

was presented a special recognition from the Vatican for her efforts in working with the Apostleship of the Sea World Conference held in Houston. And last year, the seafarers center presented her with the Tall Ship Award, which goes to an individual not directly involved in the maritime field who has served the seafarers center.

A recent profile of Lou Lawler in the Houston Chronicle had this headline: "The Jewel of La Porte: Lou Lawler Loves to Give to the Community." Through her work at the seafarers' center, Lou's love has rippled around the world. Although we will never be able to match what Lou has done for us, this Friday is an opportunity for our community to give some of that love back to Lou. We thank her for her friendly smile and her warm greeting. We thank her for her leadership by example. We thank her for reminding us every day how much difference one person can make.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS POLONSKI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nicholas Polonski, the founder of the Northside Community Development Council in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, NY. Mr. Polonski has been a tireless advocate for the residents of the Northside neighborhood of Brooklyn for over 40 years.

The Northside Community Development Council was formed by Nick Polonski after he had led a successful fight against a large paper machinery company located in Greenpoint. His experience in community advocacy is vast. He has successfully advocated for tenants' rights, for welfare for needy people, and against the planned closure of a firehouse, among many other causes.

As a serviceman in World War II he was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action for having saved the lives of wounded officers during enemy combat. He repeated such valiant acts following his return to civilian life by saving the life of a police officer in a motorcycle accident many years later.

The Northside Community Development Council celebrated its success on September 6, 1996 by holding its annual dinner and dance. At that dinner-dance, the council honored Brooklyn Borough president Howard Golden; Monsignor David Cassato of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Pat Ferris, district coordinator for senator Martin Connor; John Talma, executive assistant to councilman Ken Fisher; David Sweeney, executive director for Greenpoint Manufacturing & Design Center; James Mallon, executive director for Northside and Peter McGuinness Senior Citizen Centers; Tillie Tarantino, executive director of Swinging 60's Senior Center; Captain Fries, commanding officer of the 94th Precinct; and John McDonough, vice president of Republic Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in tribute to Nicholas Polonski for his commitment to the well-being of his community. I also want to stand in recognition and appreciation of the success of the Northside Community Development Council and to the talent and dedication to public serv-

ice of those honored at its annual dinner dance celebration.

BIPARTISANSHIP

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington report for Wednesday, August 14, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

LEGISLATIVE WRAPUP: A CASE FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

Only a few months ago the 104th Congress was being widely criticized as one of the least productive sessions in modern history: a Congress long on promise but short on results, a Congress that was very busy, spending long hours in session, but achieving very little. Its sessions were as contentious and uncompromising as any in memory, epitomized by the bitter fight over the budget that closed much of the government for a total of 27 days and set a new low for harsh debate. This Congress was on the brink of failure, blocked by the ideological fervor of the majority that could not be translated into laws.

But that changed in the last week of the congressional session before the August recess. In a flurry of legislative activity; Congress, with my strong support, approved several important bills, including: landmark welfare legislation, a health insurance bill, a catch-up minimum wage bill, a rewrite of the safe drinking water laws, and a package of incentives for small business. This Congress can now boast a stronger record of achievement after a very rocky and unproductive start.

WHAT HAPPENED

What brought the majority and minority together after months of gridlock was a shared fear on the part of the Members of returning to their constituents this fall empty handed and the willingness to compromise on extreme positions. Ideology quickly gave way to pragmatism, and Republicans and Democrats struck deals with each other and the President to shape legislation. They decided that they needed laws enacted, not just confrontational issues. The difference in attitude was most striking among the House leadership. The Speaker, who shunned compromise only last year, is now praising the importance of compromise.

Now there is a scramble among the parties to claim credit for the recent successes. Some Members claimed it was the greatest week in the history of the Congress and the most significant Congress in a generation, but by any reasonable measure that is overstating the record. This Congress' modest accomplishments scarcely measure up to the Congresses of the past which adopted the Bill of Rights, emancipated the slaves, approved the Social Security Act, or oversaw two world wars. But without any doubt the last week of July saw the most serious legislative week in the 104th Congress. The virtues of bipartisanship have been rediscovered and there has been a rush of important legislation.

WHAT WAS APPROVED

The bills that were passed in a burst of lawmaking do alter the lives of millions of Americans. The bills impact on everything from paychecks to the purity of tap water. They include:

Welfare reform.—Congress passed a major overhaul of the federal welfare program by

ending the federal guarantee to the poor, limiting assistance to five years requiring recipients to work in exchange for benefits, and giving states more flexibility to administer their programs.

