

man, a farmer, a fine and honorable gentleman, and a preeminent citizen legislator, died at the age of 69, after 35 years of service to our State in its unicameral legislature.

The extraordinary qualities and abilities of the gentleman from Waverly, NE, have long been recognized across our State. In recent weeks and months Nebraskans have praised him with such words as "integrity, courage, dignity, honest, genuine, outstanding legislator, a force of nature, friendly, All-American, trustworthy, unpretentious, fair, builder, modest, consummately ethical, revered, bred for public service, the Dean, captain of the ship, and progressive."

Jerry was only 9 years old when his father was elected speaker of the first session of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, and the senior Warner served nearly 40 years as a Nebraska legislator, including 23 years as speaker. In his 35 years as a State senator, Jerry Warner served as speaker, too, three times, as chairman of practically all of the important committees, including the appropriations, revenue and education committees, and in many other formal and informal leadership roles.

In his early years in the legislature, Jerry worked successfully to provide State aid so that schools could be less dependent on property taxes. Thirty years later, he continued that effort to provide even more State aid for education. Jerry was chairman of the appropriations committee for 13 years. During the farm crisis in the 1980's, when the revenues from sales and income taxes fell, Jerry found ways to cut State spending. Throughout his service on the appropriations committee, when a shortfall loomed, Jerry produced a plan to pull the State through its fiscal difficulties.

In addition, throughout his life, Jerry farmed on the same family farm where he was born in 1927, and he bred registered Hereford cattle. He finally leased out the farm land 3 years ago and sold the last of his cattle last month.

Some Nebraskans have wondered why Jerry never ran for higher office. I think I know. For him there was no higher office than serving one's fellow citizens in our unicameral legislature—as a "citizen legislator."

I served with Jerry Warner for only 4 years, but that was a wonderful and significant time for me. When he first moved to the appropriations committee and became its chairman in 1977, I was new to the vice chairman role. Together, as we worked alone, night after night, we poured over the budget until midnight hours. We made some big changes in direction. But more importantly, during these nights I learned about the depth of this man's commitment to Nebraska's welfare and about the unrivaled depth of his knowledge of the State. Thereafter, I always knew my first and best source of information—practical and historical—about Nebraska State government was Jerry Warner. Up close I learned about the intellect and rationality behind that very special twinkle in Jerry's eye.

I am so very appreciative that I had the privilege of knowing him and working with him, of his good counsel, and of all that he did to make Nebraska a much better place to live. Jerry Warner made a big, big difference for the better here on earth. What better legacy can one leave?

Jerome Warner of Waverly, NE, a giant in his accomplishments, has walked modestly among us, but none before him or probably

none after him will ever match his legislative achievements in Nebraska.

[From the Lincoln (NE) Journal Star, Apr. 22, 1997]

FROM LIFE TO LEGACY: WARNER'S LONG SEASON OF SELFLESS SERVICE

Toward the end, people who knew him well were at special pains to pay tribute to Jerome Warner. The energy to speak in admiration and in gratitude bubbled up at about the same rate that Warner's own energies wore down.

It is a measure of this man's quiet, simple greatness that even those who did not know him well could know how fine, how decent a man he was.

Like a cold wind, the thought rushes in upon us now that we were somehow vastly unprepared for his death Sunday.

Our search for warmth and for solace leads us to simple truths that passed from the seat of state government to the farthest corners of this state over a 35-year career. Jerome Warner is a man of his word. Jerome Warner defines what it means to be a public servant. Jerome Warner is the kind of leader who cares more about what he gets done than how he describes it.

The Revenue Committee puts its sense of urgency about failing health into action as calendars turned to April 1997. Sens. David Landis of Lincoln and George Coordsen of Hebron were among those to take some time to praise Warner for his leadership, for his selflessness, for his ability to see out ahead to new problems and new solutions. Never one for spectacle or smooth speeches, the chairman took it all in from behind those glasses that gave his eyes such owl-like hugeness and suggested the committee adjourn.

As applause rolled across the room, he declared, "I guess we're done."

Now at least in the most immediate sense, we citizens of Nebraska are done with the life of Jerome Warner. Thankfully, his legacy is just beginning.

As was so typical of him, he gave almost all of his remaining energy to the legislative task. He did not check into Tabitha's hospice program in Lincoln until a few days before his death.

