

able officials and vice chairman of the OPIC Board. Current law requires that the Administrator of the Agency for International Development [AID] and the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] or the Deputy USTR to serve on the board in these positions. This reform would allow the executive branch to appoint individuals who could best serve OPIC without having their time and attention devoted to their other important duties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and the 34 other Members from both sides of the aisle in helping to reform and reauthorize OPIC by cosponsoring H.R. 2064.

IN HONOR OF FATHER IBRAHIM
IBRAHIM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Father Ibrahim of St. Elias Church in Cleveland, OH, on the 10th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood.

Father Ibrahim was born in a small village in South Lebanon. There, he attended school and entered the Seminary of Saint Savior of the Basilian Salvatorian Order. He took his first religious vows in 1980, then moved to Jiita to start his college education.

In 1984, he was sent to Rome to continue studying philosophy and theology. On November 3, 1985, he took his perpetual vows. After returning to Lebanon to receive his deaconal ordination on July 9, 1987, and his ordination to the priesthood on July 18, 1987, he continued his studies in Rome, specializing in moral theology.

Father Ibrahim overcame the obstacles of war and worked to educate future priests in Lebanon for 2 years as the director of the seminary of his order. In 1991, he was assigned as pastor of St. Elias Church in Cleveland, OH. Since his arrival, he has been appointed protopresbyter for the midwest region for the Diocese of Newton and was awarded the Interfaith Commission Award by Bishop Anthony Pilla.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing Father Ibrahim in his efforts to promote Christian unity and interreligious dialog. The parishioners of St. Elias and the city of Cleveland are lucky to have such a positive and dynamic force in their midst.

TRIBUTE TO THE LONG ISLAND
LADIES OF THE COURT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the women of the Long Island Ladies of the Court. Recently, this four woman basketball team from Nassau County participated in the U.S. National Senior Olympics in Tucson, AZ. I am pleased to announce that our Long Island team made up of women between 55 and 60 years of age, captured the Silver Medal at the games—a very strong showing in a competition where over

10,500 men and women at least 50 years old from 48 States participated in 20 sports. We are very proud of our seniors and their basketball abilities.

I am a strong believer in sports, team participation and competition. I played basketball as a young girl growing up on Long Island and eventually played for Mineola High School. I experienced what recent studies have demonstrated that participating in team sports is essential for developing self-esteem and social skills in young women. Self-confidence grows with each successful lay-up, jump shot and slam dunk. And for seniors, exercise is a proven benefit—it slows down the aging process and helps people live longer and healthier lives. The Ladies of Long Island's excellent showing in the Senior Games clearly demonstrates that we can all benefit from team sports.

Mr. Speaker, I join today with my fellow residents from Long Island in offering a hearty congratulations to the Long Island Ladies of the Court and all participants at the U.S. National Senior Games. Great job to all of you!

AVIATION TAX PROPOSALS BAD
FOR AVIATION

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the devastating impact this Taxpayer Relief Act will have on one single industry—the aviation industry. It is impossible to balance the budget and give taxpayers billions in tax cuts at the same time without raising revenues. Therefore, through massive tax increases, the Ways and Means Committee has decided to use the airlines, and the airline consumer, as the primary source of revenue. Of the total \$48 billion in tax increases over the next five years, \$34 billion, or 70 percent, will be raised from the aviation industry.

The airline passenger will now have to pay both a ticket tax and a new per flight segment head tax of \$2.00, which will progressively increase each year, yet the passenger will not benefit from the increased revenues. This is because the revenue raised from increased aviation taxes will be used to accomplish other unrelated tax cuts in this package. There is absolutely no relationship between the additional taxes and the programs that these taxes are supposed to support. The additional taxes will not fund new safety and security measures; they will not fund air traffic control modernization efforts; and, they will not fund critical airport improvement projects. In fact, under the budget agreement, federal funding of air traffic control operations and airport development will likely decline over the next five years as these new taxes are increased.

It is important to note that the increased revenues will be paid entirely by the airline passenger. It is the consumer who pays the ticket tax, the head tax, the departure and the arrival tax. However, the cargo waybill tax, which is paid by the profitable cargo airline industry, is simply extended in this tax package. Cargo companies, which fly hundreds of planes domestically and internationally each day at a profit, will not pay a cent more.

