

HONORING JOSEPHINE MARTIER
FOR 50 YEARS OF VOTING

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen and good friend, Ms. Josephine Martier from Vandergrift, PA. "Aunt Jo" as she is affectionately called, has fulfilled a rare and honorable pledge to her country. She has participated in each primary and general election for the past 50 years.

I would like to recognize Ms. Martier for her contribution to our country and to the American democratic system of government. Without individuals such as Ms. Martier, our democracy would not be what it is today. Her conviction is to be commended and unlike so many, Aunt Jo has never taken for granted her right to actively participate and voice the values which she believes in.

In 1996, less than half of the eligible voters in the United States participated in the Presidential election. In light of this statistic, it is even more amazing to consider what Aunt Jo has achieved. Her invincible sense of civic duty is exemplary. Her efforts serve as a model for every resident of the Fourth Congressional District, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and every American eligible to vote.

And so my fellow colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I rise and applaud Aunt Jo Martier and her amazing voting record. I hope that she will be able to participate in our democracy for years to come.

HONORARY KENNETH E. BEHRING
AND FAMILY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an inspiring act of citizenship by my constituents, Kenneth E. Behring and his family. A week ago, Mr. Behring traveled to Washington to give a gift to the Smithsonian Institution; at a time when we have grown accustomed to people coming to Washington to ask for favors. Mr. Behring and his family have donated \$20 million to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History to enable it to update its rotunda and its mammal hall to 21st century standards. The Behring gift also will enable the Smithsonian to set up traveling exhibitions in schools and other public places so that Americans who cannot visit Washington can experience a little bit of the Smithsonian in their hometown.

As a young man in Wisconsin, Mr. Behring opened a modest used car business in what turned out to be the first step in achieving the American dream. Through hard work and creativity, first in the automobile business and later as a real estate developer, he achieved great wealth. Now, in his own words, he believed it is time to give back.

Mr. Behring delights in telling of his experiences as a world traveler. He speaks eloquently of the natural beauty he has witnessed in the animal world, and of his desire to help

the Smithsonian enable others—especially young people—to get at least a small sense of what he has seen.

I believe his generous gift is a noble example that should serve as a model for all Americans with the means to do good. I am humbled by this generosity and hope that the rest of the House and the American people will take note of Mr. Behring's great deed.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH S. STOLARZ

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Joseph S. Stolarz of Passaic, NJ. In the week following Veterans Day, it seems appropriate that we would honor a man who has distinguished himself while serving his country in the armed services.

Joseph was born in a small mining community in Pennsylvania, moving shortly thereafter to a farm in Poland, his family's native country. Returning to America in 1938, he settled in Passaic with his two sisters. Heeding the call to duty, Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army on December 12, 1940. He was stationed at Fort Dix when he received word of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

Joseph's division was quickly broken up and used to defend the beaches of New York and New Jersey from any German assault. He was finally sent abroad in May 1944, landing in Liverpool. Joe's division, the 30th participated in the D-Day landings in France. After securing the beaches of Normandy, the 30th division participated in the allied drive across France, Belgium, and Germany.

Joe didn't escape the battlefields of Europe unscratched. In January 1945, he was hit twice within 2 days, ultimately spending months in a VA hospital recuperating. Despite his injuries, Joe served our country with valor. In all, he received a defense medal, two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, a World War Two Victory Medal, a European Medal, an Expert Infantry Badge, and a medal from the French city of St. Lo. He was honorably discharged from military service on November 12, 1945.

Upon his return to New Jersey, Joe became a civilian success. He completed his education, graduating from Passaic High School and ultimately attending Fairleigh Dickinson University. While visiting Poland in 1956, he met his wife and the future mother of his five children, Anna Brusik. In 1962, Joe fulfilled a lifelong dream when he purchased the Crystal Ballroom, where he continues to operate his tavern business with the aid of his wife and son, Joe Jr.

Joe has also been active in his community and is involved in a number of political and cultural associations including the American Legion, the Tavern Owner's Association, the Central of Polish Organizations, the Holy Rosary Young Men's Club, and the Veterans' Alliance. Joe is also a regular on the parade circuit, marching in the annual Passaic Memorial Day event, as well as the Pulaski Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Joseph's family and friends in celebrating the life of Joseph Stolarz, a patriot, entrepreneur, and family man.

FAST TRACK FELL VICTIM TO
POLITICAL DEMAGOGUERY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply disappointed in the fact that this body was unable to consider and pass the fast-track trade legislation authored by Chairman BILL ARCHER and myself.

