

office with important and intelligent information from our district since 1953.

Their legislative updates, entitled "We The People," arrived monthly in my office, sometimes with copies of my 1-minute speeches from the House floor printed in the Congressional Comments section. In June 1994, National Write Your Congressman featured my bill to move the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the IRS in civil tax court as the topic of a survey. The results astounded me: Ninety-three percent of their readers favored my bill, and soon afterword, I had over 300 cosponsors.

National Write Your Congressman's opinion ballots are some of the only polls I trust. Their members respond because they want to participate in the democratic process, not because some polling organization called them.

I find that letterwriters from National Write Your Congressman are well informed about issues in Washington that effect their lives. Their readers should know that they do have clout in Washington because their voices are heard monthly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment National Write Your Congressman for its work for nearly 40 years to bring the opinions of Americans to their Federal representatives in Washington.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE MOOSE

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Moosehaven facility, which provides residential care to older members of the Loyal Order of the Moose. I am proud to have this outstanding facility, located in Orange Park, FL, as part of my district.

The Loyal Order of the Moose will be holding its international convention in Florida this summer. They have selected Florida as the convention site for the purposes of acknowledging the Moosehaven facility.

Founded in 1922, the Moosehaven facility is unique in the fraternal world. The self-funded facility currently provides free care to 420 men and women who are members of the Moose Order. The infinite need for organizations to provide community-based solutions is exemplified by the success of the Moosehaven facility.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Moosehaven facility on its 75th anniversary, and I look forward to its continued growth and progress in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE NORTH HUDSON COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION: PROUD PARTICIPANT IN COMMUNITY ACTION WEEK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly exceptional organization, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation [NHCAC]. On May 9, a celebration

commemorating Community Action Week will officially open the NHCAC's one-stop Health Center located at their newly consolidated facility in West New York, NJ.

National Community Action Week is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of community-based action, making this a fitting opportunity to recognize the contributions of the NHCAC. This respected institution has provided much needed assistance to the residents of Northern Hudson County, NJ, for over 30 years. Its mission of people helping people is exemplified in the more than 20 programs and 37,000 clients served by NHCAC.

The types of assistance offered by NHCAC are as diverse as the population it serves. NHCAC provides services in health care, nutrition, substance abuse treatment, emergency food and shelter shortages, social and home services, and early childhood development through Head Start. Specifically, programs benefiting North Hudson residents include the Women, Infants and Children [WIC] nutrition plan, Senior Treatment and Education Program [STWP], a food pantry, limited transitional housing, immigration and naturalization help, tenant and landlord relations, job placement, and home weatherization and maintenance. Everyone who has utilized NHCAC's services may attest to the compassionate nature of this outstanding group of individuals.

The official opening of North Hudson Communication Action Corporation's Health Center at West New York is another step along the road to ensuring quality and affordable health services for the entire community. Staffed by medical professionals, the health center provides a broad range of health services including family care, gynecology and family planning, premarital examinations, dental screening, mental health, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and counseling and health education workshops.

The men and women of the North Hudson Community Action Corporation give new meaning to the words community action. Under the direction of executive director Michael Leggiero, NHCAC has gained national recognition for dedicated and caring service to the community. I am proud to have this extraordinary organization working on behalf of the members of my district.

HONORING JOHN "JACK" PIDGEON

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell my colleagues about the retirement of a singular individual who is legendary in his achievements in the academic world. His name is John "Jack" Pidgeon.

Jack Pidgeon grew up in a poor working class town in Massachusetts. He won a scholarship to prestigious Andover Prep School, where he studied alongside former President Bush and Actor Jack Lemmon. After being seriously wounded in WWII, he went on to devote his life to giving that gift of educational opportunity to other bright young students hundreds of times over.

And he did it against some incredible odds.

In 1952, Jack Pidgeon left a secure teaching job at Deerfield Academy to become the

headmaster of a sickly, broke, rundown 350-acre prep school called Kiski in western Pennsylvania. When he arrived, the school, founded in 1888, had a few dilapidated buildings, no running water, no furniture, no credit, no donor support, no gate. It was \$200,000 in debt. Jack Pidgeon took a look around and started up a bulldozer himself to clear the grounds and enlisted faculty and students to mow, paint, even tar roofs.

