

that campaign, but Bryan's presence made the experience more enjoyable, or at least more bearable, that it would have been without him.

Mr. Speaker, Bryan is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and professionalism.

Bryan plans to continue working in the public relations and media relations arena. He also plans to continue devoting his spare time to his two primary hobbies—bicycling and investing. I wish him may more miles of scenic, safe, and relaxing bicycling, as well as many more years of double-digit returns on his Compaq, Merck, PepsiCo. and other stocks.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Bryan Wirwicz for his loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution, and I know you join me in wishing him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO VRETNAR CONSTRUCTION 1996 ST. FRANCIS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vretenar Construction, city of St. Francis 1996 Business of the Year.

Vretenar Construction, formerly known as Vretenar & Sons, was founded by John Vretenar, Sr. in 1949 with a trailer, a wheel barrow, a mud box, and a lot of hard work. Forty seven years later, Vretenar Construction remains a family business, run by John's son Milton and Milt's wife Elizabeth since John's retirement in 1965. Even Milt and Betty's son Craig was involved in the family business until he became building inspector for the city of St. Francis.

Vretenar Construction has provided many years of service to the community, building homes, and buildings for area residents and businesses. But their dedication extends well beyond that. Milt, the longtime mayor of the city of St. Francis and a talented mason contractor, is constantly donating his time and skills to a city he loves so dearly. Milt quietly helps out wherever he can, from construction of the veteran's memorial to repairs on the St. Francis Historical Society house to a host of other projects too numerous to mention. He and Betty also remain involved in a number of community organizations and have for so many years been so committed to making St. Francis a great place to live and work.

Vretenar Construction is a perfect example of a business with a strong community spirit. It is certainly a well-deserving recipient of the city of St. Francis Economic Development Committee's Business of the Year honor. For the Vretenars, community service is truly a family affair.

TRIBUTE TO MISS ARIANE FRANCO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary young Puerto Rican, Miss Ariane Franco, for her dedication to excel academically and serve the community. She is an inspiration and a role model for many young students in the Nation, specially the Puerto Rican and South Bronx communities to which she belongs.

Ariane was recently selected as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Northeast Youth of the Year. She will represent the Northeast as one of the five finalists in this year's competition, which is being held in Washington, DC.

Like many other youngsters across the Nation, Ariane was raised in a family which faced many difficulties. Her desire to do something positive led her to achieve academically and to serve the community.

Ariane has been an active member of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club over the past 4 years. At the club, she worked as a tutor for remedial math and reading, and as a computer instructor. She was also involved in numerous community service programs, including the Club's Smart Moves Program. Through this program, Ariane taught youngsters to be aware of and to prevent substance abuse, teen pregnancy, peer pressure and AIDS.

Ariane's strong determination to fight adversity, and her family's spiritual strength have molded her into a very positive individual, always full of optimism and with the desire to help others.

In addition to her community activism and leadership, Ariane is an excellent student. In spite of difficulties, she remained an honor student throughout her 4 years of high school at Stevenson's in the Bronx. She now attends the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. Her strong desire to inform people about the truth has led her to major in communications with the goal of becoming a journalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Ariane Franco for her leadership and commitment to her community, and for serving as a role model for young people. Young individuals like Ariane make all of us proud, specially our Puerto Rican community of the South Bronx.

RECOGNITION OF THE METAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATION TO NQS 9000

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the owner and employees of Metal Dynamics Corp. [MDC] of Tulsa, OK, for being the first foundry in the United States to be certified to NQS 9000. This certification recognizes that MDC has implemented and maintained a quality system fully compliant with each provision of ISO 9002-1994.

NQS 9000 is an industry-specific quality program created and administered by the

Non-Ferrous Founders' Society [NFFS]. Sponsored by the Defense Logistics Agency Technical Enterprise Team as part of the AMC lead time and cost reduction program, NQS 9000 is a low cost alternative to traditional ISO 9000 registration for the foundry industry. ISO 9000 is the recognized standard in the quality control community. NFFS developed the NQS 9000 program so that a foundry can pursue a higher level of quality without paying the expensive fees charged by many ISO consultants. The Metal Dynamics Corp. was one of the first companies to enroll in NQS 9000 and achieved NQS certification in only 6 months.