Health insurance.—Congress approved a modest health insurance bill which expands access to health insurance by making it easier for people to get coverage when they have pre-existing medical conditions, and to keep it when they change or lose jobs. The measure also gradually increases the deductibility of self-employed health costs from 30% to 80%.

Minimum wage.—Congress increased the minimum wage for the first time in five years, raising the hourly wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 over a two-year period.

Small business incentives.—The minimum wage bill also includes incentives for small businesses: an increased deduction for business-related equipment costs, more flexible rules on subchapter S corporations, and several other measures to encourage business growth.

Environmental laws.—Congress also approved two important environmental bills. It passed a rewrite of the safe drinking water law which gives the Environmental Protection Agency more flexibility in regulating contaminants in drinking water and provides assistance to states and localities in complying with the law. Congress also revised food safety laws to increase protections for children while easing burdensome restrictions on helpful pesticides.

Among the other important achievements of this Congress are a sweeping overhaul of the telecommunications law, the most significant rewrite of federal farm programs since the Great Depression, and a long-awaited measure to give the President a line-item veto power.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

It is important, however, not to overstate the legislative success of the last week. After all, the minimum wage and the health insurance bills are fairly modest and conventional pieces of legislation. The minimum wage increase simply compensates for some of the effects of inflation, and is not really an advance. The health insurance bill makes a modest improvement in the health care system by making it easier for people who already have insurance to keep it if they can afford it. That is a useful step, but it does not begin to deal with the two great problems of health care: the rapidly escalating cost of care and the fact that one-seventh of the population of the country is still uninsured. The safe drinking water bill was enacted because it promises a large amount of federal aid to communities to improve their water systems.

CONCLUSION

I think the legislative legacy of the 104th Congress has for all practical purposes been written in the last few weeks. In September the Congress might add to its list of accomplishments as it finishes work on bills to crack down on illegal immigration, take new steps to combat terrorism, and reform some other programs like housing. But most of the rest of the session will be dominated by work on routine appropriations bills and on a few hot button social issues, such as an override vote on the President's veto of a bill outlawing late term abortions, a bill to make English the official language of the United States, and a bill to allow states to deny recognition to same-sex marriages.

I think the Nation has been well-served as Congress has moved from gridlock to a more positive phase. People have been turned off by efforts to promote a revolutionary agenda, to shut government down, and to fight ideological wars. I've always felt the American people have a strong strain of pragmatism about them and my guess is they

will approve the pragmatic methods and incremental bills that have been passed in recent weeks.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH BOCKBRADER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 183

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that we can never thank our veterans enough for putting their lives on the line in defense of our Nation. As a veteran myself, I am aware of the tremendous service veterans organizations give to their communities and the country as a whole.

For this reason, I am proud to rise today and recognize Mr. Kenneth Bockbrader of American Legion Post 183, Pemberville, OH on the occasion of his 50 years of service to the post. Kenneth is a veteran of World War II and is presently a member of Freedom Post 183 Color Guard.

Mr. Speaker, Kenneth Bockbrader's distinguished military service is a model of patriotism and citizenship. His commitment to the American Legion continues this exemplary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Kenneth and his family well as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

May they fully enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom that Kenneth Bockbrader has so ably defended as a U.S. veteran.

COLUMBIA GOOD GOVERNMENT WEEK

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the election season, which is the true test of our democracy, debates about the future of our country echo throughout American communities—from the Alaskan frontier to the Florida Keys. Yet in November, when it is time to vote, nearly half of Americans stay at home.

The President and Congress must address the financial and structural challenges of our Medicare Program, which faces bankruptcy. Governors and State legislators must assure that a healthy Medicaid Program continues to provide health care access to the States' most vulnerable children and adults. Local leaders must address issues related to health care delivery, taxes, education, and jobs.

Because more American should register to vote and exercise their right to vote;

Because none of the critical issues facing us can be resolved effectively and no long-term solutions can be reached without the input of informed, concerned voters;

And because employers must do more in communities to help foster enthusiasm for participation in the democratic process,

I congratulate Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation for their designation of September 8 through 14 as "Columbia Good Government Week." And I encourage Columbia's 285,000

employees and 90,000 associated physicians in 38 States to register to vote, to share their opinions with Federal, State, and local candidates, to encourage others in their communities to learn more about the issues facing American, and to encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MARK OLIVERIO

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Officer Mark Oliverio of the Sterling Heights Police Department on his receipt of the 1996 DARE Officer of the Year Award for Michigan.