In particular, I was disappointed in the petty politics engaged in by fast-track opponents. I fear that, thanks to the campaign waged by big labor and their politician lackeys, the United States will lose its leadership position in world markets. Until now, trade agreements have been negotiated on our terms. My greatest fear is that the defeat of fast track in this session of the 105th Congress will effectively prohibit the consideration of this trade authority until the next millennium. I want to make the point to my colleagues that this will result in future trade agreements being negotiated on the terms of our trading partners. Given the increasingly global nature of markets, this Congress has put U.S. businesses and jobs at a significant economic disadvantage in the world economy.

To further illustrate the political demagoguery on this issue, I commend to the attention of my colleagues an article in today's Washington Times by Donald Lambro entitled "Low Bridge for the Fast Track Flap." I will not add to Mr. Lambro's observations, instead I simply say—Amen.

[From the Washington Times, Nov. 13, 1997]

LOW BRIDGE FOR THE FAST TRACK FLAP

(By Donald Lambro)

If we learned anything from the fast-track trade fight, it is that demagoguery is alive and well in Washington, economic ignorance runs deeper than ever in Congress and the news media, and the business community still doesn't know how to sell the benefits of the global economy.

Even by past legislative battle standards, this one reached a new low in fear-mongering and deceit. The tools of big labor, Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt and Reps. David Bonior and Bernie Sanders, a socialist, came up with every hyperbolic attack line they could muster. Mr. Gephardt even blamed increased drug trafficking in the United States on the North American Free Trade Agreement—not on its true cause, President Clinton's abandonment of the war on drugs.

In the final weeks of debate, the AFL-CIO's paid congressional army of trade protectionists waged one of the most dishonest lobbying campaigns that this reporter has seen in 30 years of covering Washington. In one of the battle's most skillful bits of anti-trade demagoguery, aired on the CBS Evening News, Bonior and Sanders went down to Juarez, Mexico, with a CBS film crew in tow. Visiting one of its worst slums, which predates NAFTA, Mr. Bonior pointed to the shacks and said, "This is the global economy." It was a totally one-sided editorial against trade by two veterans, big government leftists that could have been produced at the AFL-CIO, and probably was.

Similarly one-sided stories filled the news programs of the past several weeks, bashing NAFTA and repeating big labor's protectionist line. Nowhere was it reported that U.S. exports to NAFTA partners Mexico and Canada had reached nearly \$200 billion last year—an all-time record; that both have become America's biggest export markets,

with Mexico's market bigger than Japan's; that the North American economy is forecast to grow by 3.5 percent this year, higher than the other industrialized countries of the world; or that all those predictions of a "giant sucking sound" of jobs leaving the United States have not come true.

Despite all the doom and gloom fears that trade expansion will destroy jobs, the obvious fact is that trade has helped to create millions of new, higher-paying jobs, driving the U.S. unemployment rate to the lowest level in nearly a quarter of a century.

Last week's Labor Department unemployment report showed the jobless rate falling to 4.7 percent, flattened by the creation of an astonishing 284,000 jobs in October alone. Since 1993 the U.S. economy has created more than 13.5 million new jobs. "Clearly, NAFTA has not hurt the U.S. economy," trade analyst Rebecca Reynolds Bannister writes in a study for the Progressive Policy Institute.

And contrary to the Gephardt-Bonior-Sanders disinformation campaign that the United States is losing higher-paying manufacturing jobs, the most robust job gains last month were in manufacturing. Half the 54,000 jobs in this sector alone were in machinery, transportation and construction. Big U.S. companies like Boeing have hired 32,000 workers in the last 18 months and will add another 11,000 jobs to its factory lines. Other companies like Caterpillar were expanding their payrolls to keep up with mounting exports to Latin America.

Rather than worry about losing jobs, the biggest complaint among U.S. business leaders in the country today is the lack of labor, qualified or otherwise.

But too little or none of this is getting reported to the American people. One reason is an abysmal level of ignorance in much of the news media and in Congress about trade and the global economy. An otherwise intelligent editor of a major newspaper recently told me that "America doesn't make much of anything anymore."

This common perception, wholly untrue, reflects what many Americans think of the U.S. economy. Combined with the belief that imports destroy jobs and a misunderstanding about the global economy's benefits, this is what is now driving so much of the public mistrust about NAFTA and other trade deals.

The truth is we will begin losing jobs if we don't negotiate lower trade barriers abroad because U.S. companies will move plants to these countries to avoid paying import tariffs.

But the myth of U.S. deindustrialization goes on despite all the evidence against it. Our gross domestic product, the measure of all the goods and services we produce, stands at nearly \$8 trillion, bigger than any nation on Earth. If you want to see what America makes, look at the New York Stock Exchange listings or the NASDAQ in your local newspaper. Millions of privately owned businesses add to the nation's growth rate, which was expanding at a 3.5 percent annualized rate in the third quarter—faster than any other industrialized nation.

