

Treasurer David Perez, Director Carl Bennett, Director John Byers, Director Carl Erb, Director Tom Hoffman, and Director Howard Welch.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city of Industry on the 40th anniversary of its incorporation and sending our best wishes to the residents and businesses of the city of Industry for many more years of continued growth and prosperity.

# UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI CONCERT SINGERS WIN GRAND PRIZE IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

## HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the University of Mississippi Concert Singers who won their fourth international choral title in May in competition in Varna, Bulgaria. The Ole Miss Concert Singers were the only group representing the United States in the competition, which included 21 choirs from 11 countries.

In addition to winning the grand prize, a panel of international judges also gave the group a first place prize in the chamber choir category, first place in the mixed choir category, and a special award for the most innovative music interpretations.

Taking the top award in this event also qualified the group to participate in the European Grand Prize competition to be held in Italy in July 1998.

Mr. Speaker, the young men and women in this extraordinary group and their director, Dr. Jerry Jordan, deserve high praise for their accomplishments. I am placing in the RECORD a press release from the University of Mississippi which details the recent success this group has had in international competition.

### OLE MISS CONCERT SINGERS WOW JUDGES, CAPTURE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

UNIVERSITY MS.—The University of Mississippi Concert Singers have done it again. The choir won its fourth international choral title, this time in Varna, Bulgaria, at the International May Choir Competition.

The Ole Miss choir, the only group representing the United States, wowed judges as they sang music in seven languages from a number of musical periods and competed against 21 choirs from 11 countries, including Italy, Portugal, Russia and the Ukraine. The competition was the conclusion to the 48-member choir's two-week, five-country tour.

A panel of international judges awarded the singers three awards in addition to the Grand Prize. The choir placed first in the chamber choir category, first in the mixed choir category (men and women) and was awarded a special prize given by the judges for the first time for the most innovative musical interpretations.

"I am measurably proud of our students and for the University that we won one of the top six choral competitions in the world," said Dr. Jerry Jordan, director of the Concert Singers and director of Choral Programs at Ole Miss. "We may come from the poorest state in the Union, but it is tremendously gratifying to have the world's top authorities in choral music judge our Southern guys and gals as the best choral singers in world competition. We hope to continue to

keep the strong choral tradition going here at Ole Miss."

The Varna win qualifies Concert Singers to compete in the European Grand Prize in Gorizia, Italy, in July 1998. The Grand Prize, the world's most prestigious choral competition for nonprofessionals, is widely recognized as the litmus test for the best singers in the world.

Concert Singers competed for the Grand Prize in 1995 as one of the winners of the six top international competitions and tied for top honors with the Japanese choir. The competition was held in Arezzo, Italy.

Concert Singer Delilah Martineau of Louisville said the competition in Varna was a test of the group's talents, skills and stamina.

"I came to win and no less," she said. "However, to win we had to reach down deeper inside than we ever had and experience the music. 'We had to live through each note. It was one of the most awesome musical experiences I have ever had.'"

Martineau's feelings were shared by a number of the singers. Chalis Pomeroy of Dickinson, ND, said singing on an international level was a rewarding experience.

"Being able to perform music at a quality level fit for the international stage is a fantastic feeling. Winning with that music is even better," she said.

But the trip was not just about winning, said singer Shannon Quon of Moorhead.

He said the best part about the competition and the trip in general was "seeing that no matter what nationality we are, what language we speak or how wealthy or poor we are we can all come together and enjoy good music. It is amazing to see how we can touch so many people through our music."

The trip had a particular sentimental attachment for Jordan, who met Istvan Parkai, a specialist in Hungarian music whose choral direction Jordan has admired for 25 years.

"Twenty five years ago I bought some recordings of Hungarian choirs and they have been my favorites," Jordan said. "He was the person I was most honored to meet on this trip because I found that he was the director for some of those recordings I had admired for so long."

Parkai was one of the judges at the competition and cried during the Concert Singers' rendition of a Hungarian piece. Following the performance Parkai said he was touched by the choir's expression during the song.

"It was as if they were understanding not just each phrase, but every word. I have rarely heard it sung with such expression and detail from even a Hungarian choir," he said.

The cultural experiences during the 14-day trip brought to life many of the differences between European and North American life. Brian Wells of Vicksburg said, "The Europeans' love for music is one of a kind."

"We did not have to wait for the competition to be around people who appreciated music," he said. "The Europeans loved and respected us on the streets, in the airports, in the hotels, churches and anywhere we sang."

The choir is no stranger to success. In 1994, the Ole Miss Concert Singers captured the top five awards in Tours, France, where they competed against 30 choirs from 17 countries to win the judge's choice for best overall choir and the audience's top choice, among other awards.

Choir members also garnered the audience's award at the same competition in 1989, and they won the Chester Music Festival in Chester, England, in 1984. Other performances have included those at the Vatican, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

Jordan has played a significant role in the choir's success and was named one of the 10

most highly recommended choral clinicians in the United States in a national survey conducted by the American Choral Directors Association. He has directed the choir for the past 17 years and made his New York City debut in Lincoln Center with the American Symphony Orchestra in 1988. Jordan is regularly featured as a guest conductor at Carnegie Hall.