Through the Drug Abuse and Resistance Education Program, Officer Oliverio has been a positive influence in the lives of hundreds of children in Sterling Heights, MI. For the last 5½ years, Officer Oliverio has taught 5th and 6th graders how to say "no" to the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. In his own words, Officer Oliverio said "I wanted to get in, and in my own way, fight the drug problem." Clearly, Officer Oliverio is achieving this goal.

The DARE Officer of the Year Award recognizes Officer Oliverio's contributions to the community which extend beyond DARE instruction. Officer Oliverio still maintains a close relationship with the students of Havel Elementary School. He often ate lunch with students and attended extra curricular activities. In addition, he provided crisis counseling to students following a fatal bicycle accident. Havel Principal Robert Koenigsknecht said, "He is always here for us."

Over the years, my staff and I have attended many successful DARE graduations under the able guidance of Officer Oliverio. His compassion and dedication to his students is unmistakable.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Officer Oliverio on behalf of the children whose lives he has touched and the community he has enriched.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD SAMUEL MANNE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and my colleague from Houston, Congressman GENE GREEN, to remember a great civil rights and civic leader, Richard Samuel Manne, of Baytown, TX, who passed away on September 5, 1996. In his memory, we wish to include in the RECORD the following obituary that appeared in the Houston Chronicle. He is deserving of such recognition because of his personal commitment to ending discrimination in all of its forms and to working for civil rights and voting rights for all Americans. He will be sorely missed.

OBITUARY OF RICHARD SAMUEL MANNE

Richard Samuel Manne, age 69, of Baytown, Texas, died on September 5, 1996. Son

of the late Geoffrey and Eva Manne of Memphis, Tennessee. Manne was born October 19, 1926 in New Orleans and grew up in Memphis. After graduating first in his high school class at Memphis Central High, Manne won a full scholarship to Yale University, from which he graduated with honors at age 19. He then attended Vanderbilt University, receiving a masters degree in chemical engineering. In 1947 he moved to Baytown to work for Humble Oil, and in 1948 he married Beverly Maisel, who survives him. He retired from Exxon in 1983 after working for 35 years at its research center in Baytown. His research led to a variety of patents. Having grown up in the Deep South, Manne hated discrimination in all forms. In the 1950's and 1960's he worked as an activist for civil rights and voting rights. He co-founded and later chaired the Harris County Democrats, and founded and published the Bi-Monthly Star, a political gazette. In an era when Christmas parties at Exxon were racially segregated, he refused to attend the "whites only" parties and instead celebrated the holidays with black employees in the basement of the research center. Through his work in politics, he became interested in law and began attending South Texas College of Law at night, while continuing to work for Exxon. He graduated first in his class at South Texas, served as editor-in-chief of the law review, and was asked to serve on the faculty after graduation. He taught at the law school for many years and served on its Board of Visitors. He also founded the LSAT Review Course of Texas, and taught the course for more than twenty years. After retirement from Exxon, he expanded his private practice of law, which he continued until his death. Manne was remembered by friends and family at the evening service on September 6 at Congregation K'Nesseth Israel in Baytown. In addition to his wife Beverly, he is survived by his brother Henry G. Manne of Arlington, Virginia; his sons Neal and Burton of Houston; daughter-in-law Nancy D. McGregor of Houston; niece Emily Manne of Atlanta, Georgia; nephew Geoffrey Manne of Chicago, Illinois; grandchildren Benjamin, Elizabeth and Olivia Manne of Houston; and several aunts and cousins.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS ROSENBLUM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in a special tribute to Doris Rosenblum, a resident of the west side of Manhattan who dedicated over 35 years to improving the quality of life in her community. I am saddened to report that with her death on August 29, 1996, we lost an energetic and spirited activist who had a measurable and permanent impact on the neighborhoods and residents of Manhattan through her service to the public good.

Doris Rosenblum's activism was not limited to specific issues. She worked tirelessly to provide housing for poor and low-income people, for education, for schools, for cleaner streets, for the construction of community centers, and for many other causes throughout the 35 years of her dedicated advocacy work. Notably, Doris was the founder of the Stryker's Bay Neighborhood Association. She also helped organize West Side High School as a community-based alternative school and acted as the school's administrator from 1972 until 1979.