

Prep of Chicago, IL. She was sponsored in the contest by Chicago VFW Post 1612. She aspires to pursue a career in the Foreign Service. Her hobbies include tennis, bowling, reading, baking, dancing, roller skating, and enjoying music. She has been the vice president of her sophomore class and an executive board member of the Black Organization of Students and a student council representative.

It is with deep pride that I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the winning essay written by Ms. Felicia Bell of Chicago, IL.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

Answering America's call. That's an interesting challenge. Very thought-provoking, very metaphorical, very complicated. What is America's call? Is it a call to exercise our civil obligations or a call to improve our educational system? Is it a call to volunteer our time for worthy causes or is it a call to go out and have fun?

After much thought (and a lot of snack and cartoon breaks), I have come to the conclusion that it is a mixture of all four. America is calling us to participate in the political arena, the academic world, the recreational field and the social service sector of society. America calls us to share the wealth of skills and talents we have as proud young Americans in order to perpetuate our strong points while improving upon our weaknesses. The most effective way to advance as a nation is by answering America's call.

America is a country built on the inalienable rights of man. We have the constitutional rights to vote, to free speech, to peacefully assemble, to petition our grievances. Not only are we encouraged to exercise these rights, as American citizens, we are expected to. We fulfill America's expectation by vociferously making known our opinions through letters and petitions written to officials, by boycotting and protesting against actions that run counter to our beliefs, by running for office (instead of passively complaining about the incompetent incumbents). Most importantly, America calls us to vote for the people who will best serve the nation. Citizens will play an integral part in the political process next November at the ballot box because voting is the loudest way we as citizens have to answer America's call.

Only with a sound education can people make the most informed choices. Education is the backbone of all societies. Right now America is experiencing a grave educational crisis in need of immediate repair. America is calling us to improve Head Start programs so that the young will be instilled with a love of learning early in life. America is calling us to pursue technical and vocational training so that we will have the skills necessary to excel in this increasingly technological world.

America is calling us to reform our lagging school system so that all children will have the opportunity to learn the two most fundamental lessons in life: how to think and how to recognize their fullest potential. We must all continue to educate ourselves because an educated citizenry is the mark of a truly great civilization. America is calling us to help attain that goal.

We must go out into the communities, tutor school children, become mentors, work in soup kitchens, help renovate abandoned buildings for the homeless, donate blood, plant trees, clean parks, and contribute to active charities. Social service should be a part of every person's daily routine. Not only does community service help restore our deteriorating society, it helps us as individuals improve our own lives. America implores us to help each other as we help ourselves.

Now anyone can spend their entire life writing letters to Congresspeople, doing homework and volunteering their time for a worthy cause, but that can get quite grim. If there is no fun in life, we will all go crazy. Hobbies and recreation sharpen our minds while sports and dance keep us physically fit, preventing us from cracking under the strain of answering America's other calls. America urges us to bake some chocolate chip cookies or read a novel, go fly a kite on a windy day or jump in puddles when it is raining. America encourages us to rest, relax and just "kick it".

Throughout history, America has had many calls. We have been called to bear arms during times of war, called to protest grave injustices, called to mourn during times of tragedy and sorrow. We have even been called to switch long distance phone companies. We are bombarded with calls. I believe that answering America's call enables us to live life to the fullest, to become the most fully engaged citizens possible. America challenges us to become involved politically, to improve our educational system, to volunteer our talents to worthy causes and to enjoy living the good American life. We must answer America's call so that we can lead our country into its glory and grandeur in the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the Summit Park District on the 50 successful years of its providing recreation to the people of its community.

Like so many other organizations that are celebrating their golden anniversaries this year, the Summit Park District was born when a dedicated group of local residents came together to plan and provide services for veterans returning from World War II ready to start new families.

In the case of the park district, a local physician, Dr. Paul Rush, and 12 residents came together to provide open space and recreational activities for their fellow residents. After selecting four sites in the village for playgrounds, Dr. Rush and his associates turned to the Des Plaines Valley News newspaper for assistance. The paper printed ballots asking the children of Summit what they wanted in their new parks, and, five decades later, the park district is still listening to the residents in developing new facilities and programs.

