

is to create another Government program and bankroll it with endless taxpayer dollars. People like Josephine Hinman are showing Washington that no matter how much taxpayer money you throw at a problem, little is ever accomplished without the warmth and compassion of caring citizens.

Josephine Hinman's story is truly inspiring. Her selfless work should encourage each and every one of us to reflect on how we may better serve others. Most of us learned very young in life that we share a responsibility to help our neighbors and care for our community. As I visit with and learn about those who do remarkable works throughout my district, I continue to be convinced that volunteering is much more than a responsibility. Having the time, talents, and ability to brighten the lives of others is actually one of life's greatest privileges. The joy with which Josephine Hinman continues to keep her garden open to all is solid proof of that.

IN HONOR OF JIM BREMER

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of Mr. Jim Bremer of Wanatah, IN. Not only am I extremely proud to call him a good friend, but I am even prouder to call him a friend of his community and the entire State of Indiana.

I first met Jim when I ran for Congress back in 1990. During the course of my campaign, people throughout his home county told me of his reputation for honesty, hard work, and common sense. Although he was—and remains—a member of the opposite political party, his neighbors strongly encouraged me to seek his advice and support. It was soon after that I first sat with Jim Bremer in his famous garage, discussing the national issues of the day and gazing out at the beautiful arrangement of flowers that surround his entire home.

During the course of our meeting, I was elated when Jim pledged to support me in the 1990 election. While the town of Wanatah is small, the people there are conscientious, hard working, driven by the right values, and very active politically. I knew that folks in Wanatah respected Jim and paid close attention to his opinions, and I thought his endorsement would mean a lot to my campaign.

However, after Jim said he would support me, he solemnly proclaimed, "As soon as you get elected, I bet we'll never see you again in Wanatah." This was probably the only time I was able to prove him wrong. Not only do I continue to stop by and sit in Jim's garage, but every year I attend the Labor Day picnic he hosts in his backyard. And I do not exaggerate when I claim that the renowned event is equal to any picnic in the world. Jim roasts a hog, smokes three turkeys in metal garbage cans, and serves vine ripened tomatoes fresh from his Olympic-size garden. If you manage not to gorge yourself on this bounty, there then awaits an amazing assortment of Hoosier desserts—courtesy of Wanatah's best kitchens and family recipes.

After the meal, attentions invariably turn to politics and discussions of our Nation's future.

Jim allows elected leaders like myself to address the scores of people in attendance, and there are few listeners who are shy about responding with their own views, comments, and criticisms. In this age of big budget campaigns, spin doctors, and television attack ads, Jim reminds all of us that small-town, grassroots democracy is alive and well in America.

I am deeply grateful for Jim Bremer's work to emphasize the importance of personal relationships between citizens and their government. However, despite the vitality of our grassroots, the success of Jim's efforts rests entirely on the strength of his character and the personal respect he has earned from others. His unshakable—and sometimes biting—honesty is without question and beyond reproach. In addition, he possesses that special Hoosier brand of common sense that appeals to independents and people of both major parties. But above all, Jim is a hard worker who is committed to helping his neighbors and his community. As a veteran of the Korean war, a deputy sheriff, and an electrician on the job, Jim has exhibited the best American values of dedication, responsibility, and caring for others. I consider myself fortunate to be associated with him.

I hope Americans in the future will not stray too far from Jim Bremer's example. If I did not know that he is a one-of-a-kind, I would say we need many more of him.

RICHIE ASHBURN: A BASEBALL SUPERSTAR WITH STRONG NEBRASKA ROOTS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the Nation recently lost a true treasure with the passing of Richie Ashburn on September 9. Ashburn was a Hall of Fame baseball superstar and renowned broadcaster, but he never forgot his Nebraska roots. In addition to his annual visits back home, Ashburn made frequent references to his hometown of Tilden and the valuable lessons he learned while growing up in Nebraska.

Richie Ashburn began his extraordinary athletic career in Nebraska where he starred in baseball, basketball, and track. Ashburn combined a natural athletic ability with determination and a strong work ethic. In the process, he set an enduring standard for athletes in northeast Nebraska and served as an inspiration for athletes across the State. Indeed this Member used a Richie Ashburn Louisville Slugger when he played baseball for the Utica Legion team and for Utica and Seward in the Blue Valley League and the Cornhusker League.

As a major league baseball player, Ashburn amassed an impressive record which eventually earned him enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. Outstanding from the beginning of his career, Ashburn received Rookie-of-the-Year honors in 1948. Year after year, he excelled at the plate and in the field. He retired with an amazing .308 batting average and had more hits than any other player in the 1950's. Ashburn was a defensive standout in center-field and led the league in putouts by an outfielder nine times, tying a major league record.

