

a chartered association. It is affiliated with both the Michigan Association of Home Builders, and the National Association of Home Builders, to be sure that its members can share their own discoveries and learn from other colleagues in the profession ways to better and more economically construct housing that will last.

The Bay County Home Builders Association has grown from its original 21 members to its current membership of 85 builders and remodelers and 153 associate members, including financial institutions, subcontractors, material suppliers, and others who are involved in some fashion with the building industry. They are involved in a wide range of activities that ultimately benefit the homeowner, including offering seminars on preparing for a builder's license and other subjects of importance to the industry. They provide a very important service in helping to further inform the public of recent developments in construction and design, including the most impressive annual Home Show and Parade of Homes.

The association is also a vital partner in many community projects, including its work with the Bay County Chamber of Commerce and the Bay County Growth Alliance.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES VERNON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute Charles Vernon upon his retirement from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and resignation of chairmanship of the Santa Monica Bay restoration project. It is an honor to recognize Charles for his work toward water pollution control.

Throughout the last 8 years, Charles' work has been vital to the success of the Santa Monica Bay restoration project. He was instrumental in working to secure Santa Monica Bay's nomination as a National Estuary Program and subsequently the founding and creation of the restoration project in 1989.

Since its founding, the Santa Monica Bay restoration project has been the primary organization dedicated to preserving the bay for citizens in our community. Charles has consistently held key leadership positions serving as vice chair of its management committee and upon start of bay restoration plan implementation, chair of the governing Bay Watershed Council and Bay Oversight Committee. It is because of Charles' hard work and dedication we have made progress in revitalizing our bay.

Beyond his work with the restoration project, Charles is an individual of great integrity and personal warmth. His wholesome nature reflects that of his past when he was a farmer, reaping the miracle of life from the ground. It is no wonder that today he is dedicated to maintaining the sanctity of our precious resources.

"I wiped away the weeds and foam, I fetched my sea-born treasures home; But the poor, unsightly, noisome things had left their beauty on the shore, with the sun and the sand and the wild uproar." These words of Ralph Waldo Emerson eloquently describe Charles' devotion to saving our precious Santa

Monica Bay. It is for his work and extraordinary dedication, Mr. Speaker, that I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join our community in thanking Charles for his dedication to the bay. I congratulate Charles Vernon upon his retirement and wish him great success in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, this morning I participated in one of America's most important traditions: voting. Every time I step in the voting booth I am reminded that we must not take for granted the rights that we Americans have to decide who will represent us in the White House, Senate, House of Representatives, statehouse, city hall, city council, school board, and the list goes on.

For that reason, please let the record show that I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast two adjournment votes this morning in the House.

TRIBUTE TO THE PUERTO RICAN TRAVELING THEATER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to a hard working group of people who compose The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater [PRTT]. The PRTT produces plays by Hispanic writers from all heritages, and performs them alternately in Spanish and English. These programs, which the company provides for free for the economically disadvantaged, have been hugely successful. During Hispanic Heritage Month, I think it is only appropriate to honor this group, which has made such a contribution to the Latino community.

On September 18 the theater celebrates its 30th anniversary season at the Copacabana with a star-studded gala entitled "Latino Legends and Legacies."

For 30 years PRTT has performed productions of impeccable artistic quality in both Spanish and English. Having performed all over New York, in 22 different locations, the PRTT is a well known commodity in the Hispanic Community. The theater communicates with direct mails to 50,000 Hispanic households each year and has a live audience of 15,000 annually, of which 95 percent are Hispanic. Through their annual summer touring, they reach out to 22 different geographic communities in New York and New Jersey, and have a large network of contacts with the leadership organizations in these communities. The PRTT also received critical acclaim from the New York Times, the New Yorker, El Diario, among other major press.