In fact, the park district recently added hiking and biking trails, a jogging track, fitness stations, a mini golf course, and batting cages in response to the recreational needs of Summit residents.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Summit Park District on its 50th anniversary and wish the district many more years of success.

ANGELO BROTHERS CO. 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Angelo Brothers Co. as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in Philadelphia this month and to commend the creation of Stan and Tim Angelo for its 50 years of distinguished service to the community.

The company began in 1946 as a small paint and lamp store in south Philadelphia. Stan and Romolo "Tim" Angelo soon realized that there was a better market for lamp parts than for portable lamps. In response, the brothers created a wholesale mail order business that catered to the lamp industry. They also expanded their company to include the sale of lamp parts as well as light bulbs and hardware. The family business was passed on through generations of Angelos, with Stan's son, Stanley, Jr., John, and Tim's son, Raymond, taking over as leaders of the company. As the company continued to thrive, other locations were opened in Santa Fe Springs, CA, Chicago, IL, and Jacksonville, FL.

In the past 50 years, the Angelo Brothers Co. has grown to become the largest privately owned seller of light bulbs in the country. The company has kept abreast of new technological developments by designing the Smart Bulb™ and Spectralite™ lamps to meet new energy standards. It has won awards for its advances in incandescent lighting technologies. Today the company has 600 employees and is one of the most recognized names in light bulbs.

Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the leading role that the Angelo Brothers Co. has taken in the "Do-It-Yourself" market. In 1970, it entered the home center marketplace. Soon, the company began to sell lighting fixtures as well as electrical hardware and door chimes. The company has also expanded into the sale of decorative light bulbs.

The company has come a long way since its origins as a small, family owned business. It has become one of the leaders in the field of light bulb and fixture manufacturing, and it continues to grow today. Now, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Angelo Brothers Co., a scholarship foundation for the children of employees has been created in the name of Stan and Tim Angelo, the brothers who opened the small store in Philadelphia 50 years ago.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Angelo Brothers Co., and its second generation of leaders, including John, Tim, Ray, and Stanley Angelo, Jr., for its successes and contributions to the community and wish it continued prosperity in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Resource Conservation and

Development Program [RC&D] whose efforts have improved the economy, the environment, and the living standards of this Nation. I would like to designate September 15, 1996, as a day of recognition for the Resource Conservation and Development Program. The RC&D, initiated in 1962, serves 2,016 counties in more than half of the United States, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin. The 20,000 volunteers involved in the organization's projects contribute their time and resources to revitalize and sustain their communities.

The comprehensive efforts of the RC&D have focused on protecting the environment and fortifying the economy of this Nation. The program's resource protection initiative has improved 40,264 acres of wildlife habitat, and has increased the quality of water in 56,052 acres of lakes and 2,523 miles of streams. Furthermore, RC&D council and partners have added to the economy by creating 164 new businesses, resulting in 3,209 jobs. Their educational projects have helped 82,878 people develop new skills in areas of development, entrepreneurial training, and resource assessment. From saving the environment to creating jobs, the RC&D has touched the lives of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the RC&D for their dedication and service to this country. Their accomplishments illustrate the power and strength of volunteer organizations in this Nation. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Resource Conservation and Development Program on this day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No.'s 407, 408, 409, 410, and 411 I would have voted "yes," and on rollcall No. 412 I would have voted "no." Unfortunately, I was not present due to a physical ailment and subsequently requested an official leave of absence for the day which was granted.

HAPPY 50TH VFW POST 8275

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 15, 1946, a group of young men gathered in a community hall in Au Gres, MI. They had a common bond, all having served our country in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. To preserve the pride in and service to their country, they formed VFW Post 8275.

Fifty years later the illustrious post, under the capable leadership of Commander James A. Armour, boasts 209 members and the Women's Auxiliary, under the leadership of Marion Maytas boasts 60 members. I congratulate VFW Post 8275 on its 50th anniversary and commend their dedication to their country, community, and family.

In 1946, department commander Arthur Greig installed 21 officers and members. They

named VFW 8275 Post in honor of three young heroes who paid the supreme sacrifice: John Rudolph, age 32, Leonard George Frank, age 23, and Harry Leroy Beauch, age 19.