The tributes that began back when cancer had so clearly gained the upper hand continue in a torrent. But the words now are words we pass among ourselves. We comfort each other, we try to reassure each other, and we look anxiously for others half so willing, half so able to help us find our way.

The Warner legislative legacy includes establishing state aid to education. It includes an end to pork-barrel politics in use of highway funds and stout defense of using highway money for highway purposes. It includes hard and unfinished work in the 1997 session in trying to salvage quality education from property tax relief.

In earlier sessions of his life, Warner spent his days in the Legislature and his nights on the tractor. It is a fitting way, in this last session, to remember a citizen-senator who did so much to bring together the interests of rural Nebraska and the interests of all of Nebraska. It is a fitting, sunset vision of ambitions that were so characteristically focused first on his state, rather than on himself.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, April 22, 1997]

SENATOR WARNER DIGNIFIED OFFICE

Jerome Warner died too young. At age 69, his mind was still sharp. His judgment was still good. He still displayed a desire to serve his fellow Nebraskans.

Until he checked himself into a nursing home two weeks ago, in pain and frail from

his battle with cancer, he had been in the thick of the legislative debate over property-tax lids and projected treasury surpluses. Members of the Legislature and people outside the Legislature were still looking to Warner for guidance on how to manage the tangle of tax issues.

It was logical that they were turning to the Waverly senator. Nebraska has benefited substantially from the wisdom and balance he displayed during his 34 years as a state senator. His passing leaves a void in state government.

Warner served in the Legislature longer than any other person. He held all the top leadership positions and three of the most powerful committee chairmanships—Appropriations, Revenue and Education.

Many of his achievements came in the area of providing essential services with a fair system of taxation. He was the father of Nebraska's roads classification system, which took politics out of highway planning. He planned the Postsecondary Education Coordinating Commission to eliminate unnecessary duplication in higher education. He was instrumental in bringing Kearney State College into the University of Nebraska system.

Warner got Nebraska's variable gasoline tax through the Legislature. He wasn't the kind of politician who would promise good roads and leave the financing to someone else. He knew that the highway program needed more money. He came up with what he thought was the fairest system of obtaining more.

Warner had personal qualities that made him effective as a politician and likable as a human being. His integrity was unimpeachable. He was always pleasant and polite to those around him, whether they were high-powered officials or the college students who work as legislative pages. He respected ordinary people. He was a "bottomless pit of patience," a former legislative colleague once said.

Some politicians gain dignity when they are elected to public office. With Jerry Warner, it was the other way around. The way he conducted his 34-year career as a state senator enhanced the honor and dignity of the office. Few Nebraskans ever came closer to being the model public official.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORTAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, PORTAGE, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Portage School District in southwest Michigan. Much has changed since the school doors opened in 1922, but throughout the years the Portage schools have consistently succeeded in providing a high quality education and outstanding services for students.

Formed in 1922 as the Portage Agricultural School District, the district then had five teachers. Today, 550 professionals educate nearly 9,000 students who fill 8 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools. The school district boasts student achievement scores that are 15 percent to 20 percent higher than State averages with 83 percent of their students going on to higher education.

The strength and excellence of the school district's curriculum and programs prepares

youths for the challenges they will face following graduation. It is with great pleasure that I am able to represent the Portage schools and witness their remarkable growth. I consider their comprehensive programs to be a model of success, and I have the utmost confidence in their ability to continue serving students for another 75 years with the same excellence they have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the people of Portage have always stood behind their schools, just like the school district stands behind its students and staff. As their Representative in Congress, it is a great honor for me to rise today in recognition of their accomplishments and wish them many more years of prosperity.

WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH CENTER FIGHTS HUNGER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creative and innovative work of the Wayne County Health Center, a hospital located in the 8th District of Missouri. Wayne County Health Center was recently presented with the American Star, an award given to 100 civic organizations each year by the America The Beautiful Fund of Washington, DC.

I would especially like to extend my congratulations to Mrs. Velma Osborne, who has played an instrumental role in the success of Wayne County Health Center's extraordinary citizen service.

Wayne County Health Center established a program that assists over 400 low-income families in the area grow their own fresh food. The families involved in the project are learning the importance of good nutrition, as well as how to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables.

This program has taken a giant step in helping to fight hunger in Wayne County. It will continue to benefit the families involved as children grow up with the knowledge of good nutrition and the skills to grow their own healthy food.