Last year, when the aviation excise taxes lapsed, the airline industry and the Congress began to examine how to improve the way the Federal Aviation Administration is financed and how to provide a more reliable funding stream. As the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Aviation, I decided to take the lead in developing a fair and equitable "user fee" funding mechanism that would more closely align the funding of the FAA to the costs imposed on the system by the airlines. In addition, Congress created the National Civil Aviation Review Commission to study and recommend a new financing system. This Commission, which has a federal budget of \$1.2 million, is composed of representatives of all segments of the aviation industry and is chaired by former Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Norm Mineta. However, a month before the Commission's expected recommendations, the Ways and Means Committee stepped in and raised aviation revenues without even waiting to hear what the \$1.2 million taxpayer financed Commission has to say about aviation revenues and spending. Although I will continue to draft my user fee legislation, and the Commission will continue its important work, this aviation tax proposal will make it extremely difficult to make the necessary changes in the aviation financing system. By raising aviation taxes to offset other tax cuts, this proposal widens the existing gap between aviation revenues and spending in the budget process.

In 1995 and 1996, the airline industry posted record profits. However, this success follows years of economic hardship when the airlines had to operate in the red, cutting service and eliminating jobs. If we take an additional \$5 billion from the airlines over the next five years, as we propose to do today, we will completely eliminate their profit margin. We will kill the airlines that are already struggling today and will dash all others' hope for future growth. Aviation is an integral part of our economy. Economic stimulus from aviation-related activities is now estimated to be \$700 billion dollars annually and is expected to grow to \$900 billion by the end of the century. However, this tax package today will take the air out of the aviation industry. This massive tax increase will once again bring the dark skies of economic hardship over the aviation industry, effectively grounding it.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI MICHEL
TWERSKI

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to one of Milwaukee's truly outstanding citizens, Rabbi Michel Twerski. On July 6, 1997, Congregation Beth Jehudah will gather with friends from Milwaukee and around the world at Milwaukee's historic Pabst Theater to pay tribute to Rabbi Twerski. I would like to take a moment to reflect on Rabbi Twerski's contributions to Milwaukee, the Chassidic community, and the world of music.

Rabbi Twerski has been an inspirational force in the local and international Chassidic

community for many years. He is both a spiritual leader and a renowned composer, whose works have been listened to and enjoyed throughout the world of Jewish music. Indeed, on July 6, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will be giving a concert in celebration of Rabbi Twerski's music.

In addition to his musical accomplishments, Rabbi Twerski has been a leader in his community throughout his lifetime. With the values instilled by his parents, he has reached out to his community to share the teachings of his faith. He led efforts to create an elementary school and Kollel audit learning program in Milwaukee, both of which have been significant to the Orthodox life in the city. Both he and his wife, Rebbetzin Feige Twerski, present programs throughout the world to those who want to learn more about traditional Jewish life and have become known internationally as counselors on difficult personal and religious matters.

Rabbi Twerski not only serves Milwaukee as a religious leader but is a friend, counselor, and teacher to his community and a leader to the Milwaukee community as a whole. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Rabbi Twerski on his many accomplishments and commend him on his service to Milwaukee and people throughout the world.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP FREDERIC
BARAGA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I have the opportunity this weekend to attend an unusual birthday party in my congressional district in Michigan for a very special individual. This month we celebrate the birth of Frederic Baraga, born 200 years ago in a town called Mala vas in what is now the independent nation of Slovenia.

Frederic Baraga was a pioneer who wandered in the wilds of the Great Lakes area in the early 1800's, braving the snows and bitter winters, the swamps, and swarms of insects of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Frederic Baraga was a teacher; a learned man who mastered Slovenian, English, Latin, German, French, and Italian, he went on to speak the native American Ojibwa language, eventually writing a grammar and an Ojibwa dictionary that is still in use today.

Frederic Baraga was a missionary, whose work was God's work. He left a family that had gained a title of nobility in Europe, taking the vow of poverty and accepting the dangers of a new world to bring the Christian faith to the New World, America.

Frederic Baraga was a man, with the afflictions and failings of a man, but he was unique in his dedication to his mission and to his faith. The dedication of this man, who stood 5 feet, 4 inches tall and referred to himself as "the little missionary," has earned the love and respect of the people of northern Michigan, who are supporting efforts to canonize him a saint in the Catholic Church.

