

I want to sincerely congratulate Gary Karnopp, his wife Cynthia and their two children, Lindsey and Alyssa—and I want to recognize his contributions to San Diego County and his achievement in receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council.

BECTON DICKINSON & CO. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Becton Dickinson & Co.—along with all of its employees and their families—on the 100th anniversary of the founding of this global medical technology company. Becton Dickinson is one of the largest and most important employers in my district. It is more than just a major economic force, however. It is a company whose products have saved the lives and improved the health of millions of people around the world. It is also a shining example of the proverbial good corporate citizen, playing an active role and making important contributions to all the communities in which it does business.

Becton Dickinson was founded after Maxwell W. Becton—a medical supplies salesman—and Fairleigh S. Dickinson—a stationery salesman—met on a sales trip in 1897. The two traveled together, became friends, and decided that fall to form their own company to import medical devices from Europe. The choice of medical devices as their line of business was simple—Dickinson realized that Becton's small satchel of thermometers was easier to carry than his heavy sample cases of stationery.

From those early days up to the present, Becton Dickinson has built a reputation for quality. Dissatisfied with the reliability and quality of imports, the partners soon began to manufacture their own syringes and clinical thermometers. The company quickly outgrew its New York City home and, in 1907, moved to a new factory in East Rutherford, N.J., beginning its long association with the Garden State. When World War I halted medical imports from Europe, Becton Dickinson began to set the standard for all-glass syringes.

During World War II, the company geared up for war production and produced innovative new products such as the first sterile disposable blood donor kits for the Red Cross and a new device to collect blood in glass tubes. Other Becton Dickinson innovations included machines to manufacture syringe needles automatically rather than by hand, syringes with interchangeable parts, and the ACE bandage.

Following the war, control of the company passed to the founders' sons, Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. and Henry P. Becton. On a personal note, I can testify to the high standards of personal character and integrity that Dick and Betty Dickinson and Henry "Hank" Becton brought to the business community and philanthropic and civic communities of northern New Jersey. Product lines were broadened and new businesses acquired as the company expanded nationally and internationally. The sons took the company public in 1962 to ob-

tain financing for huge investments in equipment to produce sterile disposable medical products as part of the "disposable revolution" in medicine.

Becton Dickinson grew rapidly, diversifying from the 1950's through the 1980's to enter many aspects of the health care industry, including diagnostics, while continuing to lead the medical device market.

Over the years, Becton Dickinson has demonstrated a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility, funding basic research and higher education, health care assistance in developing nations, and support of community based health, social service, civic and cultural organizations. Its products have played major roles in the fight to end polio and the development of crash test "dummies" to improve the safety of automobiles.

Sales for the company have grown dramatically, from \$2,639 in the first year of business to \$2.8 billion last year. Approximately 18,000 workers are employed in 80 locations in 40 countries. Research and development in 1996 amounted to \$154 million while the company made \$3.6 million in contributions to charitable organizations, not including significant product donations to disaster and humanitarian relief both in the United States and overseas.

Throughout a century of growth, Becton Dickinson's commitment to raising the quality of health care worldwide has remained constant. Its founders' passion for excellence is still reflected in the dedication and hard work of its employees. Becton Dickinson brings the miracles of modern medicine to millions of people around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this leading company for the contributions it has made to the world of medicine and to our community in northern New Jersey. Under the leadership of Chairman Claudio Castellini, we can rest assured that this dedication and commitment will continue. I wish Becton Dickinson many years of continued success.

WEBSTER HOSE, HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY HONORED

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the outstanding and courageous service of past and present Ansonia Webster Hose, Hook and Ladder Company firefighters. Since 1897, generations of Webster volunteer firefighters have put their lives on the line, time and time again, on behalf of the Ansonia community. They've responded with only a seconds notice to save the lives of others without even contemplating the threatening dangers awaiting them. This kind of selfless and courageous work on behalf of the fellow citizens must be honored to the highest degree.

Knowing that during this anniversary year many will focus on the factual history of the Webster Hose Company, I want to honor each and every firefighter who has so generously given of his or her body and heart to the city of Ansonia. The historical collective effort by which the company was started is the best demonstration of the tremendous dedication

Ansonia residents have always had toward their community. At that time, buildings were illuminated and heated in ways that dangerously exposed families and businesses to fires. Residents wisely recognized the need for more firefighters and signed petitions actually offering themselves as volunteers for this new company. Because of the people's true commitment and dedication, the Webster Company was officially incorporated on January 7, 1897.