Founding/Artistic Director Miriam Colon recently received the 1996 Governor's Award for the Arts on PRTT's behalf, along with such luminaries as Robert DeNiro, Leo Castelli, and Jazz legend Milt Hilton. The Award Ceremony

hosted by Governor George Pataki was aired on PBS in November. Ms. Colon is also known in the film industry with her most recent films, "Lone Star", directed by John Sayles, and "Sabrina", with Harrison Ford. Most recently she appeared on the Bill Cosby Show.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to wish them much success with their future endeavors and look forward to celebrating another 30 years of performances.

TRAGEDY IN HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week there was another terrible tragedy on the small island of Haiti.

An overcrowded ferry sank just offshore and hundreds of people were killed. There are conflicting reports about the number of deaths, with estimates ranging from 300 to 800. The true figure may never be known.

But what is known is that basic safety functions, which may have prevented many deaths, were ignored. Although the ferry had only been in service for 10 days, there were no lifejackets on board, doors were bolted shut, and the passenger load was above legal limits. Had any of these factors been different, hundreds of families would not be in mourning today.

I extend my most sincere condolences to the families of the deceased and all of the Haitian people. I am pleased that the U.S. Government has announced that we would provide some assistance to the families of the deceased, although there is scant solace to provide to a child whose parent is gone.

My only hope is that ferry operators, not only in Haiti, but around the world, will learn from this terrible tragedy, and observe the safety laws which are designed to prevent these kinds of tragedies.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH AND PATRICIA GARLOCK

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor two constituents and friends, Joseph and Patricia Garlock, by marking the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, which will be celebrated this October 4. I want to send Joe and Pat my warmest congratulations on this special occasion.

I have known both Pat and Joe for a number of years, and I want to convey how much this couple has given to their family and to the Lima, OH, community. Pat and Joe are lifelong residents of Lima, having met a few years after her graduation from St. Rose High School and his graduation from St. Johns High School. They settled down to live on West High Street, where they still live today, some 43 years later.

Pat worked as a store clerk, has been a valued member of the choir at St. Charles Church for years, and is still active in volunteering her time with the Heartbeat of Lima,

the St. Vincent DePaul Charity, and the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Joe also volunteers at the soup kitchen, and is a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean war. He retired a few years ago, after a career as an officer for the Lima Police Department and the Chief Investigator for the Allen County Prosecutor.

For all their contributions to others and to the Lima community, the legacy of this great couple is their family. Joe and Pat raised 12 children, 11 boys and 1 girl. Mr. Speaker, the lesson of raising such a family on a cop's salary is one that the folks on the Budget Committee should learn from.

Joe and Pat's accomplishments are measured by the values they instilled in their 12 kids, their spouses, and their 22 grandchildren.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize this strong American family. I join the Garlock's family and friends in wishing them a very happy anniversary and many more years of good health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF THE ST.
STANISLAUS DAD'S CLUB

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the St. Stanislaus Dad's Club, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary of service to the St. Stanislaus Parish, the St. Stanislaus Grade School, and the St. Stanislaus Parish Community.

Over its 50 years, the St. Stanislaus Dad's Club has generously donated its time and resources to projects ranging from partially subsidizing a teachers salary shortage at the St. Stanislaus Grade School to renovating a 1,400-pipe organ found in the parish cathedral. In addition, the St. Stanislaus Dad's Club regularly donates items of need to St. Stanislaus Grade School, sponsors the Boy Scouts and local youth athletic teams, helps maintain community buildings and supports other parish and community organizations.

The St. Stanislaus Dad's Club has helped literally thousands of young people in the greater Cleveland metropolitan area. The club has done great work over the years, and I am very grateful for its immeasurable contributions to the community.

The St. Stanislaus Dad's Club plans to celebrate their anniversary on September 14, 1997, by attending mass and hosting a commemorative banquet.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in praising the St. Stanislaus Dad's Club for 50 years of distinguished service

TRIBUTE TO THE VISALIA RESCUE
MISSION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Visalia Rescue Mission. The support and guidance of this organi-

zation provides hope for homeless men, women, and children who would otherwise feel abandoned.

Beginning in 1980, the Visalia Rescue Mission has served the needs of the homeless throughout California's Tulare County. What distinguishes this nonprofit organization from others is its desire to move these individuals beyond mere survival in today's society and provide them with the resources necessary to become productive and respected members of their community.

