

Formerly called the ladies' Hospital Guild, the organization we honor today was formed in 1874 by a group of 20 women. They began by making clothing for the sick children in the hospital. As the needs of the hospital changed, so did the guild. In 1887, the daisy ward, a pediatrics ward, was established in the hospital. Since then, the guild has devoted much of its time and efforts to creating a comfortable environment for the children in this ward. Through the years, the guild has strived to make the lives of the patients and the hospital community a little better.

The guild was incorporated and named after one of the founders and presidents of Christ Hospital, Rev. Richard Mason Abercrombie. As a corporation, the guild is devoted to securing money and supplies for the hospital with special care given to the children's ward, of which Christ Hospital is particularly proud. The funds donated and bequeathed to the guild greatly benefit these children. The monies are used to provide the children with the medical attention needed.

The Guild also provides a number of other valuable services, including a monthly news letter known as the Daisy and a burial fund that is administered by the burial committee. The burial fund provides a final resting place for impoverished patients who have died in the hospital. In addition, the chapel committee, which provides Holy Communion and other religious services, and the sewing committee, which provides made and mended clothing, are the most commonly known features of the guild.

I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in honoring the Abercrombie Guild. The services and help the guild has provided the children and patients of Christ Hospital are truly extraordinary.

HONORING GRATIOT PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church in Port Huron, MI. This Sunday, I and many others from Michigan's Bluewater area will gather at the church to dedicate a marker celebrating the importance of that structure in the history of our community and our State.

The origins of the Gratiot Park United Methodist congregation can be traced back to the time of the construction of Fort Gratiot in 1814, and the early days of the church are tied to the growth of the fort.

Records of the time show that circuit riders regularly traveled through the wilderness to preach at Fort Gratiot. Accounts also indicate that the early congregation survived a devastating cholera outbreak in 1832 that nearly wiped out the entire territory.

In 1859, the Reverend A.E. Ketchum established a Methodist class at the Fort Gratiot Mission. Brothers ventured to remote areas of Michigan seeking new members for the community.

The site of today's Gratiot Park United Methodist Church was first surveyed in 1834, and changed ownership several times before

being purchased in trust for the church in July 1866.

In 1968, the church was formally renamed the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church.

The Bluewater area is far different today than it was in the times of Fort Gratiot. Where once pioneers struggled to settle the land, today Port Huron is a thriving city and a growing center of commerce. But despite decades of change, the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church still stands as a part of our community and part of the lives of our people.

It has seen the deep divisions created by the Civil War and witnessed the inventions of Thomas Edison.

It has stood through the dawn of the Grant Trunk Railroad and the boom of the shipping and lumber industries and the growth of Port Huron.

And through it all, the church and its congregation have stood as a source of strength and fellowship for the people of our area.

Mr. Speaker, the marker that the Michigan Historical Center has affixed to this structure is a fitting tribute to the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church and a source of great pride for the entire Port Huron community.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing this important designation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall vote 191 due to emergency dental work. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 3448 and to not only lend my support for it, but to also discuss how this legislation is a textbook example of opportunity missed. Mr. Speaker, while this bill makes several important changes to the current law in areas such as pensions, equipment investment, and educational tax-deductions, there are other changes not included which could have made it much better legislation and much better for the American people.

One of the most important issues this bill addresses is that of employee pensions. Under this legislation, employees of tax-exempt organizations, will for the first time, be eligible for 401(k) plans. In addition, firms with less than 100 workers would be permitted to set aside pension funds for workers without satisfying many of the complex reporting standards they must now meet for contributions to 401(k) plans. Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill addresses the needs of union workers such as construction workers who frequently change jobs. This legislation corrects prob-

lems for small businesses and their employees which are long overdue. Now, those who were previously unable to take advantage of retirement options solely due to their occupation can now.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also provides tax incentives for businesses to hire employees on welfare, high-risk youth, qualified veterans or qualified summer youth employees. I have spoken a great deal on this floor about summer jobs and while I am extremely opposed to Republican efforts to eliminate the Summer Jobs Program, I am pleased that this provision was included. I am gratified to see that the majority party recognizes the fact that these populations sometimes need assistance in obtaining work and I believe that the work opportunity tax credit is one more method by which we can give honest people a chance at a job.