Because they did not have a post headquarters, they held meetings in various places including a school basement, a fire hall, and a council hall. The deficiency of a permanent base did not discourage or diminish the strength and tenacity of its members. By January 1948, under the leadership of Wilbur Lake, the Post purchased a building on South Mackinaw—near where the present Au Gres Fire Department building is today—for \$300.

Proving the strength and dedication of its families, the Women's Auxiliary to 8275 was founded and installed on February 12, 1950.

Over the next 12 years, the post thrived and grew under the leadership of many capable leaders including, Commander Hubert Dewald. However, the years took its toll on the post home. Under the leadership of Commander Joseph Czapski the members considered moving to larger facilities to accommodate their growing membership. In January 1963, the city of Au Gres offered the VFW Post 8275 a 50 foot lot on Main Street with a 100-year lease. Robert Conell and Daisy Gess offered free property, which consisted of approximately 8 acres, 2 miles north of Au Gres on U.S. Highway 23. A deed to the property was presented and accepted at the March 8, 1963 meeting.

With Archie McCready in command, \$812.50 in the bank, another \$800 from the sale of the old building and \$1,575 raised by post member Calvin Ennes, they had a small amount to begin construction and care for the property in April 1963. The post appointed Clem "Whitey" Bensen as building chairman and appointed Lincoln Emes as financial chairman. Donations of money, material, and labor began pouring in to support the post. The final meeting in the old post home was on May 5, 1963.

The first meeting in the new post home took place on September 13, 1963. Since the building was yet a long way from completion, members were content to have planks for seats and sand for the floor. They decided to borrow \$10,000 to complete the building and by May 30, 1964 they held a dedication and ground breaking. They held a 3-day "Burning the Mortgage" celebration in April 1971 and an addition was added in September 1973.

Today the post continues its community involvement including hosting bingo tournaments, dinners, and teenage parties. The members of our VFW post prove that the strength of our country depends, thrives, and grows because of the individuals who served our country and continue to serve long after formal commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these dedicated individuals. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing the members of VFW Post 8275 a most memorable 50th anniversary, with our thanks for all that they have done.

THANK YOU, HARRY F. BURROUGHS III, FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11, my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff, both past and present, and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank a former member of my staff—Harry F. Burroughs III, who worked for me in a variety of capacities for 14 years—for all he's done for me and my constituents over the years.

Harry served as my legislative director from 1981 to 1985—the same position he held for our former colleague, Richard Schulze of Pennsylvania from 1977 to 1980. During my critical first two terms in the House, I relied on Harry's experience, advice, and expertise on a host of issues and legislative business.

Beginning in 1985, Harry served as my Counsel on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee—a committee critical to the economic well-being of my district. When local residents asked me to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to devise a flood control plan for the Upper White Oak Bayou and Buffalo Bayou; when funds were needed to widen and deepen the Houston Ship Channel; and when Federal assistance was needed to solve a serious water pollution problem in Lake Houston, I turned to Harry to make sure that these urgent proposals moved forward.

With the start of the 103rd Congress, I was privileged to serve as the ranking minority member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee—and, naturally, I asked Harry to serve as the committee's minority staff director.

As my right arm on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Harry played a crucial role in enacting into law the African Elephant conservation Act of 1988; the Oil Pollution Act of 1990; the Abandoned Barge Act of 1992; the Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994; and other legislation designed to protect our Nation's marine environment, strengthen our Nation's merchant fleet, and maintain our country's vital commercial waterways.

With the unfortunate abolition of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in the current 104th Congress, our colleague, DON YOUNG of Alaska, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, asked Harry to serve as the staff director of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans.

When he is not working, Harry enjoys spending time with his lovely wife, Gayle, and their two sons, Rick and Chris. A resident of Warrenton, VA, Harry serves as a committee chairman of Boy Scout troop 175, in which his sons are members. For the past 7 years, Harry has volunteered as a Babe Ruth baseball coach, and he is a former member of the Fauquier County Youth Baseball Commission.

Harry Burroughs is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us