Seven years later, after everyone told him the school had no chance, Kiski received a \$10,000 donation—its first donation of over \$1,000 in the history of the school. Finally, in 1966, after years of dogged efforts by this devoted crusader, the late Sarah Mellon Scaife gave the school \$50,000. That was a turning point, and Jack Pidgeon never looked back.

On May 16 of this year, Jack Pidgeon is retiring as headmaster of Kiski, leaving behind not only a student and alumni population that thinks of him as a father, but a financially robust institution entirely of his crafting, with property worth about \$20 million, an endowment of about \$10 million, and the wherewithal to grant \$350,000 per year in scholarships.

But financial success is not his most lasting legacy to this institution. Jack Pidgeon personally shaped the character of every student to who attended Kiski. His no-nonsense, pragmatic philosophy imbued generations of graduates with a realistic but profound belief in themselves and a clear sense of who they are. He stressed good manners, humility, self-respect, and drive. He is a man who gave his life to quality education and giving thousands of young boys the ability to realize their full potential as business leaders, civic leaders, and citizens. His greatest satisfaction came from offering poorer students scholarships.

I heartily commend Jack Pidgeon for his great achievements. He is a man of vision who never heard of giving up.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD R. BALDELLI

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerald Baldelli, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jerry served the Frontier Central School District with distinction in several capacities from 1961 to 1996, including teacher, coach, mathematics department chairman, director of community education, middle school principal, high school principal, and assistant superintendent for personnel service. As a teacher and former supervisor of the Town of Hamburg, I witnessed first hand Jerry's commitment to our community, and his professionalism, and integrity.

In addition to his work with Frontier Schools, Jerry has served as president of the Erie County Interscholastic Conference, president of the Erie County High School Principals' Association, president of the Western New York Association of School Personnel Administrators, and as chairman of New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

In recognition of that commitment to education, Jerry was honored as the 1966 Hamburg Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Educator, the 1988 New York State

Athletic Administrators' Association "Outstanding Commitment to Interscholastic Athletics in New York State" award recipient, and as the 1996 Town of Hamburg Service Youth Award winner.

Further, Jerry has played an important and active role in our community through his work with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with Jerry's wife, Marie; his children, Gerald, Carla, Mark, and Elizabeth; the Frontier Central School District; and our Hamburg community to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald R. Baldelli. With retirement comes many new opportunities. May he meet every opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career; and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you, Jerry, for your tireless effort and personal commitment to our western New York community. As you enter retirement, I wish you nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE J. ACOSTA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose J. Acosta as the California Highway Patrol, West Valley area, American Legion Officer of the year. Abigail Adams once questioned: "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind, whom should we serve?" Each and every day, Officer Acosta puts his life on the line in order to serve mankind by guaranteeing the safety of the Woodland Hills community. He is truly worthy of this award.

In his short time on the force Officer Acosta has been a quick study. His hard work and dedication have honed his investigative skills and earned him the respect of his supervisors and peers. In addition, he has fought to ensure the safety of our roads through his aggressive pursuit of drunk drivers. In a 12-month period he made over 70 arrests, demonstrating his skills in apprehension.

Officer Acosta's service to our community does not end with his shift. He understands that a smile and kind word can go a long way in a difficult situation. For proof one only need look at the letters of commendation detailing time and time again he is willing to lend a helping hand to motorists in distress.

West Valley is fortunate to have Officer Acosta, and I am confident that his dedication will serve as a model for other highway patrol officers in the Nation and lead to safer roads for everyone. I commend Officer Acosta for his dedication and hard work and congratulate him as he is honored as the California Highway Patrol Officer of the year.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. "JACK" GOEKEN

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of an inspiring

inventor and enterprising leader, John D. "Jack" Goeken.

Jack Goeken is a much celebrated pioneer in the world of telecommunications. Jack Goeken has been referred to by Business Week magazine as, "the phone world's most prolific inventor." Former Federal Communications Commission Chairman Alfred C. Skies, recognized Goeken as, "one of America's genuine communications pioneers." His accomplishments and awards are as impressive as they are vast.