The Metal Dynamics Corp., owned by Don Doss since 1976, has 43 employees, and works with stainless, ferrous and nonferrous materials to do investment casting and sand casting. Among their products are components for the Trident Seawolf Submarine. The employees of MDC are to be commended for their efforts to change old habits and learn new ones—to operate as a progressive and proactive team. Businesses such as Metal Dynamics Corp., which emphasize the importance of a commitment to quality and a proactive approach to achieving it, serve as an example and set a high standard for others in the industry. Their proven success is an incentive for achievement.

Don Doss, the president and owner of the Metal Dynamics Corp., continues to prove himself not only as an advocate, but also as a pioneer in quality control. A graduate from the University of Tulsa in mechanical engineering, he joined NFFS in 1976 when he gained ownership of MDC. He served as president of NFFS from 1982 to 1983, and on the Cast Metals Institute Board from 1986 to 1990. He is currently a board member of the American Foundryman's Society [AFS] and is chairman of the NFFS Quality Task Force, which established the NQS program. By implementing the program at his own foundry and earning the certification, Mr. Doss has demonstrated the benefit of the NFFS NQS 9000 program. By being the first foundry to be certified, the Metal Dynamics Corp. has secured respect and recognition for itself and other small foundries among world leaders in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Don Doss and the employees of the Metal Dynamics Corp. for their admirable efforts to provide quality products, which in turn help our country to be economically stronger and more competitive. I would also like to recognize the other small foundries like Metal Dynamics Corp. It is their devoted hard work, commitment to success, and willingness to change for the better that stand out as encouragement for the rest of us. Theirs is the attitude that made our country great, and that will secure for us our future.

"REMEMBERING AMERICA'S POW/MIAS"

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not bring to your attention an inspirational essay by one of America's leading advocates for veterans, my very distinguished

colleague, BOB STUMP of Arizona. Chairman STUMP has led the fight in the POW/MIA movement for years. His moving words on this most important subject need to be heard.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD, Congressman STUMP's memorable tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their Nation—and especially for those not fortunate enough to make it home.

On this Friday, September 20, 1996, I would urge all Americans to take the time to reflect upon Mr. STUMP's tribute to our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Thanks to the words and effort of people like Chairman STUMP, the tremendous sacrifices of these courageous Americans will not be forgotten. His words truly deserve the attention of every American who enjoys the freedom preserved by these courageous American heroes.

REMEMBERING AMERICA'S POW/MIA'S

(By Congressman Bob Stump)

As we commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day, it is altogether fitting that we pay homage to those Americans who were taken prisoner of war or listed as missing in action and presumed dead.

Throughout the history of the United States, in six major wars spanning 220 years, more than 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner of war. Each has experienced horrors unimaginable and indefinable in the annals of civilized existence. Most endured long-term deprivation of freedom and the loss of human dignity.

How can we possibly acknowledge their sacrifice or their memory in the context of what they experienced or how they survived?

National POW/MIA Recognition Day allows Americans to comprehend and appreciate the dedication to life and freedom that these brave men and women endured in the service of their country. A just nation and its people must acknowledge their survival in captivity by continuing to assure them and their families that what they sacrificed and endured in the face of adversity was not offered in vain.

In the Revolutionary War, more than 20,000 Americans were taken prisoner and 8,500 died in captivity, mostly from disease.

During the Civil War, and estimated 194,000 Union soldiers and 214,000 Confederates became prisoners of war. Between the North and the South, 56,194 Americans died in captivity, mostly from disease.

In world War I, 4,120 Americans were taken prisoner—147 of them died in captivity forcing a third Geneva Convention covering the humane treatment for prisoners-of-war.

No one could ever perceive nor comprehend the absolute barbaric treatment American prisoners experienced in World War II, especially at the hands of the Japanese. In the Pacific, 11,107 Americans, or 40 % of those taken prisoner, died in captivity. In contrast, of the 93,941 Americans taken prisoner in Europe, all but 1,121 or 1 percent were released.

Once again, outrage prompted the world community to pass four new Geneva Conventions. In August 1949, the new treaty strengthened the former ones by codifying the general principles of international law governing the treatment of civilians in wartime. Included in that treaty was a pledge, "to treat prisoners humanely, feed them adequately, and deliver relief supplies to them." Additionally, prisoners of war would not be forced to disclose more than minimal information to their captors.

