

QUEENSBURY CENTRAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, anyone who visits my office can't help but notice the display of fire helmets that dominates my reception area. The main reason for this is the fact that I learned firsthand the true value of fire companies. One fire company in particular, the Queensbury Central Fire Co. is especially close to my heart. While serving as Queensbury town supervisor, and a New York State Legislator, I had the privilege of being an active member of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. It was this experience that gave me a tremendous respect for those who provide fire protection in our rural areas.

In a rural area like the 22nd District of New York, fire protection is often solely in the hands of these volunteer companies. In New York State, as elsewhere, they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property. That is why the efforts of people like those fire fighters in the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. is so very critical.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Queensbury in Warren County is certainly no exception. The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors, and their strong civic pride. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make places like Queensbury great places to live. This concept of community service and pride is exemplified by the devoted service of the members of their volunteer fire department. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for their neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, it has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. For the members of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company, however, this is a day to day occurrence. Our young people would do themselves right by emulating the selfless service of these noble individuals. On Saturday, September 13, 1997 the fire company will be holding a ceremony to commemorate this milestone. This will provide the ideal opportunity for the residents in and around Queensbury to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. are great Americans. I am truly proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of voluntarism which has been such a central part of American life. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THOMAS WORRELL

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the growth of our communities is accomplished through the good works of those people who give of themselves so earnestly and so well, whose contributions cover so many areas that they permeate the whole community. One of these rare people is Thomas Worrell who has been named the 1997 Heritage Celebration Grand Marshal by the Yonkers African-American Heritage Celebration. The reasons for his selection are obvious. Mr. Worrell is Great, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Terrace City Lodge of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World which has a long tradition of serving lunches for senior citizens and teaching responsibility to youngsters. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, being discharged in 1949. He married Gloria Dias and together they have six children.

Mr. Worrell, who worked for a local trucking company, was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, serving for 15 of his 47 years in the union as a shop steward. He also joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to fight segregation. In his years with the Terrace City Lodge, Mr. Worrell helped it to grow from a storefront to the eminent institution it is today.

He has passed his passion for helping to his two sons. Robert serves the Elks as Chief Antler of Council 57. Thomas III serves as president of the Samuel H. Dow Fire and Drum Corps.

There are few as worthy as Mr. Worrell to be named Heritage Grand Marshal.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LESHER

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Richard Leshar has been a singular voice for America's economic interests for more than 20 years. He is stepping down at the end of the summer. The Nation's political debate has been significantly changed—for the better—through his singular input and perseverance.

Dick Leshar was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of Ronald Reagan's 1980 supply-side program, which cut taxes across the board and initiated the largest peacetime economic expansion in history. This was a bold gesture and a perfect example of the kind of vision and leadership that we have come to expect from him.

And it is fitting that Dick now leaves the chamber as Congress produces and the President is about to sign the first broad-based tax cuts in 16 years—since, in fact, Ronald Reagan's first term.

Dick Leshar has been instrumental in developing and implementing the Chamber's grassroots action information [GAIN], a service that has led to more effective legislative action through greater participation by the membership. In addition, he guided the chamber's

launching of BizNet, the American Business Network, which features two award-winning television programs—"First Business" and "It's Your Business." Dr. Leshar's newspaper column, *The Voice of Business*, is distributed weekly to more than 600 newspapers across the Nation.

After more than 20 years of Dick Leshar's leadership, the chamber's membership has grown to 215,000 members, 3,000 State and local chambers of commerce and 1,200 trade and professional associations. Membership also includes 72 American chambers of commerce abroad in 65 countries. Programmatic achievements in this remarkable tenure include the Center for Workforce preparation and the Quality Learning Services, which delivers quality management seminars throughout the country.

Other significant highlights include:

The creation of one of the most advanced and effective communications networks of any business organization with television facilities producing daily and weekly syndicated business programming, satellite training seminars and televised town-hall meetings;

The creation of an extensive political program including *How They Voted*—the principal ranking of the pro-business votes of Members of Congress, a comprehensive endorsement process based on the rankings;

The chartering of the National Chamber Litigation Center, a public policy legal arm, that widely represents business interests in the Federal courts with great success.

Dr. Richard Leshar's reputation as a legitimate groundbreaker actually began with his tenure at NASA where as an assistant administrator he contributed to the first Moon landing.

On a personal note, over the last two decades—and particularly the last couple of years as a member of the majority—it's been a true honor to have had the opportunity to work with Dick Leshar and gain from his insight and experience. He has been a good ally, a good friend and a great American. I know I speak for many Members in sincerely wishing him well in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES—DORIS MCCRAY-CRANK

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow evening in my district a reception hosted by the Newark Tenants Council [NTC] will be held honoring Doris McCray-Crank. Mrs. Crank is being recognized for her election as chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of the Newark Housing Authority [NHA].

Mrs. Crank has been an advocate for the less fortunate for most of her life and for all of her adult life. She has been active in the public housing arena as a tenant, a tenant leader with the NTC, and a member of the NHA board of commissioners. She has used available opportunities and resources to help make life better for those often shut out.

In 1972 while attending the U.N.-sponsored World Health Conference in Paris, France, Mrs. Crank learned of the children starving in Biafra because of the country's civil war. Completely dismayed, Mrs. Crank interrupted a

session and took the opportunity to speak with conference delegates about providing financial support to save the children from death and starvation. As a result of her passionate plea, the delegates raised \$8 million to feed the children.