We are the biggest producer of food on the planet. We are the biggest producer of farm and industrial machinery, of airplanes, of computers and of software. At our present rate of growth, it is quite possible that our GDP will reach \$10 trillion by the beginning of the next decade.

Americans have produced this level of GDP. But because we produce more products and services than we can possibly buy ourselves, we sell the rest in global markets. And those sales have been a major factor in our robust job-creation rate that is higher than any industrialized nation on Earth.

Mr. Clinton complained this week that "this is no-brainer." Trade has not destroyed jobs, it has created them. U.S. leadership in the global economy is one of the great success stories of the 20th century. Sadly, the U.S. business community had done a very poor job of promoting this story to its workers, to Congress and to the media.

Mr. Clinton deserves a lot of the blame for not beginning early enough to get the votes needed to pass fast-track. But I think American business is also much to blame for this week's setback. Until corporate America gets into the trenches and begins doing a better job of combating the demagogues and educating the country about the benefits of global trade, we're going to have even more trouble getting trade bills through Congress in the future.

HONORING MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP'S VIRGINIA WHITE FOR 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who exemplifies public service in every sense of the word—Virginia White.

After serving for 25 years as clerk of Meridian Township, Virginia has decided to step down from office, leaving a legacy of trust, responsibility, and dedication.

As clerk, her responsibilities for Meridian Township included director of elections, keeper of records, and voting member on the township's policy board. But Virginia was much more. Virginia gained admiration by always doing what was best for her community—she was, and will always be, an outstanding public servant.

During her 25 years in office, it wasn't just what Virginia did, but how she did it. Each responsibility she held was completed with conviction, pride, and the deepest sense of integrity.

One of her largest contributions has been her work in bringing more people into the political process. As president of the Michigan Association of Clerks, Virginia worked hard to modernize elections for the public and wrote a book on how to improve voting in the State of Michigan. In November 1995, Virginia was appointed to the Secretary of State's Election Advisory Committee, where she made a series of recommendations to curb duplicate voting and make voting rules more clear for voters.

I have enjoyed working with Virginia on many occasions during the past 20 years. I particularly appreciated our joint efforts to organize a celebration for the Meridian Township Sesquicentennial.

Virginia will always be a leader, not only in Meridian Township, but throughout Michigan. I thank her for her service and I wish her the very best in the future.

THE THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA SUPPORT SITE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1997, I introduced H.R. 2931, legislation to redesignate the naval facility located in Gricignano d'Aversa, Italy, currently known as the Naples Support Site as the "Thomas M. Foglietta Support Site." I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will pay tribute to a fine Member, who was recently sworn in as Ambassador to Italy.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, Ambassador FOGLIETTA has a long history of service to his hometown, his State, and his country. He practiced law for 27 years. First elected to the Philadelphia City Council in 1955, he was the youngest council member of a major U.S. city. He held this position until 1975. From 1976 to 1977 Ambassador FOGLIETTA was the representative of the U.S. Secretary of Labor in Pennsylvania under President Gerald Ford. In 1980 he was first elected to represent Pennsylvania's First Congressional District and has since won the overwhelming loyalty of his constituents.

As a Member of Congress, Ambassador FOGLIETTA sought to protect the industrial base of his constituents. He fought tenaciously to keep open the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, a facility that once formed the backbone of industry in the area. Unfortunately, as the facility was deemed to have become obsolete, an independent commission set up by Congress recommended that the base be closed. However, Ambassador FOGLIETTA would not let the matter rest. In an effort to make the best of the situation, TOM fought to secure Federal funding for defense conversion. He wanted to ensure that his hometown would be able to shift its industrial base, and to preserve its economic vitality.

Now, our friend and colleague is taking his career in another direction. Last month, he was confirmed by the Senate as the next United States Ambassador to Italy. However, foreign affairs is not a new interest for Ambassador FOGLIETTA. During the 1980's Ambassador FOGLIETTA was one of the leading advocates of democratic reforms in South Korea. He has also participated in efforts to restore the democratically elected regime of Haiti. In Congress his committee assignments involved work related to international relations and national security. He was appointed to the Appropriations Committee in 1993 and has served on its Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. As a member of this subcommittee he has served as a leading advocate for U.S. assistance to promote free markets and democratic reforms in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

More than 10 years ago Ambassador FOGLIETTA visited the Navy's facilities around Naples and was disturbed by the conditions he saw there. Following this visit he worked with the Navy and Congress to build new facilities for U.S. forces. H.R. 2931 is a fitting tribute to our former colleague, in light of his efforts on behalf of our troops and his new position as U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

I would like to wish the best as he assumes his new responsibilities. I hope my colleagues