There are many details of his life which have been passed down to us, tales of his falling through thin ice in mid-winter on his religious rounds, stories that paint a picture of a

man with a twinkle in his eye and a tendency to break up a long day of work or travel with a midday nap. With these anecdotes we catch a glimpse through the mists of history of a real person, not merely a symbol of an ideal.

Mr. Speaker, we in northern Michigan look at Bishop Frederic Baraga as more than just our native son. A man of Europe, later a man of the native American people of the Great Lakes area, he may finally become a man of the world, whose humility, dedication, commitment to learning, and qualities of character are a model for all of mankind, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The nation of Slovenia has honored Bishop Baraga with a commemorative stamp. I have asked the U.S. Postal Service to give new consideration to a similar honor. I know this review process takes time, but I and the supporters of the efforts to honor Bishop Baraga, look forward to the day when we can send our invitations to another birthday party for this very special individual with stamps bearing his visage.

PROVIDING HOPE BY FAITH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Anthony's Church as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. For the past 100 years the church has been the foundation that has allowed the congregation to serve as a bridge to the community, relentlessly providing their unselfish services not only in times of hardship but also in daily life.

St. Anthony's Church was founded in a farming community to bring together friends and neighbors. The church has helped the community by creating programs that assist those in need. One of the most outstanding programs created by the church is the Center for Families. This center provides emotional or marriage counseling, day care, and a playground for their children. Families supporting one another is the key to a flourishing community, and St. Anthony's has provided the assistance that continues to create strong families, who provide an excellent example for the community as they reach out to their fellow neighbors.

Throughout the past 100 years the congregation has been committed to helping those who have nowhere to turn. For over 20 years, St. Anthony's members have organized a food pantry that gives the less fortunate in the community not only food but hope for the future. Since the first plank of the church was nailed, the congregation has been providing assistance through the Emergency Need Program. This program provides the payment of past due electricity bills, rent payments, and heating bills for families who have fallen on hard times.

The congregation of St. Anthony's Church pass along their strong Christian values to future generations by maintaining a K-5 parochial school. The school is dedicated to teaching the Christian principles to students at an early age, so that they will have their faith to guide them through life's many challenges. Once the youth in Fisherville move toward adulthood, St. Anthony's does not abandon

them. Baccalaureate, a graduation ceremony, is performed by the parish, so that students have a spiritual blessing to continue to guide them through adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, St. Anthony's Church will strive to provide an invaluable base for the community, so I urge you and your colleagues to join me in celebrating St. Anthony of Pauda's centennial anniversary which truly is a journey in faith.

IN HONOR OF WMZQ

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to one of the top rated radio stations in the Washington area, WMZQ. June 22 marks their 20th anniversary on the air as a country music station, serving the musical and community needs of our region.

On June 22, 1977, WMZQ 98.7 FM signed on the air with the song "Are You Ready for the Country?" Since that time, the Washington metropolitan area has benefited from the talent and commitment of their staff. The Country Music Association [CMA] has honored WMZQ's contribution to country music by naming WMZQ the CMA Station of the Year in 1989. The radio industry has also recognized WMZQ's programming excellence with several Achievement in Radio [AIR] Awards.

WMZQ's staff is intertwined with the Greater Washington community. WMZQ has supported many charitable organizations like the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes, Children's Hospital, the American Red Cross and Toys for Tots through event participation and public affairs programming. WMZQ's loyal listeners' generous response to the Annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Radiothon has raised over \$2 million in just 5 years. Listener's contributions during the Coats for Kids campaigns has kept thousands of children warm during the winter months. WMZQ's Christmas in April home renovation projects has provided many elderly, low-income and handicapped neighbors with safer living conditions.

On June 22 of this month, the WMZQ staff and 15,000 of their most loyal fans celebrated the radio station's 20th anniversary at the Bull Run Country Jamboree. This year they were proud to host Paul Brantly, LeAnne Rimes, Neil McCoy, and Wynonna. Over the last 7 years this annual event has raised over \$600,000 for the Northern Virginia Park Authority. This year, WMZQ general manager, Charlie Ochs, rededicated the efforts of the WMZQ staff to better serve the country music listener and to continue to work to make the Washington area a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the special anniversary of WMZQ. Not only do they provide the region with good country music, but they have supported our community through many volunteer programs. They have enriched the lives of their listeners, have enhanced the quality of life in our region and have grown to be on the of top rated country stations in the Nation.