Ashburn was also a threat on the basepaths where he had 234 career stolen bases.

Following his outstanding 15 years in the majors, Ashburn considered running for Congress, but settled instead on a career in broadcasting. As a broadcaster for the Philadelphia Phillies, Ashburn displayed remarkable wit, knowledge, and love of the game. He was a familiar and comfortable voice for Phillies fans for 35 years.

Ashburn's impressive statistics in the major leagues demonstrate his greatness as a player, but they obviously don't reveal the remarkable qualities he displayed as a person. Ashburn was a humble man with a marvelous sense of humor. He also maintained the values he learned from his family in Nebraska—honesty, loyalty, decency, and a caring attitude. He truly had a genuine concern for all people which earned him numerous friends and lasting affection. Richie Ashburn will certainly be missed.

This Member would like to commend to his colleagues the following editorials from the Norfolk Daily News and the Philadelphia Inquirer. The editorials highlight Richie Ashburn's impressive accomplishments in Nebraska and Philadelphia.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Sept. 10, 1997]

LOSS MOURNED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RICHIE ASHBURN WILL BE REMEMBERED BY MANY IN AREA

Just short of a half-century ago, Richie Ashburn was named "rookie of the year" by the Sporting News. He had compiled a .333 batting average in his first major league year; had stolen 32 bases to lead in that category even though he missed a month of the season. He was chosen as a starter in center field for the National League allstar team in that year, 1948.

His reaction to the award was this: "I only hope I will merit the honor by better playing next year." His career with the Philadelphia Phillies and finally with the Chicago Cubs and New York Mets, was marked by that determination and for continued high-level performance. A lifetime record of achievement in baseball led to belated recognition as a Hall of Fame member in 1995.

Northeast Nebraskans followed this Tilden native's career closely, from his days with the Antelopes in the early 1940s, a Legion baseball team sponsored by the post in Neligh, to his stellar performance as a basketball player in the off-season for Norfolk Junior College.

He had the strong support of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Ashburn, who made a home for Richie and four of his young teammates in their first years in Philadelphia. His mother still lives in Tilden.

His talent was not limited to playing baseball, but also included column-writing for a Philadelphia newspaper and a long career as an announcer for the Phillies. Now his career is closed with his sudden, unexpected death Sept. 9 at the age of 70.

He has an extended family to mourn his loss. It consists of supportive relatives, of course, whom he came back to Nebraska to see regularly. But it also numbers thousands of aging baseball fans who still remember vividly his exploits on the field and are proud of his performance off of it.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 10, 1997]

THE WHIZ KID

ON THE FIELD AND IN THE BROADCAST BOOTH, RICHIE ASHBURN WAS PHILADELPHIA TO THE CORE

Try to name a Philadelphian more beloved than D. Richard Ashburn.

Can't be done, can it?

Over half a century, Mr. Ashburn, the Phillies' Hall of Fame outfielder and longtime broadcaster who died suddenly yesterday, became woven deep into the fabric of a tough but loyal town. The threads running through his career were bedrock decency, consistency, dry wit and, of course, dashing athletic skill.

When Mr. Ashburn had a heart attack in a New York hotel after broadcasting a ball game between two teams for which he played, the Phils and Mets, Philadelphians lost someone who helped define their sense of their town.

He was, in the city's high accolade, a "regular guy," a man who knew how to win and how to struggle, how to laugh and how to grieve, whom the rest of the nation never quite appreciated the way it should.

As a player, the Nebraskan everyone called Whitey was one of his generation's best, but often overlooked on the national stage. He was an artist of the single in a game where home-run hitters hog the spotlight. A Philadelphian in an era when New York's Golden Age of Sport featured three legends playing his position: Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle and Duke Snider.

He didn't fret about that. He just kept doing with meticulous class all the little things—fielding his position, bunting runners along—that make winning possible.

Fitting it was that he saved the National League pennant for the fabled 1950 Whiz Kids with a defensive play in the season's last game.

Fitting it was also that baseball finally came to its senses and put him into its Hall of Fame in 1995—though sadly too late for him to savor the moment with his dead father, twin sister and daughter. At his induction, he shared the podium graciously with a more talented but less lovable Phillie, Mike Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt himself, scanning the sea of red caps and the record 200 chartered buses invading Cooperstown that day, observed that 'twas Whitey who'd lured most of them.

In the broadcast booth, as on the field, Mr. Ashburn's work featured a Philadelphia-friendly mix: loyalty, warmth, honesty and understated humor that refused to take himself or anyone else too seriously.

He was never the smoothest caller of a game, but he knew how to share a microphone, how to sum up excellence or disaster in one sage phrase, and how to put friendliness into the "Welcome to Minnie from Royersford, celebrating her 90th today at the Vet" messages it was his daily lot to read.