## TRIBUTE TO HON. ROBERT C. McEWEN, M.C.

### HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you and our colleagues of the passing of my good friend, Robert C. McEwen of Ogdensburg, NY, on Sunday, June 15. Bob McEwen served as a Member of the House of Representatives from northern New York from 1965 until 1980. Prior to that, he served as a member of the New York State senate for 11 years. Elected to the 89th Congress, Bob McEwen first served on the Committee on Public Works and the Committee on House Administration. As he gained seniority, he served with distinction as a member of the Committee on Appropriations. At the time of his retirement, he served as the ranking minority member of its Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Bob McEwen was not the kind of man who could easily retire from public service, however. President Ronald Reagan called him back into public service in 1981, appointing him to serve as the U.S. chairman of the International Joint Commission, an assignment he undertook with enthusiasm.

I feel privileged to have occupied his seat in the New York State senate and am honored to represent today the district which he served with such distinction for so many years. Bob McEwen served in elected office for three quarters of his adult life and never lost an election. In making his retirement announcement in 1980, Bob McEwen said, "Serving in an elected office is more than a way of making a living, it is a way of life." He dedicated his life to public service and exemplified the very best traditions of this institution. He is survived by his wife, Peg, and two daughters, Mrs. Nancy McEwen Wax of Easton, CT, and Mrs. Mary McEwen Fitzpatrick of Lawrenceville, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that three members of Bob McEwen's original staff are still serving his North Country Congressional District as members of my staff, Cary R. Brick, my chief of staff; Miss Donna M. Bell, my administrative secretary, and Mrs. Joann Ellis Humphries, my caseworker and office manager, all served Bob McEwen with distinction and join me in expressing our most sincere sympathies to the McEwen family.

Mr. Brick delivered a eulogy for Bob McEwen at the interment service which was held on Friday in Ogdensburg. It spoke eloquently of the high regard in which he was held by all of those who were privileged to know him. Mr. Brick's remarks follow:

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. McEWEN (By Cary R. Brick)

Thirty-seven days ago, many of us gathered at the Robert C. McEwen Customs

House, the oldest building in America occupied by agencies of the Federal government, to commemorate National Historic Preservation Week.

I was honored to have been asked to participate in that ceremony. I took the opportunity to speak about the man whose name graces the historic structure, our friend, Bob McEwen. Characteristic of Bob, he called both my wife and my mother the next day to tell him how pleased he was with the event, and being the consummate gentleman that he was, added some gracious comments that any wife or mother would want to hear about her husband or son.

He called me, as well, to thank me. I remember his words: "Mr. Brick," he said, "it is not every man who gets to hear his own eulogy, thank you for letting me hear mine. I hope I won't give you reason to change your opinion of me when the time comes."

I responded by telling him he couldn't change anyone's feelings for him!

I didn't consciously prepare those remarks of 37 days ago as a eulogy. I prepared them because I wanted Bob McEwen to hear what I, and all of his friends, thought of him. But, I guess Bob knew I would repeat some of those thoughts when the time came.

One of the displays in the Customs House notes "historic buildings serve as symbols of the patriotism and pride Americans feel for their country."

I asked then and I ask again today that we acknowledge that historic building as a permanent monument to one of Ogdensburg's most prominent native sons, a gentleman who spent more than a quarter of a century serving in legislative bodies—11 years in the State Senate and 16 in the United States Congress.

May that building which Congress determined in 1980 should bear his name always serve as a memorial to his public service. May it stand strong and with dignity and class as he did for so many years.

He served more than three-fourths of his adult life in the service of New York and the nation. Bob was an American patriot and a North Country treasure whose senior statesman status was deserved because it was earned through 16 successive victories in special, primary and general elections. There might have been 17 or 18 or more, but Bob McEwen knew when it was time to come home to stay. Today, as Bob has made his final journey, we join together to celebrate his life, his contributions and his lessons.

Bob McEwen stood as a symbol of what makes our democracy survive. He was selected by his neighbors to be their voice in government, and he met their mandate with distinction. Success came easily to him because, as several newspapers have reported in the past few days, he never forgot where he came from and who he represented. He knew his district, whether it was one county or ten. His elections took him to Albany and Washington, but he never forgot his roots.

Bob knew that when the time came for him to answer his final roll call, as a veteran and former Member of the House of Representatives, he could be interred beside some of our nation's greatest national heroes, statesmen, Supreme Court Justices and other veterans from every American war in Arlington National Cemetery. He knew that he was entitled to an interment with pomp and circumstance.

But Bob was a man of our North Country. He wanted it simple. He wanted it here.

And we honor his wishes today.

Had he let us, we could have filled Ogdensburg's largest house of worship to the rafters, and then some.

He wanted it private and brief.