While these are good initiatives, this bill does not go far enough. The legislation will allow individuals to deduct up to \$5,250 per year for employer-provided educational assistance for undergraduate tuition, but what about graduate education? Do not people who pursue advanced degrees deserve the same opportunity? This indeed seems like a case of education bigotry. During committee markup of this bill, my Democratic colleague, Mr. LEVIN tried to address this issue with an amendment to include graduate education. After initially agreeing to the amendment, the Republican Members changed their vote to defeat it.

Also missing from this bill are pension provisions contained within the Gephardt-Daschle proposal which would improve the bill even further by allowing penalty-free IRA withdrawals for education and training, first home purchases, major medical expenses, and during long-term unemployment.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is good and I support it, but it could be and deserves to be better than it is.

SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of this body and the nation an individual who has truly made a difference in his local area and who, along the way, has helped so many others. Mr. Paul R. Argall, President of PCBM Management Company, Inc., in Ishpeming, Michigan began with a dream, a goal, an idea and has molded that into one of the most successful business operations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For his efforts, Mr. Argall has been named Michigan Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration, a honor well deserved.

Mr. Argall first distinguished himself as a Certified Public Accountant, opening his own firm in 1978. Realizing that his home town of Ishpeming, like other small communities in the Upper Peninsula, was on an economic decline, Paul moved forward in 1984 by establishing PCBM Management Company that formed the foundation for a dream that he believed would not just provide jobs for so many local residents, but would be the primary source of economic development for the area.

The goal was to build a village within the city that would include various businesses to support local tourism. Following the acquisition in 1987 of some 35 acres of land along US-41, the first of what would be many new small businesses began with the Pamida Discount Center, a 40,000 square foot department store that created 50 new jobs. A fifty room hotel and 165 seat restaurant was then added in 1989 and the Country Village Plaza began to take shape. Since then, many new businesses have opened including other restaurants, grocery stores, a bowling center, banks, laundromats, bookstores and many other shops.

PCBM Management itself has grown considerably, as well, to now six subsidiaries and is recognized in the area a leading real estate development company. The company has grown to over 120 employees who oversee annual sales of nearly \$3.5 million and in 1994 made the Inc. 500 as well as the Michigan private 100, a list of the state's fastest growing companies. Further, in 1995, PCBM was recognized by the Michigan Jobs Commission for its long standing commitment to Michigan and to Ishpeming.

As good as this company is, it was the foresight of and guidance by Paul Argall that has provided the foundation for its growth. A strong family man, an active member of his church and other charitable organizations, Paul deserves not just the title of Small Business Person of the Year, but the thanks of so many people in the Ishpeming area.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Ishpeming area, the Upper Peninsula and the entire state of Michigan, I congratulate Mr. Paul Argall and PCBM Management Company on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING JAMES R. NUNES

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, for more than three decades, James R. Nunes has served as an officer of the law. Since 1979, he has been chief of the Pleasant Hill, CA Police Department in my home district. Now, after 37 years as a police officer, first with the military and then with three different cities, he is retiring from the force.

Throughout his career, Chief Nunes has worked to make our streets safer, our communities stronger, and our children's future brighter. He knows the meaning of long nights, hard work, and personal sacrifice. His many community activities further reflect his commitment to the citizens of the East Bay, and are indicative of his devotion to the building of a better society.

Those who work for public safety know that a secure society does not come cheaply. It is the product of vigilance, perseverance, and foresight. These are the qualities that have typified Chief Nunes' service. It is my sincere hope that Chief Nunes will enjoy a well-deserved retirement from the force. His contributions have been both formidable and enduring, and I know all of my colleagues will join me in wishing him every good thing in the days ahead.

MEMORIAL DAY 1996—ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following thoughts by Robert Sniffen, a U.S. Navy veteran who has served as a veteran's advocate for the past 27 years. He has held veteran-related positions in the U.S. Department of Labor and in the Center administration. He has also served as the national service and legislative director of AMVETS. Currently, Mr. Sniffen is chairman of the board for San Diego Veterans' Service, a southern California non-profit organization dedicated to the needs and concerns of California's veterans.

Memorial Day will soon signal the traditional salute to pay homage, tribute, and honor to our nation's men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifices on behalf of the freedoms we all enjoy. Beautiful, emotion charged ceremonies, largely attended by veterans and their families, will be encapsulated into micro-second broadcast news clips and short print articles including photos for public consumption.

