

room and dormitories. In 1932, the school enrollment having grown, every room was needed to provide classroom space. Father Simard then acquired two adjoining properties on Saint Louis Avenue (formerly Newton Street), to build a convent. The Sisters moved into their newly built residence in October 1932.

During the pastorate of Father Simard, the Parish of the Nativity developed rapidly. In 1909, at the end of Father Hamelin's pastorate, the Aldenville mission had become the parish of Saint Rosa de Lima. In the '20s a number of families of Polish ancestry had settled in Willimansett. In 1925, these families asked Bishop O'Leary to establish a parish of their own. The Bishop asked the Franciscan Fathers to take charge of this foundation. In April 1925, the new church was dedicated as Saint Anthony of Padua Parish.

THE DREAM OF FATHER SIMARD

The Catholic population of Willimansett continued to expand during the '30s. In 1937, the parish numbered 4,500 souls. Despite the fact that seven Masses were being celebrated every Sunday, the church was hardly large enough to accommodate its parishioners. Father Simard seriously considered building a new church, to be erected between the rectory and the convent, at the corner of Chicopee and Mount Carmel. However, the difficulties of the times constrained him to forego—or at least to postpone—the fulfillment of this dream. Father Simard decided, instead, to restore the existing church. The renewal project was launched in the Fall of 1937. Soon, a newly redecorated church became a source of joy and wonder for all the parishioners.

Father Sauvageau was replaced as pastor of Nativity by Father L. George Clermont. It was during his administration that the Sisters of the Presentation, who had directed and staffed Mount Carmel School since its opening, let it be known that, due to difficult circumstances, they were obliged to withdraw from the school. The parishioners of Nativity, recognizing the immeasurable value of their parochial school, decided to embark upon an ambitious project, one that, until then, had been untried in the Diocese of Springfield. The parish school would heretofore be staffed and directed entirely by lay persons. This challenging venture has been quite successful. Under the principalship first of Frederick Becklo, and since September 1980 of Kathleen Hill, Mount Carmel School continues to provide for our young people a solid basis formation in the secular subjects, and a stable formation in Christian values.

THE DREAM FULFILLED

In 1974, his health failing, Father Clermont retired. Father W. Donald Fournier, who had been his curate, became pastor of Nativity. It was he who, at long last, saw the fulfillment of the dream shared by priests and parishioners of Nativity since the time of Father Simard: the building of a new parish church. [The government sought to take the land occupied by the church built by Father Hamelin for the building of Interstate Route 391. The monies offered for the expropriation of this property were sufficient, in the judgement of diocesan authorities, to launch the construction project. An enthusiastic building fund campaign by the parishioners, generously supplemented by gifts of donors, brought in sufficient funds to complete and furnish a magnificent new church and a spacious parish hall. On Pentecost Sunday, May 25, 1980, His Excellency Joseph F. Maguire, Bishop of Springfield, presided at a Concelebrated Mass marking the dedication of the new Nativity Church, in which the Liturgy has been celebrated since Holy Week 1980.]

In November 1980, Father Fournier answered his country's call, and began a tour of duty as a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy. He has been replaced by Father William Paquin. Beginning in December 1980, Father Paquin assumed the pastorate of Nativity. With the assistance of his curate, and the valuable support of the Parish Council, Father Paquin strives to provide for the spiritual needs of his flock, to maintain the parish buildings, to promote the generosity of the parishioners, to encourage among the faithful a genuine spirit of community—of family.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as we return from the August break, this Congress has one last opportunity to change the current campaign finance system. We have missed earlier opportunities to have a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives for campaign reform. If we fail to act before the House recesses in October we will not see any reform of the current system in the 105th Congress. I urge the leadership of the House of Representatives to allow the Members of Congress an opportunity to vote on campaign finance reform legislation.

It is obvious that the current system is broken and needs dramatic change. Too much money is being spent on campaigns. This has prohibited many qualified individuals from running for office, it has created disgust with the democratic process and it has resulted in some of the lowest voter turnout in years. It is our responsibility as elected officials to change the current system.

As a freshman member who recently went through my first election I understand the problems in the system. I have been working with some of my freshman colleagues to draft and introduce the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. This act would ban soft money and enact more stringent contribution disclosure requirements for candidates and independent groups. This act would take the biggest money out of elections and begin to restore some credibility to the system. The public is demanding that we enact some form of campaign finance reform. The Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act was negotiated between Republicans and Democrats and is the proper piece of legislation to be considered.