While our situation at home is not nearly as devastating as that of Biafra's starving children, Mrs. Crank steps up to bat just as compassionately for our public housing residents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues some of her goals as chair of the NHA Board of Commission. Mrs. Crank would like to see public housing residents own their homes, if they have the means; have more persons who are gainfully employed reside as tenants; businesses developed in the public housing communities that would strengthen economic development and benefit the residents; and public housing made drug free. Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I extend my best wishes to Mrs. Crank and the members of the Newark Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners—Gloria Cartwright, Ida Clark, Terry Pringle, Lynell Robinson, Zinnerford Smith, and Rolando Velazquez—and the Authority's executive director, Harold Lucas, as they continue to work to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for Newark's residents and to set the standards and provide the benchmarks for other public housing entities.

#### RAILS TO TRAILS

### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 1997*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation regarding Rails to Trails. This legislation makes what I believe are common-sense changes to the current Rails to Trails Program.

Under this bill, local communities could actively participate in deciding whether or not to convert an abandoned rail line into a trail. This legislation simply states that local government officials must approve a rails to trails decision before a line is designated for a trail use. Under the current program, only the Surface Transportation Board decides whether to approve a rail to trail conversion.

Like many Federal laws and programs, Rails to Trails is top-heavy and the decision-making is done in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, people who live in Washington, DC, do not always understand what the communities in Kansas desire. We need more local control and decision-making to insure that the needs of local communities and property owners are considered.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support this legislation and allow local communities to participate in the Rails to Trails process.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARIE HAFF

### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to my

constituent Marie Haff on her birthday. This past June 29, 1997, Marie Haff turned 80 years young.

Marie Haff, a resident of Pleasanton, CA, is a strong believer in family, hard work, and education. She is the proud mother of three daughters, grandmother of nine children, and great-grandmother of three. Although Marie officially retired in 1982 from her job, manager of the Northern California Credit Bureaus, she certainly has not stopped working. Currently, she is a trustee emeritus of Western Management Institute of Washington, DC, and serves as executive secretary of Associated Credit Bureaus of California. In addition to this already busy schedule, Marie attends classes at the local college, and last year at the age of 79, set out to conquer the information age by obtaining her first computer.

For many years Marie has served as a volunteer for local charities. She is active in promoting women's rights, and chaired the national committee which wrote the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, giving women the right to have their own credit records. For her efforts she has received many awards, including the Soroptomist Woman of the Year Award, International Credit Association Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Distinguished Service Award, California Department of Consumer Affairs.

I am proud to know Marie Haff. I offer her my warmest congratulations, and best wishes for the years ahead.

#### TRAVERSE CITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the "Cherry Capital of the World" in the First Congressional District of Michigan. Celebrated for its sheltering harbors, its temperate climate, its beautiful countryside, and, of course, its cherries, Traverse City, MI, is celebrating its 150th birthday.

As in many other Great Lakes cities, logging and sawmill operations were the first industries of Traverse City, and, like other Midwest lumber towns, a major fire was part of the city's history.

Rebounding from every adversity, the city has grown to become the heart of one of the best resort and retirement areas on the Great Lakes.

Traverse City as a settled community traces its origin to the arrival of Horace Boardman and other settlers from Chicago on board the schooner *Lady of the Lake* in 1847. Mr. Boardman built a sawmill, which was purchased by Hannah, Lay and Co. in 1851. Hannah and Lay would go on to open the community's first big general store in 1883, and Perry Hannah would serve as the first village manager of Traverse City.

Some milestones in the city's history were outlined recently in its daily newspaper, the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*. This list is like a series of snapshots of a growing community in a growing nation, from the arrival of the first railroad in 1872 to the opening of the first airport in 1929, from the first log schoolhouse in

1853 to the opening of Northwestern Michigan College in 1951.

What these milestones cannot convey is the warmth of the people and the amenable climate of the area, moderated by the waters of Lake Michigan. Winters, which are here less bitter than in much of the northern United States, have allowed cherry trees and apple trees to thrive. Around 1920 Traverse City was named cherry capital of the world, and the community's first cherry festival was held. The event continues to this day.

A close look at Traverse City on its 150th anniversary reveals that its engine of economic growth is now fueled by tourism and the regular return of many summer vacationers, who are drawn to the beauty and temperate climate of the area. We see the growth of medical services, light manufacturing, and general commerce, cementing the community's role as the center of activity for northwestern lower Michigan.

We see a community which has evolved from humble beginnings to become one of the best places in the country to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, we salute Traverse City on its sesquicentennial anniversary.

#### TRIBUTE TO MRS. CASTYNE ADAMS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mrs. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and reflect upon the career of one of Dallas most dedicated servants. Her faithful service to Parkland Hospital was a testimony of her will to improving the lives of the patients that needed her help.

Castyne began her career of service to the Dallas area as a linen shaker for Parkland Hospital. She was drawn to Parkland because she "went to where people needed help. . . I love people and I believe that helping people is my job on earth." Mrs. Adams continued to serve to serve at Parkland for 37 years. During her tenure, she was the first African-American to become a department head, while also being the first African-American woman to serve on many Parkland committees. While a Parkland, Mrs. Adams revolutionized the linen service department to become one of the best programs in the nation handling over 27,000 pounds a day.

Mrs. Adams not only looked after the needs of her patients, but also the well being of her coworkers. She encouraged her employees to continue their education by going back to get their high school and college degrees, if they hadn't previously received them. Mrs. Adams who left school after the ninth grade received her college degree while taking night classes after work.

I thank Mrs. Adams for her years of loyal service to the citizens of Dallas and to the patients of Parkland. Thanks to the dedicated work of Mrs. Adams, her legacy and servitude will benefit generations to come.