

Indeed, everyone in Tigerton should be very proud of their village's first 100 years.

All of us can look backward on a century of achievements large and small, of four generations of hard-working and God-fearing families.

But this centennial also marks a time to look forward to the future.

The pioneering spirit that inspired the people of Tigerton in its first century lives on today, stronger than ever.

I am confident that the people of Tigerton will make their second century a time of unbounded opportunity and success.

Tigerton and each city and town of our great country and our great State of Wisconsin is unique, but all are bound together in the love of these United States.

As the people of Tigerton commemorate this anniversary, we have a splendid opportunity to renew our commitment to preserve the spirit which has forged America into a land of wonder. I am proud to join you, the people of Tigerton, in making such a commitment on this historic occasion.

Mr. Speaker, with hearty congratulations and best wishes for continued milestones, I salute the village of Tigerton.

HONORING HENRY A. DAWSON

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding individual from my district, Mr. Henry A. Dawson. Mr. Dawson will retire this month after 22 years of dedicated service as the executive director of the Springfield Girls Club Family Center.

A native of Rocky Mount, NC, Mr. Dawson enjoyed distinguished military and athletic careers before arriving in Springfield in 1970 to pursue a masters degree at Springfield College and to begin his tenure at the Girls Club Family Center. For the last 22 years Henry Dawson has served as the executive director of the Family Center and has touched the lives of thousands of young people in the Springfield area.

Under Mr. Dawson's direction, the Family Center established many outstanding programs. Among these projects are the Project Extra Plus and Project Extra Plus Preschool, which provided day care with a large variety of recreational activities for school-age and preschool children during nonschool hours. In addition, Mr. Dawson also established the Family Center City Camp which provided day care for 150 children during the summer months, and Camp Mishnoah, a summer resident camp that provided a quality multicultural camping experience for thousands of girls who might otherwise have been denied such an experience.

Mr. Dawson's ability to create outstanding programs for young people is possibly surpassed only by his ability to raise the funds to keep these programs in operation. Over the years, the Family Center has experienced major funding reductions, and despite this loss, the center's budget has grown and shown an average annual excess of \$37,000. This is the result of proven investment practices by Mr. Dawson that have enabled the

Family Center to accumulate a respectable endowment and operate deficit free for the past 22 years. This sound fiscal management will ensure that the Family Center will continue its outstanding work for many years to come.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional district of Massachusetts, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to Henry Dawson for his tireless work with young people and wish him the best as he begins his retirement. His contributions to the youth of Springfield are immeasurable and I am honored to represent such an outstanding individual. People like Henry Dawson are the reason the Boys and Girls Clubs of America have been able to make such a difference in the lives of America's youth for the past century. Thank you Henry and good luck.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THORNDALE HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the second time in as many years for the same reason, to recognize the Thorndale High School Bulldogs for their State football championship.

I extend my sincere congratulations to head coach Don Cowan and the Bulldogs of Thorndale, TX, who captured the 1995 Class 1A State Championship on December 23, 1995 before a crowd of 8,000 at Gordon Wood Stadium in Brownwood, TX. Defeating the Roscoe Plowboys 14 to 7, the Bulldogs extended their winning streak to 32 games. This feat places Thorndale in a select class with 4 other schools as the only teams in Texas high school football history to post back-to-back 16-win seasons.

The Bulldogs won their second consecutive State championship and third in 6 years with intense defense. Thorndale's defense, stingy all year, held its opponents to single-digit scoring in all but four of its games, six of which were shutouts. The Bulldogs' defense was so tenacious against Roscoe that it forced four interceptions and limited the Plowboys to only nine first downs, two in the second half.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and honoring true champions—the players, coaches, students, parents, and citizens of Thorndale, TX.

IN SUPPORT OF ADVANCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY ELSEWHERE

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton once wrote:

... the best strategy to ensure and build a lasting peace is to support the advance of democracy elsewhere.

I concur with this statement, and I add that in order to establish security within our own borders, we must also ensure democracy and security within the borders of the countries

close to the United States. Guatemala is one of those countries.