Over the next month and a half we will have plenty of opportunities to move a bill forward, through the committee of jurisdiction and to the floor of the House of Representatives. I will be following the committee and floor schedules closely in order to insure that time is available to consider campaign finance reform legislation before the end of this session. I strongly urge the leadership to take quick action to allow a vote on campaign finance reform. If we fail to act now, we will have missed our best opportunity to bring some respect back to this great institution and restore the public's trust in our democratic process. If we don't act now, next year will be too late.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER D. RAMSAY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Mr. Walter D. Ramsay, an outstanding individual whose untimely passing will be felt and mourned by many in Washington.

Walt Ramsay, an independent consultant for the precious metals industry and a former long-time administrative assistant to Senator Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey, succumbed to lung cancer early yesterday morning at Inova Hospital in Alexandria, VA. I know my colleagues will join me in offering condolences to his wife, Leslie Sorg Ramsay, his son, Sean Ramsay, and his other family members and many, many friends.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself very lucky to have had the good fortune to meet Walt shortly after coming to Congress. I was equally blessed with the opportunity of getting to know him better over the years. As a lobbyist, he did not have any issues of concern which came under the jurisdiction of any of my committee assignments, or, at least, any that he felt compelled to raise with me, yet he was always a friendly face in the office. His many stories and anecdotes, as well as his keen political insight, always made him a welcome participant and a joy to speak to at any office gathering.

Mr. Speaker, quite simply, Walt Ramsay was the best of men. He was intelligent and wise, kind and good natured, friendly and humorous, stoic and humble, and, of course, he was Irish. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an obituary which appeared in the New Jersey Star-Ledger be placed in the RECORD.

[From the New Jersey Star Ledger, Sept. 3, 1997]

WALTER D. RAMSAY, 62, CONGRESSIONAL AIDE
(By Robert Cohen)

WASHINGTON.—Walter D. Ramsay, longtime chief of staff to former New Jersey Sen. Harrison A. Williams and the mentor to many young Capitol Hill aides, died yesterday after a battle with cancer. He was 62.

Ramsay first came to Washington in 1969 as Williams' press secretary and later took over as his top aide, navigating the legislative and political waters for the senator on Capitol Hill while keeping his finger on the pulse of politics back home in New Jersey.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry, who got his start working under Ramsay in Williams' Senate office, said he was "a great teacher" and "as smart and disciplined when it came to politics and policy as anyone I have ever met."

"He taught me how to be a press secretary," said McCurry.

McCurry said Ramsay could be "a very demanding boss," but had a sense of humor, a broad range of outside interests that included literature and music and "a different perspective than your typical overachieving Capitol Hill aide."

Jim Mathews, now the top aide to Rep. Thomas Manton (D-NY) and a former legislative staffer in Williams' office, said he always considered Ramsay his mentor.

"He was the nicest, best-humored person I ever knew," said Mathews. "He never took himself too seriously and understood that

there were more important things in life than politics."

Mathews said Ramsay was also a very private person who seldom complained or talked about the difficulties he encountered in life.

He said that was true in the early 1980s when two traumatic events took place in a short period of time—the indictment of Williams, his boss, on corruption charges, and a life-threatening accident that put his son, Sean, in a coma for 47 days and later required a lengthy and difficult rehabilitation.

And it was true most recently when he was dying of cancer and chose not to burden his friends.

"He called last week for advice on where a friend should go in Alaska, but never said anything about his condition," said Mathews.

Ramsay died yesterday morning at Alexandria Hospital in Virginia. He had been under treatment as an outpatient at the National Cancer Institute.

Born in Jersey City and raised in Cranford, Ramsay graduated from Seton Hall University and Seton Hall Law School. He was admitted to the New Jersey bar but chose journalism instead, first as a reporter for the Long Branch Daily Record and later with the Elizabeth Daily Journal.

Ramsay left Williams' office in later 1981 after the senator was convicted of the corruption charges but before the senator resigned and went to work as a lobbyist for the Engelhard Corp. and then as a consultant for the precious metals industry.

He is survived by his wife, Leslie Sorg Ramsay of Alexandria, Va.; his son, Sean of Arlington, Va.; a sister, Mrs. Frances Cokelet of Cranford; and a brother, William W. Ramsay of Trenton.

Funeral services will be private.

IN HONOR OF JAMES ARCHIE MCLEOD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor James Archie McLeod on his retirement as Scoutmaster and leader.

James McLeod has dedicated his life to volunteering as a leader and Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America. His career as an adult leader in scouting began in 1958, while he served as Assistant Scoutmaster in Boy Scouts of America, [BSA] Troop 16, and later in BSA Troop 75. Since 1967, James McLeod has served as the main Scoutmaster of Troop 75 in Garden Grove, California.

Scoutmaster McLeod has given an overall total of more than 40 years of volunteer service to God, Country, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Over the past 40 years, Scoutmaster McLeod has guided over 1,000 boys to the rank of First Class Scout. He has also guided 80 exceptional boys in advanced leadership to attain the rank and honor of Eagle Scout.