A great ballplayer speaks to that piece inside people that yearns for heroes. A baseball broadcaster, more than any other sports announcer, becomes a piece of a city's daily conversation, a reliable bard whose word pictures fuel backyard debates and spice long commutes.

Philadelphia was graced to have Richie Ashburn in those two roles over five decades. Whitey, you'll be missed.

RECOGNITION OF SOLANO COUNTY'S FIRST ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO SENIORS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first annual tribute to seniors community celebration in Solano

County, CA, which will take place on September 24, 1997.

This all-day event will include speakers, workshops, and entertainment, as well as educational offerings. It will also incorporate the annual health fair. It will be the first event of its kind to address fully the issues and interest of seniors throughout Solano County. Seniors and members of the Vacaville community have come together to create this event, which will serve to benefit all the citizens of Solano regardless of age.

We should also make note of the positive effects that can occur when our citizens join with their elected leaders, be they local, regional or national, and with shared visions, accomplish that which we all strive for: A community spirit that thrives and makes us proud.

In closing, I would like to commend the distinguished members of the Tribute to Seniors Committee. The committee is comprised of the following individuals, all of whom have dedicated their time and energy to the success of this special event: Chairman Charles Conti, Diana Barney, Kristen Delaplane, Lynn Kessler, Dorothy Locke, and Jim Tooke.

Congratulations to everyone who is working to make this day a caring and sharing celebration.

SHAFTER COTTON RESEARCH STATION: A CALIFORNIA FARMING LANDMARK

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the Shafter Cotton Research Center, in Shafter, CA, is celebrating 75 years of research for California cotton production and this month becomes a State registered landmark. The designation recognizes the important research contributions this center has made to the California cotton industry. We also recognize the historic relationship between California cotton growers, the University of California, Kern County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that has made the Shafter Cotton Research Center so successful.

This center got its start in 1922 and has been in the forefront of efforts to buck common wisdom ever since. At that time, many people in the cotton industry thought California was too far from the mills in the eastern United States for California to ever become a cotton powerhouse. The work done in cooperation between Federal, State and local government and private industry that led to the Acala cotton variety developed here proved the skeptics wrong. Since then, work on the 120-acre center grounds has produced innovations in labor-saving mechanization, pest control and other farm practices.

The California industry made possible by the Shafter Cotton Research Center contributes over \$1 billion to the California farm economy and \$340 million to Kern County. California cotton's quality is so well known around the world that 80 percent of the cotton grown here goes into export markets.

The Shafter Cotton Research Center continues to lead in cotton industry research. Today's research is looking into ways to reduce tillage in cotton production, potentially valuable

to farmers faced with clean air requirements to reduce airborne dust. The center is also doing work on sophisticated means of monitoring crop health, means which could allow farmers to reduce applications of pesticides and other chemicals. It is still a cooperative venture. Under an agreement struck in 1991, the Department of Agriculture, the University of California, Kern County and the cotton industry are cooperating to keep the research center in operation so that this unique facility will continue to produce cutting-edge technology for the California cotton farmer of the 21st century.

The Shafter Cotton Research Center is a landmark in California to the creative energies of generations of farmers and scientists because of the way everyone has rolled up their 100 percent cotton sleeves to work together. We recognize that cooperation's key role in the center's historic and future importance.

THE GREATER MIAMI COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF AWARDS LISSETTE AND WILLY CHIRINO FOR THEIR EXTENSIVE LABOR WITH DESTITUTE CHILDREN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to one of Miami's most outstanding organizations. The Greater Miami Committee for UNICEF has saved the lives of scores of children in the south Florida area and throughout the world. Providing emergency assistance by equipping poor and starving children with primary and necessary healthcare by furnishing them with basic education are among the many ways in which this organization has come to the rescue of these underprivileged children; the children of our world.

The Greater Miami Committee for UNICEF has always advocated and devoted itself to fighting for the adequate protection of children and their inalienable rights. The members are always eager to award opportunities to destitute children, with whatever means necessary, to help them to develop and reach their full potential in life.

This year, this commendable organization has chosen to present its award to La Fundacion Willy Chirino. Willy and Lisette Chirino, the founders and extensive laborers of this organization, have unselfishly and lovingly opened their hearts and their arms to the afflicted children facing hardships. As a result, this couple has eased heavy burdens of these poor children and has embraced them with the gifts of love and hope; gifts which these children had never previously experienced.

These notable organizations will continue to reach their hands out to these unfortunate children, lift them up and light their paths for a much better and brighter road ahead. I am confident that my colleagues will join me today in congratulating and celebrating the exceptional work and effort that both The Greater Miami Committee for UNICEF and La Fundacion Willy Chirino have done for the impoverished children of south Florida and throughout the world.