Mr. Speaker, the second round of elections in Guatemala are to be held on January 7, 1996. The people of Guatemala are praying for a legitimate, democratic election. One that will guarantee substantial changes from the past governments and give them hope for true democracy in their own country. If this does not come to pass, then more Guatemalans will come illegally into the United States. At this time, just in Florida alone, there are more than 50,000 Guatemalan immigrants who have come in hopes of finding the American dream of true democracy and justice, something they have been denied for years in their own country. The corruption in Guatemala must stop, and the United States is the only country that has the power to terminate such activity.

Both the President and Congress should make it a priority to see that honest, fraudulent-free elections are held there. As with the elections in Haiti and Nicaragua, the United States should send a cadre of officials to Guatemala to ensure that the voters will not be coerced in any way. The resources that we are currently utilizing to maintain illegals within our country would be better spent tending to the elimination of such corruption, which drives emigres to our soil. Additionally, we should always consider the quality of life for U.S. citizens who reside in these strained countries.

Mr. Speaker, we seek the security of our Nation and we hold dear our own ideals, but too often we disregard the ideals of others living in nations less fortunate, where corruption runs rampant. By taking precautions now, we can lighten the burdens we will have to carry later. I therefore urge President Clinton to order the State Department to monitor the upcoming election in Guatemala, so as to ensure that they are fair and democratic.

IN CELEBRATION OF ELMER AND MARY SIMONIS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Elmer and Mary Simonis in celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. For 50 years, Elmer and Mary have demonstrated true devotion and commitment to each other, their family, and their community.

Throughout his career, Elmer's work with the space program led to his involvement in producing the guidance systems for our moon shots. He also spent time assembling the moon buggy. Mary kept busy with the children's Parent-Teacher Association, Brownies, and Girl Scouts. And, she still found time to work as a nurse's aid in a local hospital.

Together they have resided for 21 years on Grove Street in Muskego, WI. Here they raised three lovely daughters, Mary, Donna, and Annette. Growing up, the girls had wonderful role models in parents who were active in various school and church functions. Now, the Simonis' love extends further to their nine beautiful grandchildren.

As we begin 1996, it is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest wishes for a wonderful 50th anniversary and many more happy returns to Elmer and Mary Simonis.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ZICARELLI

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Pat Zicarelli, who is the outgoing president of the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors. Under Pat's aggressive leadership, the association expanded membership services, became deeply involved in community affairs, and raised significant funds for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. With his energy and enthusiasm, Pat was an excellent leader for the association. His successor will find him a tough act to follow.

Pat has a 20-year history of participation in civic, community, and business affairs, in the San Fernando Valley. Indeed, his resume is crowded with credits. To cite a few of many examples: Pat is serving a second term as president of the Tarzana Chamber of Commerce, has been an executive business fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, has worked with local crime watch programs, and for 2 years was on the board of directors of the Miss California USA Pageant.

Not surprisingly, Pat has been the recipient of numerous awards through the years. In 1982, he was named Realtor-Associate of the Year by the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors; in 1992 Assemblyman Richard Katz selected Pat to receive the San Fernando Valley Small Business Owner of the Year Award. Pat was also given the Outstanding Person of the Year Award by the Tarzana Chamber of Commerce.

As president of the Valley Association of Realtors, Pat championed the adaptation of new technologies. Always on top of the latest innovations, Pat improved and expanded CRIS-NET, which is widely recognized as one of the industry's most advanced real estate information systems. He has positioned the association to be a key player in the information age.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Pat Zicarelli, who has just concluded a successful tenure as president of the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors. His commitment to business and dedication to his community are an example for us all.

BUDGET IMPASSE DERAILS BENEFITS FOR RAILROAD RETIREES

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, Emperor Nero fiddled while his capital, Rome, burned to the ground.

Now the Imperial Republican-controlled Congress here in Washington would rather keep the Federal Government shut down than do the people's business. Their actions are driving Federal workers and Federal contractors to the brink of financial disaster.

Besides the Federal workers and Federal suppliers, there are other victims of the Federal shutdown: the retired railroad workers and their families.

While Speaker GINGRICH and other House Republicans rang in the New Year by cele-

brating with friends and family more than 170,000 railroad retirees had their monthly pension checks severely cut.

Had the Republican leadership done its job on time, these railroad retirees would be receiving their vested dual benefits checks that average \$130 per month. That means that more than 13,000 beneficiaries in Pennsylvania and others across the Nation will receive only partial annuity checks.