Scoutmaster McLeod has been recognized by the Boy Scouts of America for his excellence as a Boy Scout, a Scoutmaster, and in Woodbadge—scouting's highest indoctrination of lifetime leadership.

Scoutmaster McLeod's honors include the Award of Merit from Garden Grove's El Capitan District and the Silver Beaver Award from

the BSA Orange County Council. He was also awarded the Scoutmasters Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America National Council. This was awarded for managing the largest, most active, and most successful scout troop in the city of Garden Grove, CA.

Scoutmaster McLeod has also helped to promote and provide the experience of scouting to the blind, the physically handicapped, and mentally challenged.

His legacy of leadership in scouting can be seen in the generations of his scouts that are serving as leaders in our community today. Throughout his great career as a Scoutmaster, James McLeod was never monetarily compensated for his time and efforts, but gave freely of his time and his life to scouting.

I would like my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing this very special individual, Scoutmaster James Archie McLeod, for his dedication and commitment to the Boy Scouts of America. Let us wish him many years of happiness and success in future endeavors upon his retirement from scouting.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES F. KNAPPER, MAYOR OF NOLENSVILLE, TN, FOR BEING CHOSEN AS AN OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER IN THE AMERICAN HOMETOWN LEADERS AWARD PROGRAM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Charles F. Knapper, mayor of Nolensville, TN, for being chosen as an outstanding community leader in the American Hometown Leaders Award Program.

This program is sponsored by the National Center for Small Communities [NCSC] and the Wal-Mart Foundation. The American Hometown Leaders Award Program recognizes elected officials who have provided exemplary leadership in their community. Mayor Knapper was nominated by fellow community residents who believe he has made a difference in his community, both as a leader and as a citizen.

Mayor Knapper has held many titles in the Nolensville community since moving there in 1988. He is a husband, father, church elder, and volunteer. He revitalized the Homeowners' Association of his neighborhood and as chairman of the Community Affairs Committee of the Association, he started an investigation on the feasibility of incorporating the town of Nolensville. Mayor Knapper worked with the Tennessee State Legislature and the Governor's Office in his efforts to attain incorporation. He devoted much of his time and efforts to raising the necessary funds to publicize the incorporation effort, holding community meetings and conducting petition drives. Nolensville was incorporated in 1996.

Mr. Knapper was elected as mayor on October 1, 1996, with 75 percent of the electorate's support. In one of his first acts, Mayor Knapper appointed seven committees of citizen volunteers. These committees have been extremely active and have worked to achieve Mayor Knapper's goal to make Nolensville "a great place to live."

Mayor Knapper has the respect and love of the community he serves. This is the true test

of a public servant. I commend him on his efforts and on his American Hometown Leaders Award, and I wish him the best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BETTY SHABAZZ

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Betty Shabazz was a remarkable woman. Her intrepid spirit and tireless efforts on behalf of her family and people of color made her a role model around the world. People from many races and nations drew strength from the courage she showed in the face of adversity.

I had the privilege of knowing Betty as a friend and colleague in the struggle for justice. Like many African-American mothers, she was a fighter and a survivor. After her husband's death, she found strength from within to overcome the tragedy and went on to raise six daughters while pursuing a professional career and serving the community. She set high goals for herself and worked diligently to achieve them.

After Malcolm X's death, Betty went back to school and earned three degrees, including a doctorate in education. She went on to teach at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY, and served as the school's director of communications and public relations. She also hosted a talk show on one of New York's major radio stations.

As a civil rights leader, Betty often spoke out against race and gender discrimination and on issues of importance to families around the world. She was actively involved in various political and social action groups including the NAACP, the National Political Congress of Black Women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Links.

Like many African-Americans, Betty was part of an extended family. At the time of her death, she was helping to raise her grandson, Malcolm Shabazz. As she had helped his mother and aunts to do, Betty attempted to help young Malcolm to thrive despite his father's absence. Unfortunately, her time with him was cut short by her untimely death.

Few of us have suffered the tragic loss that Betty Shabazz suffered when she lost her husband to an assassin's bullet. However, most of us know all too well the racism that killed him. The racial hatred that caused terror to the family that Betty and her daughters knew continues to destroy African-American families. It continues to deny blacks equal access to economic and employment opportunities, equal justice under the law, and equal representation in legislative bodies.

Betty Shabazz lived an honorable and exemplary life. She fought against racism and injustice for most of her life. Even when she could have retreated from the rest of the world without blame, she continued to fight. She fought harder for herself, her family, and her community. Her life was a tribute to all families, but to African-American families in particular.