For those who deal daily with the survivors of military service, Memorial Day is also an appropriate date on which to inform and educate the public as to the status of the needs, issues, and concerns of veterans who have survived military service.

To date, potential legislation is floating upward in Congress to establish a Commission to evaluate programs of the federal government that assist members of the armed forces and veterans in readjusting to civilian life. It will be known as the "Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance". Of the hundreds of pages of veteran legislation introduced before Congress, this "Commission on Veterans" is the most vital. Veteran organizations and veteran advocates must hold both presidential candidates responsible for obtaining such a commitment, before the November elections. Veterans must demand action now, or this landmark legislation will never see the light of day.

If fully enacted, the Commission will conduct a bottom-up review of programs intended to assist veterans. Veteran advocates view this potential landmark legislation as a G.I. Bill of Rights review, as well as the reading of the fine print that violates the Sacred Government Contract made with each military inductee. Those who support veteran entitlements should contact their Congressional representatives and seek their support in creating this new Commission, which will evaluate and upgrade the earned entitlements of our military personnel and our veterans.

Across America, our military personnel and veterans are disproportionately suffering the ill effects of military down-sizing, base closures, industry collapses in the defense and aerospace industries, and corporate down-sizing to increase profits. Military families and veterans are receiving food stamps; homeless veterans continue to roam the streets they fought to protect; thousands of fully qualified veterans are grossly disadvantaged economically, facing the ravages of unemployment and under-employment. Still others are shut out of the market place due to lack of re-training. There is little call for infantry or weapons skills in the high-tech information era. Training and re-training veterans must be a top priority.

Meanwhile, only three million of the twenty-eight million living veterans actually access medical treatment from the veterans medical system. Budget and deficit reductions and streamlining of the VA programs through reorganization will adversely impact senior veterans, whose numbers will grow as rapidly as their current and future medical needs explode.

While most veterans are successful and arise each day to run America, some veterans need help to reintegrate into a civilian society, as well as to overcome adverse economic factors.

Thousands, currently in the military, are shifted daily from the military pay line, to the unemployment line, becoming a family "at risk" who, then, may soon become the "new" homeless.

Veterans are being told by the Washington beancounters and Congress that veterans must sustain their share of budget cuts. It is believed that most Americans would agree that our veterans "paid in full" at the entry and exit doors of military service.

As the American public makes way for the beaches, mountains, and resorts on Memorial Day, veterans and their families will pause to salute our fallen heroes. Veteran organizations and their leaders will ensure that the tributes occur as their solemn duty. It is these Americans who will give appropriate thought to the survivors and non-survivors. All Americans should give greater reflection to questioning our nation's commitment, to those who have contributed most to America's ongoing survival.

Many this Memorial Day will be asking, "Why has the contract with America's veterans been broken?" "How do we reinstate adequate programs for veterans in a country that now seems to approve the popular notion of budget cuts, even at great expense to those who served, survived, and now, more than ever, need our help?"

America is Number One, Thanks to Veterans, and other governmental agency slogans, such as Putting Veterans First are again singing, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," while the budget cut "ax murderers" blindly cut veterans' programs.

Thus, wherever one finds themselves this Memorial Day, these are thoughts worth considering—and acting upon. As Memorial Day proceeds, veterans not active in a veteran's organization may wish to consider membership in a group of their choice, and thought should be given as to methods of citizen support for veteran programs, i.e., through volunteer participation, assistance with monetary needs for local veteran organizations that serve veterans, and letting the appropriate political leaders know that veteran programs should be the first saved—and the last cut—in current and future budget considerations.

We need to remember those men and women who are in eminent danger in Bosnia, Korea, Liberia and other potential conflict sites for future veterans that will need to be honored at future Memorial Day ceremonies.

Amidst the flood of broadcast and newspaper media of the business world's "tribute" to another holiday sales/marketing opportunity, American needs to "refocus" its moral compass, directly upon those political leaders and candidates, to determine who will recognize and reverse the governmental failures over the many years before the next veteran-related holiday arrives in November of this year.

Memorial Day 1996 is, indeed, an excellent occasion to remind ourselves that this year we should salute our fallen dead and also pay a living tribute to those who did survive—only to return at a time when most Americans had lost respect and support for those who make democracy possible, worldwide and locally.