below the national average.

But new challenges for businesses and workers lay ahead, as rapid changes in technology, new ways of delivering services, and tough foreign competition alter the economic landscape across the U.S. and in southern Indiana. Last September, during two roundtable discussions I held in Batesville and Corydon, several local business leaders told me that the most important thing we can do to meet the challenges ahead is to improve the educational system in southern Indiana for our young people and expand the opportunities for current workers to acquire new skills.

To follow up, I recently held two additional roundtable discussions in Scottsburg and Jasper to explore what is being done locally to improve education and job training. The discussions were encouraging. The school systems, colleges, local development corporations, and private companies represented in the discussions all seem to be taking the problem of workforce quality seriously and are doing some innovative things to ensure high quality education and job training in southern Indiana.

#### IMPROVING THE HIGH-SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Local school systems are making significant changes to improve the quality of public education. Many are adding courses, raising requirements, and expanding teacher training. Some, like Union County, will be requiring students to show competency in four skill areas to graduate, using both written and oral exams. Programs for students not going to college are being upgraded by making the courses more relevant to today's job market and by integrating them with postsecondary vocational programs.

#### IMPROVING SCHOOL-TO-WORK AND CAREER COUNSELING PROGRAMS

Some school systems are developing innovative ways for students to test the world of work before graduation. For example, one school system has developed school-to-work labs allowing young people to learn and build job skills through actual on-the-job experiences. Others are starting career counseling as early as elementary school to acquaint students with different occupations. Some

schools are putting more resources into counseling programs for students not going to college.

#### STRENGTHENING BUSINESS-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

In many communities, businesses are taking a more active role in working with schools. In Batesville, a business-school-community partnership has raised more than \$1 million to buy computers for the local schools. The Scott County Manufacturers Forum has developed a workforce competitiveness strategy with the schools which includes an agreement that employers will get a high school diploma or GED as a basic job requirement. There is also a summer jobs program where youth learn about various jobs by "shadowing" workers and a learning exchange program where teachers and private employers spend some time in each other's workplace.

#### IMPROVING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Some impressive developments in vocational education are occurring at both the high school and college levels in southern Indiana. Ivy Tech in cooperation with local development corporations has created customized training programs for local employers, like running a basic skills program at one company or training 250 people for welding jobs at another. Some favor the tech prep program, under which a student can begin a vocational program during the last two years of high school and finish it with two years of study at a college like Ivy Tech.

#### USING THE INTERNET FOR EDUCATION

Technology is making major changes in how students acquire information about the world around them. The Wilson Education Center in Charlestown has set up an area-wide project providing Internet services to schools in southern Indiana, giving 4,500 teachers and 75,000 students in grades K-12 access to educational information from around the world. The Southeastern Indiana Rural Telephone Cooperative is also providing Internet access to schools.

#### GREATER USE OF DISTANCE LEARNING

Technology is also making it possible for college students to take courses and earn degrees from distant colleges and universities. The Southeastern Indiana Electronic Campus has been set up—a unique system of higher education with 10 learning centers offering 150 courses and more than a dozen degree programs by two-way TV. At Vincennes University Jasper Center, students can use the Indiana Higher Education Television Service to earn an MBA from Ball State University, or to take courses in the Purdue Continuing Education program, or soon to earn a nursing degree from the University of Southern Indiana.

#### BETTER LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

Steps are also being taken to help older workers upgrade their skills as the economy changes. Colleges are rearranging their schedules to provide more courses during evening and weekend hours. Local communities are setting up adult education centers, where older workers can take courses and earn their GED. One-day non-credit courses focus on specific skills, like learning how to use a computer.

While much progress has been made in these and other ways to improve education and job training in our area, the roundtable participants still found room for improvements. Business representatives talked about the need to instill a good work ethic in younger workers and said that schools should focus on teaching good basic skills—math, reading, communication—while businesses should focus on specific job training. Other suggestions included even better communication between businesses and the