And we respect his wishes today. We do so just as Bob respected the people of the North

Country—the men and women who, he liked to joke, had the opportunity to renew his employment contract every two years.

Bob McEwen reflected the best of our public servants.

His honesty, his personal integrity and high morals and love for his family, combined with his respect for others—even those who may not have shared his beliefs or character—reflect what our Founding Fathers had in mind when they created the experiment which we call the American democracy.

I ask you to join me in thinking of the Customs House on the shore of Bob's beloved St. Lawrence as a monument to his countless contributions to the North Country. There is not a community or institution in the vast landscape between Lake Ontario and Lake Champlain which has not felt the influence of Bob McEwen.

It was Bob McEwen who singlehandedly laid the groundwork for the creation of the new Fort Drum which occurred after he retired from Congress. He built the foundation upon which Dave Martin and the Army created the only military installation in the United States built from scratch since World War II.

In an April, 1985, letter to his successor he called the new Fort Drum "the project that had been my greatest hope for our North Country." At this very hour, as we pay tribute to Bob, John McHugh and his colleagues in Congress are continuing that effort by debating the 1998 defense bill which contains nearly \$25 million for additional Fort Drum development.

Bob McEwen served in the Congress during a remarkable and exciting time in American history. He went to Congress in 1965 when Lyndon Johnson was transforming John Kennedy's New Frontier into his own Great Society, creating hundreds of new social programs and expanding the role of the federal government to address every social ill. Like his neighbors back home, he supported some and opposed others. He feared that some of them could contribute to uncontrollable deficits for future generations. Time has proven him to be a man of foresight.

He witnessed the expansion of our involvement in Vietnam and stood behind our servicemen even when the tide was turning against their involvement in an endless war on the other side of the globe.

He grieved when his President lost the faith of the American people. He thought there was no greater offense than abusing the trust of the people.

Bob McEwen never served in the majority party in the Congress, but there was never any doubt that he served the interests of the majority of his constituency—which he saw as his extended family.

To his immediate family, I say we all share in your loss. You have lost a husband, father and grandfather. We have lost a friend.

To Peg, we are grateful that you came into Bob's life when you did and for being a devoted wife and partner. Illness presented many challenges to Bob in recent years—challenges which would have devastated a weaker man. Peg, you were there to provide the emotional support which allowed Bob to fight his illnesses with the same vigor that he demonstrated in every campaign. You were challenged, as well, by illness and demonstrated that there was always reason to hope for better days.

To Nancy and Mary: Bob so enjoyed your success as career women and the successes of your husbands. Having lost your wonderful mother, a warm and grand lady, you already know that the loss of a parent creates a void which can only be filled by memories.

Your father frequently talked about his father, a man from whom he drew great inspi-

ration and learned many lessons. Your father was a student of his family's heritage. I recall walking through the McEwen cemetery in the Town of Lawrence with him one summer evening and listening to him describe the life and times of each of your ancestors buried there. (To really know Bob McEwen, you had to know how to listen!)

Your father understood that the McEwen family tree has very deep roots, its branches are ever expanding, its leaves sometimes colorful, as was he, and takes its strength from the rich earth beneath it.

As you mourn the loss of your father, you will draw upon the strength of that heritage and you will find peace. You are, after all, Bob McEwen's daughters. I can think of no greater tribute to both of you.

To all the McEwen grandchildren, I say you are blessed. I hope in the years to come, as you become young adults and mothers and fathers, you will study your grandfather's career, learn from it, and if you are so inclined, emulate it in any way you can while maintaining your individuality. Whatever you do will make him proud.

Lastly, to my mentor and our friend Bob:

Speaking for all of those who were privileged to work for and with you in Albany and Washington, I thank you for allowing us the privilege of being a part of your team. We are better people for having had that honor. We're not here to say goodbye, as solemn as this moment is for all of us. We are here to remember you, to celebrate your life and to find joy in having walked the road of life with you. Our memories of you shall live forever.

We will pay tribute to you by cherishing your ideals and your principles.

May God grant that your memory ever inspire us.

And may peace and bliss be granted to you until we meet again.

## A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE ORDER OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

**HON. LINDA SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 1997*

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, under the leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following:

### A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE ORDER OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

(By the Honorable Linda A. Smith)

Whereas membership in the Grange is synonymous with good citizenship and fraternal respect for others.

Whereas for almost 130 years the Grange has remained one of the best examples of a grass-roots, bottom-up organization, whose strength lies in the more than 3,000 local Granges in over 30 states which offer a wide range of community-oriented programs and activities for children, youth and adults, and hold regular meetings where local and national issues are often discussed. For over a century Grange halls have been community centers where residents gather for educational events, dances, potlucks, town meetings, political rallies and other meetings and have allowed Junior Grange, 4-H, FFA, scouting and Camp Fire groups to thrive; and each year tens of thousands of Grange members participate in numerous community service projects.

Whereas the Grange is one of the first major national organizations which allowed women to vote and sought the membership