These new provisions were soon tested during the Korean War where 8,177 Americans were classified as missing-in-action, and another 7,140 were identified as prisoners of

war. Between April and September 1953, a total of 4,418 POWs were released by the Communist Chinese, leaving 2,722 Americans unaccounted for. Five months later, in February 1954, the United States declared the remaining 8,177 Americans missing and presumed dead.

Perhaps more than any war, Vietnam continues to illustrate the complexity of the POW/MIA issue. In 1973, the Pentagon listed almost 3,100 Americans as POW/MIA's. In April 1973, 591 Americans were released by the North Vietnamese. As of this date, The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia report that "2,146 Americans are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War."

For more than 20 years, the families of those men classified as missing-in-action have suffered the anguish of not knowing whether their sons, their fathers or their husbands are alive or dead. National POW/MIA Recognition Day allows us to keep their memories alive.

It is for that reason that we reflect upon the sacrifices made by Americans who were captured and returned home as well as to those still listed as missing-in-action.

Americans should never forget that their love of this country and all that it stands for, their dedication to service, their ideals, their courage, their convictions and their sacrifices must never be forgotten.

The most fitting words imaginable are those of President Abraham Lincoln to the mother of five sons lost on the field of battle: "I cannot refrain from tendering to you the tanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

TRIBUTE TO THE JOB CORPS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for Job Corps and to commend the students and staff who participate in this remarkable program.

The largest Job Corps facility is located in my district. The Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center in Morganfield, KY, serves over 3,000 disadvantaged youth annually. Nationally, over 60,000 students benefit from this program.

Their mission is to provide quality job training in a student-oriented program. By targeting the needs of students to prepare them for the job market, Job Corps is providing a dual service—to the young men and women enrolled in training programs and to our society. It serves students by giving them the skills and esteem they need to become more responsible, employable and productive citizens. It also serves society by providing training to individuals who otherwise might not have the skills needed to hold a job or pursue a career. Students more than return the Government's investment in them through taxes they will later pay and reduced welfare, unemployment, and criminal justice costs.

Job Corps students also have an impact on local communities. In the past 5 years, students have contributed over \$42 million nationwide.

In my district alone, Clements Job Corps Center students have constructed four houses in conjunction with the habitat for humanity program. The Student Government Association sponsors teams that annually participate in the local March of Dimes WalkAmerica and American Cancer Society Walk-a-thon. Students learning heavy equipment operations at the Clements center's satellite campus saved Hopkins County over \$40,000 in equipment lease costs and manpower by constructing a water-retaining basin and earthen dam as the county closed its landfill, while they learned the skills that will lead them into productive careers.

Job Corps offers these students the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, this is a program that works. National statistics show that last year 73 percent of all Job Corps participants found jobs or pursued higher education. Forty-six percent of those eligible obtained their GED.

The results at the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center topped these national averages. At the Clements center, 83 percent of all participants found jobs or went on to higher education. This is impressive considering that 80 percent of the students were high school dropouts and 37 percent came from families on public assistance.

Across my district, business owners and management complain about the lack of skilled workers in the labor force. Job Corps helps meet that demand by providing individuals specialized training in such trades as carpentry, auto mechanics, computer repair, and health occupations. Students also learn social skills to complement their training.

Mr. Speaker, Job Corps is a success story. Learning about the Clements Job Corps Center and the entire national program has been an enriching experience for me. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the dedicated staff and hard-working students at the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center, who are having a positive impact on their community while taking the first step toward living the American dream.

CRIME

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 18, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FIGHTING CRIME

The fear of crime is a part of life for far too many Americans. Hoosiers tell me that insecurity from crime gnaws away at our spirit, restricts our freedom, and forces us to rearrange our lives. All of us are victims of crime. We pay the cost of crime in higher insurance rates, higher prices, higher taxes, and a poorer quality of life. Despite recent reductions in the crime rate, fear of crime continues to register as a top concern of Hoosiers in every poll. They worry that laws are not strictly enforced, that sentences are too light, that judges are too lenient, and that dangerous criminals are let free to roam the streets.

The most recent statistics indicate that the nation's crime rate has fallen by about 4% in recent years. This is an improvement,