Since responding to their first fire on Factory Street that August with only one 550 hose cart, the company has since extinguished hundreds of fires, including the massive blaze at the Blake Bus Co. in the 1950's and the arson of the Arnold Building in 1987 and 5-7 Jewett Street in 1995. They've had tremendous success at saving people's homes, retrieving thousands of irreplaceable belongings, and most important, rescuing hundreds of Ansonia residents.

Mr. Speaker, as a State and a nation, we can truly learn a lot from past and present Webster volunteers. Their dedication and selflessness on behalf of the greater Ansonia community is symbolic of an older time, when cities and towns were more rooted and people knew their neighbors. We must learn from their example, embrace volunteerism, and in turn create stronger communities across our State and Nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN STATESMAN F.W. DE KLERK AND THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF USIA'S INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, the South African National Party elected a successor to F.W. de Klerk, who has served for many years as the head of the party. Mr. de Klerk is the former President of South Africa. In 1990, he rejected his party's policy and his country's laws which established the vicious apartheid system, freed Nelson Mandela, and began negotiations which led to the generally peaceful transformation of South Africa from a racist society to one that is moving toward a pluralistic, multiethnic, open society. In 1993, Mr. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize—an award that was an appropriate honor to Mr. de Klerk's statesmanship, foresight, and commitment to principle.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Mr. de Klerk's role in the transformation of South Africa. He now retires from public life to have the time to chronicle the significant changes that he has both witnessed and helped to bring about. Mr. de Klerk gave his farewell address to the South African parliament on Tuesday, and I join his colleagues in the parliament in paying tribute to him.

Commentators around the world have reacted to Mr. de Klerk's announcement by taking note of the key role he played in ending apartheid and moving his country toward democracy. I have no doubt that change eventually would have come to South Africa, even without Mr. de Klerk's efforts; justice cannot

be denied forever. There is general agreement, however, that without Mr. de Klerk the transition to democracy would have been a much longer, much more painful, and certainly a much bloodier process.

It is exceedingly rare that a political leader helps dismantle the system within which he has risen to power. And yet that is exactly what F.W. de Klerk did. He grew up in the world of apartheid, and he was tremendously successful in that world. But in spite of all the connections linking him to the status quo, he came to the realization that apartheid had to end. For a man so steeped in the old system and its ways of thinking, that realization represented an extraordinary conceptual leap. And, I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that leap occurred at least in part because of experiences and insights gathered by Mr. de Klerk during a trip to the United States. What he saw here helped him envisage a new and better path for South Africa.

Mr. de Klerk and his wife visited our country in 1976 thanks to the U.S. Information Agency's International Visitor Program. That program—in place since 1940—gives carefully selected individuals from foreign countries a chance to come to the United States and confer with professional counterparts and experience firsthand our institutions and society. Participants in the program are up-and-coming figures in key fields such as government, politics, the media, and education. More than 130 of them—including Mr. de Klerk—have eventually achieved positions of chief of state or head of government, and some 600 have been named to cabinet-level jobs. Margaret Thatcher, Anwar Sadat, and Willy Brandt were all participants in the program before they rose to leadership positions. The same is true of the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair.

In many cases, participants may think they already know our country based on the flood of images they have received from the mass media and popular culture. But in almost every instance, they discover that those images provide an incomplete or even distorted sense of who we are. The 3- to 4-week tours of the United States provided by the International Visitor Program—a carefully structured blend of briefings, meetings, discussion sessions, and hands-on experience—give participants a much richer and more nuanced view of our Nation.

This experience makes an indelible impression on most participants. That certainly was the case with Mr. de Klerk. In 1991—15 years after his trip—he stated:

[My wife and I] toured the United States in 1976 on an International Visitor Exchange Program. We saw the vibrant magnificence of New York City, nature's artistry in the majestic formations of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the cultural diversity of New Orleans, Louisiana; Miami, Florida; the excitement of Las Vegas, Nevada; the serene beauty of San Francisco, California; but most of all, we experienced the vitality and warmth of the American people.