The Visalia Rescue Mission conducts two major programs. The STEP [Spiritual Training Education Program] Program begins by submitting men to a 14–30 day probationary program where they are nourished, detoxified, clothed, exercised, and introduced to spiritual guidance. Once these basic needs are met, the men enter into a 6-month 12-step program where the main focus is on both spiritual training and obtaining job referrals. Finally, a 1-year reentry program supports the men in their efforts to find housing and hold jobs. Along with the men's STEP Program, the Visalia Rescue Mission runs a Family Center which provides for the necessary needs of families, women, and children. The Family Center provides Christian spiritual leadership, anger management, parenting classes, referrals to employment training, and jobs. Finally, it provides leads for low-cost housing.

Over the years the Visalia Rescue Mission has performed invaluable services to those less fortunate in our society. Through programs like STEP and the Family Center, many individuals are directed into new lives filled with hope, success, and spiritual satisfaction. Things many of these individuals have never experienced before.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Visalia Rescue Mission. This organization provides a hope for many homeless men, women, and children. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Visalia Rescue Mission many more years of gratifying success in aiding the homeless.

HAPPY 25TH BAY MEDICAL
CENTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, access to quality primary and emergency health care is a great need for all Americans. The people of the Bay City community have had the good fortune to have enjoyed the professional care offered by Bay Medical Center for the past 25 years. As the center celebrates its 25th anniversary, I want to share with our colleagues some of the great accomplishments of this most impressive and needed facility.

Bay Medical Center came about as a result of the merger between Mercy Hospital and General Hospital in 1972. This merger was needed to bring these two facilities into a better position to provide the quality health care that people deserve. Under the leadership of Ralph Powell, chairman of the board, the merger successfully went forward, resulting in the 1974 construction of a state-of-the-art facility that provides vital care for thousands of patients today. This facility was due to the ag-

gressive campaign that brought together hospital employees, small businesses, corporations, and individual donors who all wanted to ensure quality health care for the future.

Today, patients receive the most modern care possible at the facility, when appropriate, and receive high-quality outpatient care that previously was provided only to patients in the facility. The merger that started the center in 1972 was followed by mergers with Samaritan Hospital in 1980, and Bay Osteopathic Hospital in 1988. Under the lead organization of Bay Health Systems, Bay Medical Center joined with Bay Health Care, Bay Medical Services, Bay Medical Foundation, Bay Medical Education, and Bay Special Care in providing a broad and effective blend of services. A new alliance with MidMichigan Regional Medical Center will further increase efficiencies and promote an even stronger array of health care services for people of the region.

Bay Medical Center has succeeded because it has been blessed with a large number of doctors, nurses, medical technicians, physician assistants, administrators, and a support staff that cares about the work that they all do each and every day. Its board members, who serve without compensation, have truly committed themselves to the center's mission statement of providing compassionate, high-quality, and cost-effective health care, which maintains and improves the health status of the communities it serves.

On this 25th anniversary, I invite you, Mr. Speaker, and all of our colleagues, to join me in offering congratulations to Hans Jeppesen, the president of Bay Health Systems, and all of the men and women of Bay Medical Center, and wishing them the very best for every continued success.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1997 BE DESIGNATED AS "FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DAY"

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Florida International University [FIU] on its 25th anniversary. FIU opened on September 16, 1972, with 5,667 students, the largest first-day enrollment in American college history. FIU, the first public baccalaureate-granting university in Dade County, has grown to 30,000 students, placing it among the Nation's largest universities.

This outstanding learning institution offers more than 200 degree programs, has the largest Hispanic enrollment and second largest African-American enrollment of any public university in the State of Florida, has been cited by college guides as one of America's best educational values, and generates more than \$30 million in annual grants and contracts. It has become a national leader in environmental research, Latin American studies, tropical biology, hospitality management, and other fields.

FIU has an economic impact of more than \$1 billion on the south Florida economy and is the major supplier of university-trained employees for the region, awarding nearly 6,000 baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees annually.