For some railroad retirees their Medicare part B premiums will consume their entire benefit checks. The bill that contains the funding for these railroad retirees has not even been brought to the Senate floor.

To add insult to injury, Speaker GINGRICH has announced his intentions to recess the House until January 23. This makes no sense.

Railroad retirees spent their entire careers keeping our trains operating on time. This is no time to forget railroad retirees and their families. Keep the Congress at work and restore full benefits to these railroad retirees.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BROWN-FIELDS REDEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, environmental cleanup and economic redevelopment of old, abandoned industrial sites is a critical issue for cities across America. These unproductive, often polluted sites are called brownfields.

There are over 400,000 brownfield sites scattered across the United States. Over the last decades, these brownfield sites have become not only public health and pollution problems, but also serious impediments to the economic health of the surrounding communities. Because the risk of assuming financial liability for a brownfield site is so great, potential purchasers and lenders have shied away from redevelopment of such properties. The result has been the loss of job opportunities and tax revenue in many communities, blighted neighborhoods, and the expensive, unnecessary, and wasteful construction of infrastructure like roads and sewers at new "greenfield" sites in nearby communities.

Affordable financing is one of the major stumbling blocks in the cleanup and reuse of brownfield sites. The Brownfields Redevelopment Act, which I am introducing today, seeks to address and ease the financial impediments to brownfield redevelopment through two separate provisions. First, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act would create a substantial tax incentive for private sector brownfield cleanups. In many cases, companies which are in the process of building new facilities might prefer to build these facilities on brownfield sites, where the necessary public infrastructure—roads and sewers, for example—is already in place and where a ready supply of prospective employees live nearby. However, the cost of environmental remediation and the risk of future financial liability has too often caused companies to shy away from such otherwise desirable locations. Cleaning up hazardous waste sites is an expensive, risky, and often time-consuming process. To provide an incentive for brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act

would create a tax credit for private sector environmental remediation.

Specifically, this bill would provide a 50-percent tax credit for environmental remediation expenses incurred in completing a cleanup plan approved by the EPA or a designated State agency. In order to target this tax credit at the most potentially productive sites, the tax credit would be restricted to those sites that meet the following four criteria: the site has had no productive use for at least 1 year; the site would be unlikely to undergo redevelopment without tax credit assistance; the site has a strong likelihood of creating jobs and expanding the tax base after redevelopment; and the planned environmental remediation and redevelopment would be completed in a reasonably short period of time. The tax credit would also be available only to "innocent owners" of polluted property. It is my hope that such a tax credit will stimulate increased brownfield cleanup and redevelopment all across the country.

If this credit is successful in encouraging brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, it will bring jobs and revitalization to thousands of communities across the country. I believe that the benefits such redevelopment would provide by revitalizing our central cities would far outweigh the cost of the credit. Moreover, the costs of allowing these sites to remain vacant and contaminated are—while less obvious—quite substantial.

The second provision of the Brownfield Redevelopment Act would modify the Internal Revenue Code's existing qualified redevelopment bond [QRB] provisions to specify that environmental remediation was an allowable use of such bonds. The interest paid on qualified redevelopment bonds—bonds which are used for financing redevelopment in designated blighted areas—is tax-exempt. As a result, municipalities that issue such bonds can pay lower interest rates when they borrow money for redevelopment projects. In effect, the Federal Government subsidizes local governments' redevelopment activities through this Tax Code provision. Although brownfield sites are clearly blighted areas, environmental remediation is not specifically identified in the Tax Code as an allowable use of qualified redevelopment Bond proceeds. To address this oversight, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act would add environmental remediation to the list of activities that qualify for the use of the proceeds from the sale of qualified redevelopment bonds. This change would allow local governments to borrow money for brownfield cleanup at slightly less than market rates.

The bill would also waive a number of existing QRB restrictions when the bonds were issued for environmental remediation activities. Most importantly, the Brownfields Redevelopment Act would waive a section of the current law that requires that designated blighted areas be at least 100 acres in size. The great majority of brownfield sites desperately in need of redevelopment are much smaller than 100 acres. Many, in fact, are only a few acres. Consequently, this and similar requirements would be modified under the Brownfields Redevelopment Act to address the special conditions that are often associated with brownfield sites.

The QRB provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Act would be nearly revenue-neutral. While thousands of brownfield sites would be eligible for redevelopment using tax-exempt