The International Visitor Program not only affected Mr. de Klerk's view of the United States, it also had a profound impact on the way he regarded his own country and its future. A profile of Mr. de Klerk published in the New York Times Sunday Magazine of November 19, 1989, includes the following statement: "As de Klerk tells it, a 1976 visit to the United States as a guest of the United States Infor-

mation Agency convinced him that race relations could not be left to run their course."

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, that was a vitally important moment in the development of Mr. de Klerk's thinking—and we as Americans can be proud that we helped make it possible. It is no exaggeration to say that the insights that F.W. de Klerk achieved while visiting the United States as a participant in the International Visitor Program were an important factor in his decision to break with the past and help his nation in its movement toward justice and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is significant that our country's exchange programs may be just as important a weapon in the fight to encourage democratic development as other more traditional diplomatic weapons that we use. The International Visitors Program may have been as important in bringing about the transformation of South Africa as the economic sanctions that were imposed by the Congress, over the veto and strenuous objections of then-President Ronald Reagan.

I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in paying tribute to the former President of South Africa F.W. de Klerk, and at the same time also to join me in paying tribute to the critically important programs of the U.S. Information Agency which have also played a key role in influencing positively Mr. de Klerk's thinking about race relations, and thus affecting the course of history.

TRIBUTE TO DON "THE BEAR" HASKINS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of great talent and rare humanity; a man who has challenged young people to excel and reach beyond their dreams; a man whose steady guidance has influenced the lives of many over the course of a long and distinguished career. I am speaking of Don "The Bear" Haskins who has been the head basketball coach for the University of Texas at El Paso for more than 36 years.

Don's teams have won 691 games, a historic national championship, 7 WAC titles, and made 14 NCAA tournament appearances. In 1987, Don was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Don Haskins ranks ninth among the all-time winningest coaches.

But beyond his obvious success on the court, Don Haskins is most proud of the fact that he opened doors for minority players. Don Haskins won the 1966 National Championship over heavily favored Kentucky with an all black starting five, an NCAA first.

Later this month, Don Haskins will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, joining other sports legends—former Princeton coach Pete Carril, former NBA stars Alex English and Bailey Howell, women stars Denise Curry and Joan Crawford and Spain's Antonio Diaz-Miguel.

A native of Enid, OK, Don is married to the former Mary Gorman of Bartlesville, OK. The couple has three sons, Brent, Steve, and David, and two grandchildren. I want to congratulate Don not only for being inducted into the Hall of Fame but for the contributions he

has made to UTEP and the community of El Paso, and indeed, for the advancement of race relations in this country. He has inspired us all and I am proud to honor him today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives as a man of great integrity, courage, and honor.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Our Lady of Mercy Church for 75 years of service to its dedicated and faithful parishioners.

Over the past 75 years, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church has grown and flourished from a small, isolated Slovak community, to a modern thriving parish. The original name of the church was St. John the Baptist. Early parishioners converted a store into a frame church, and remodeled nearby houses into a two-room schoolhouse and a rectory. After going heavily into debt and being abandoned by the Polish National Church, these parishioners were finally received into the Roman Catholic Church by a public Act of Faith in 1921. The church was blessed and renamed Our Lady of Mercy.

In 1948, construction on a much needed, larger, and more modern building began. The new building is built in the Slovakian Church Architecture style and boasts a 56-foot bell tower and unique artwork. The church used to host an annual Slovak Cultural Day to celebrate its rich traditional history. It still offers parishioners a Catholic Parish Credit Union, the second in the Cleveland Diocese; a weekly bulletin, "Our Lady of Mercy News," and is highly involved in the Cleveland community.

This summer, after 24 dormant years, the school building at Our Lady of Mercy Church was renovated and is once again in full use. The new Hope Academy, a private noncatholic school, serves students in the greater Cleveland area and is the crown jewel of the recent accomplishments of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Our Lady of Mercy Church has served its community well for 75 years. My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this exceptional parish as its dedicated members and other prominent dignitaries of the community celebrate this landmark anniversary on September 14, 1997. I wish them continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACT OF 1997

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Community Protection and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Act of 1997. Last year, wildfires burned over 6 million acres