The Wayne County Health Center is certainly deserving of an award as prestigious as the America The Beautiful American Star. The accomplishments of Velma Osborne and the many others who have worked for the success of this program should serve as a reminder of the spirit that founded this country and the role that each and every one of us play in keeping that spirit alive.

LEGISLATION TO RECOGNIZE THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will grant a Federal charter to the veterans organization known as Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. This legislation recognizes and honors the thousands of Ukrainian-Americans who have fought for the ideals and principles that our great country represents.

Through the years, Ukrainian-American veterans have proven their determination and dedication by bravely fighting in the defense of the United States.

Ukrainian-American veterans have served in the United States armed services, and have aided in the destruction of the tyrants and oppressors that have confronted our great Nation. Based on their distinguished military service, Ukrainian-American veterans deserve recognition.

By providing our Ukrainian-American veterans with a Federal charter, our Nation will recognize this special group of American heroes. This measure will protect and preserve the foundations that our Nation was founded upon. And will promote patriotism and respect by commemorating the military actions, wars and campaigns of the United States in which they were involved.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the courageous military service of Ukrainian-American veterans. We truly believe that this legislation demonstrates a commitment to democracy and liberty. Providing a Federal charter to the Ukrainian-American veterans is a symbolic tribute of respect for our veterans as our Nation continues to promote freedom throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF A HIGH ACHIEVING JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN HIS- TORY CLASS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the high intellectual achievement of a John Marshall High School American history class. This class of high school juniors and seniors has demonstrated a superlative command of the facts and a critical understanding of the meaning of American history. They are first among their peers, having won that distinction when they took first place in the State of Ohio finals of the We the People competition.

The We the People competition does not involve mere rote learning and short answers, but requires detailed research and study on specific areas of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students testify before a panel of judges, most of whom are judges and lawyers, as if they were testifying at a congressional hearing. The class is divided into six groups and each group is required to give a 4 minute prepared answer to one of three extremely complex questions. Each group must then answer extemporaneously 6 minutes of followup questions posed by the judges. Through this trying ordeal, the students must demonstrate their understanding and ability to articulate in-depth analysis of complex constitutional issues. All students must respond, not just the stars of the class.

The entire class, then, has earned a coveted honor as the State representative at the national competition. Under the tutelage of their teacher, George Klepacz, the following students are commended by Congress for their work and achievement: Brigitte Beale, Alicia Bebee, Raenala Brown, David

Bucchioni, Tyessa Howard, Kasey King, Deanna Lamb, James Lazarus, Kim Noeum, Ryann O'Bryant, Brad Schaefer, Tiwanna Scott, Matt Stevens, and Kim Chau Vo.

AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR A STUDY OF BREAST CANCER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joined by a bipartisan group of my colleagues, to introduce legislation critical to the State of New Jersey.

This bill will authorize funding for a study focusing on the link between environmental factors and genetic susceptibilities toward breast cancer. The study will be conducted by the New Jersey University of the Health Sciences in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Breast cancer is an epidemic in our country. It is reported that every 3 minutes, a woman is diagnosed with the disease and every 11 minutes a woman dies from it. In this year alone, more than 44,000 women will from breast cancer—these women, who are our mothers, spouses, siblings, children, or friends.

These numbers are especially alarming in the State of New Jersey, which has the second highest breast cancer mortality rate of any State in the country. The American Cancer Society estimates 6,400 new cases of breast cancer in New Jersey in 1997 and 1,800 estimated deaths.

While we have made some strides in raising awareness about the need for early detection and some strides in research, we still do not have a cure nor do we know what causes the devastating disease. That is why I am introducing this legislation, to direct more funding to study the disease and potential causes of it.

Because of its dense population, the State of New Jersey has many unique environmental concerns that may have some link to our high incidents of breast cancer. The State's University of Health Sciences is one of only seven joint centers in the United States that house a National Cancer Institute designated research center and a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences research center. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services also oversees a statewide cancer registry and is advanced in its cancer research programs.

While this potential study is critical to women and families in New Jersey, the results of the study are equally important to the 1 in 8 women that will be diagnosed nationally with breast cancer each year, to their children and families. Consequently, I urge the support of my colleagues for swift passage of this bill.

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE WILL BE MAY 10TH

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, hunger has no calender. Hunger doesn't know if it's spring,