Jack Goeken has built an international reputation in the communications industry while founding communications giants such as MCI, FTD Mercury Network, Airfone, In-Flight Phone, and now Goeken Group companies.

Jack Goeken pioneered the concept of constructing a microwave system between Chicago and St. Louis, improving customers channel capacity and range, enabling truck drivers to use their two-way radios along the highway.

In 1963, Jack Goeken and four friends established Microwave Communications, Inc., MCI. In fact, Jack Goeken's development of a microwave network eventually lead to a victorious legal battle which is credited with the breakup of the Bell monopoly and opening of the telecommunications industry to competition.

For Jack Goeken, this was only the beginning of an impressive series of inventions and enterprising successes. He then founded the FTD Mercury Network, the world's largest on-line computer network, processing and delivering over 30 million smiles a year in floral orders.

Next, Jack Goeken founded Raliphone Inc., CML Communications which provided domestic satellite service, Spectrum Analysis Frequency Plan.

In the mid 70's, Goeken created the air-to-ground communications industry that exists today. Goeken founded the Airfone Corporation that travelers commonly see and use on commercial airlines. Goeken's invention lead to the founding of the In-Flight Phone Corporation in 1989, which provides the clear telephone service and transmission air travelers enjoy today.

Today, Goeken serves as chairman and CEO of the Goeken Group Companies which provide life saving technology and services. Goeken Group Companies includes; Global MED-NET, Personal Guardian, and Personal Safetywear.

On May 9, 1997, Jack Goeken will be honored at the 1997 Joliet UNICO Citizen of the Year Banquet for a lifetime achievement of "service above self," UNICO's motto.

I request that this body honor Jack Goeken for his incredible spirit of invention and remarkable forward thinking.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, while on official business I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes on May 7, 1997. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 109—"yes;" rollcall No. 108—"no."

FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, as Members know, 11 Members of the House and I traveled to Asia over the Easter recess. Among our stops was a very successful visit to the Republic of China on Taiwan.

President Lee Tung Hui offered a typically warm welcome, and stressed the fact that Taiwan now lives under a fully free and democratic government. In fact, I would note that on May 20th President Lee will celebrate his first anniversary of his inauguration as Taiwan's first democratically elected President. In fact, I had the privilege to offer my congratulations to President Lee in person 1 month after that first free election in nearly 5,000 years of recorded Chinese history.

I offer my congratulations to him on this first anniversary of the election and ask that his welcome to our delegation be reprinted in the RECORD:

Honorable Speaker Gingrich, Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. This is a very important moment. On behalf of the people and the government of the ROC on Taiwan, I would like to extend my heartiest welcome to all of you. Particularly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for your decision to visit my country out of such a busy schedule on your Asia evaluation tour. The time of your stay is very short, but the most important thing is that you didn't forget this island ROC on Taiwan. It has at least two very significant meanings: First, the ROC on Taiwan is the best friend of the United States in the world and the symbol of American value system and idealism, Freedom and Democracy. Second, the island is geographically important for US military strategy in the West Pacific area, and particularly in North-East Asia.

Domestically, the ROC on Taiwan is now considered a fully free country by the Freedom House based in New York City following our first direct popular presidential election in March 1996. In order to improve our competitiveness, we are now in the process of streamlining the government structure through constitutional reform and establishing an Asian Pacific Regional Operations Center here.

Our mainland China policy remains unchanged. Eventual reunification of China under freedom, democracy, and social justice is still our future goal, but the fact remains: China is divided. We in the ROC on Taiwan would like to use the next thirty years to build an even more free, democratic and prosperous country, so that when the opportune time arises, we can hold talks of reunification with the other side on an equal footing.

In the interest of time, I would like to listen to you; any questions put forward to me are welcome. As to the purposes of this trip, you already mentioned in the news conference on the 23rd of March. We have already prepared answers to those questions, and will provide the materials to you for your convenience. Thank you very much for your attention. Now, I would like to listen to your comments and advice.