

last 45 years he has been an essential, constant, vital part of our small town. He is a true American original, and his story is part of the bedrock upon which this Nation is built. His children have this to say about their father:

Our dad endured a childhood of poverty—the sort of poverty it's better to read about in Horatio Alger than to experience. He lost his mother while he was still a small boy, and in the midst of the depression Dad got himself through Williams College on a scholarship that didn't include money for books, so he never bought any. After graduation he spent a year working 18 hour shifts as a bellhop to earn the tuition for medical school, and though he interrupted his studies to enlist in the Army during World War II, he was eventually able to finish his surgical internship and residency at Columbia University and the University of Chicago.

Do you measure a man's value by his work? Dad is a brilliant surgeon. He brought a level of talent, innovation and skill to our hometown that saved countless lives. Sometimes we went with him on his housecalls, helping to carry his black bag. We've heard countless stories about how he listened to his patients, demanded the best from the hospital and its staff, and never accepted any of the endless offers that came his way to practice in other places.

Or is a man judged by his courage? We've never found a braver man than our father. At the height of his career, Dad lost his sight. His surgical career ended overnight. At a time when most men are contemplating retirement and solitude, he built a new life for himself at the age of 61. He gave up the practice he loved without a backward glance, and went to work at Corning, Inc., building a first-rate medical department.

He raised the money to found a low-vision clinic, a clinic that today offers those with limited sight the practical advice and tools they need to make a full, independent life possible.

Dad eventually retired at the age of 70, and finally had time for the things he loves—fly fishing, scotch, golf, good food, good conversation, a good joke. More than anything on earth, though, he loves our mother, Anne, his wife of 37 years. A local mechanic, speaking with them about the loss of his own wife, said wistfully, "I'd like to think we had the same sort of marriage you two have," and with those words he spoke for everyone who knows our parents. They have talked, laughed, loved and occasionally fought their way through nearly four decades of marriage, and no invention of Hollywood could ever tell a finer story.

Together they raised five children, creating a secure haven of love and stability in the midst of turbulent times.

All five of us have grown and gone now, and have established careers of our own in education, business, finance, law, politics and religion. Each child has at least one degree, some have two, one is working on her third. We are making our mark from New York to San Francisco, and trying to set the same standards in our chosen fields as our parents did in theirs. It's a hard act we're following, but if you asked Dad what he takes the most pride in, we suspect he would point to our independence, even if it does occasionally drive him wild.

Mr. Speaker, those children, their spouses, and Pete's grandchildren will all arrive in Corning in a few days, to celebrate this special birthday and this special man. His has been a life of service, courage, and love. I am proud to call him my friend.

THE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 1997, DERYL MCKISSACK, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MCKISSACK AND MCKISSACK OF WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the U.S. Small Business Administration [SBA] celebrates Small Business Week by honoring outstanding men and women as Small business Persons of the Year. The winners of this award are judged based on staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-related projects. The Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 is Deryl McKissack, President and CEO of McKissack and McKissack of Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Deryl McKissack is a DC resident and graduate of Howard University who, in 1990, opened the Washington Office of McKissack and McKissack, the oldest minority-owned architectural/engineering firm in the Nation with \$1,000, exceptional skills, determination, and a dream. In 1995 the company was certified in SBA's 8(a) Program and has won two 8(a) contracts totaling \$9.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, today this business woman has over 35 full-time employees with an estimated revenue of \$7 million for the coming fiscal year. Her client list now includes the U.S. Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, the Washington Convention Center, NationsBank, Georgetown University, Howard University, Morgan State University, and Coppin State College. The firm is a leader in program management engagements and is working on three separate contracts at the historic Treasury building in downtown D.C.

Ms. McKissack has encountered closed doors and stiff competition. She overcame these obstacles with a strong commitment to excellence, a determination to outperform her competitors, emphasis on delivering outstanding work on schedule and within budget and ensuring that client's needs are met. Ms. McKissack supports a number of charitable organizations and serves the community in other ways including the DC Public Schools' Task Force on Education, Infrastructure for the 21st Century, and the Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in saluting Deryl McKissack, SBA's Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 for the Washington Metropolitan Area and celebrating the contributions of the small business community to this Nation's economic health.

LEWIS AND CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that authorizes constructions of the Lewis and Clark rural water system.

This system, when complete, will provide much needed, safe drinking water for hundreds of communities in southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota.

I am proud of the citizens of South Dakota who have worked extremely hard on this project. They are to be commended. Nothing is more important to the health of South Dakota ranchers, farmers, and people living in towns and cities than the availability of safe drinking water. The bill I am introducing today will achieve that goal.

In this day of fiscal austerity, only projects of the greatest public benefit can be brought forward. The Lewis and Clark rural water system is the only feasible means of ensuring that future supplies of high quality water will be available well into the next century. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will provide a supplemental supply of drinking water that is expected to serve over 180,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, water development is a health issue, economic development issue, and a rural development issue. The ability of rural America to survive and grow is intrinsically related to the ability of rural and growing communities to provide adequate supplies of safe drinking water. Without a reliable supply of water, these areas cannot attract new businesses and cannot create jobs. The creation of jobs is a paramount issue to a rural State such as South Dakota. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will help assure job growth in the areas to be served.

It is extremely difficult for rural communities and residents to maintain a healthy standard of living if they do not have access to good quality drinking water. This bill authorizing the construction of the Lewis and Clark rural water system with work toward this end.

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. Their support would be greatly appreciated.

DECLARING MAY 22, 1997, BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS DAY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts [BFA] on the occasion of its 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony, which will honor the outstanding artistic contributions of women, and to declare May 22, 1997, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my California's 34th Congressional District.

This year marks BFA's 24th season of bringing Latino world drama to both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences. Each year, more than 300,000 children and adults experience the richness and diversity of Latino culture through the presentation of plays in southern California schools and at BFA's Lincoln Heights Theater.

BFA's mission has been to bring communities together through the presentation of plays from the diverse Latino cultural and theatrical tradition. Classical and contemporary plays are presented in both English and Spanish, alternating weekly. Founded by my good friend and internationally recognized Mexican-

American actress and producer, Carmen Zapata, along with Cuban-born actress and director, Margarita Galban, and Argentinean designer, Estela Scarlata, BFA has grown from a small, itinerant bilingual theater to a permanent cultural institution that utilizes the arts as a tool for exploration and understanding of the Latino community.

On the evening of May 22, 1997, Chairman Jesus Rangel, joined by Cochair Enrique "Henry" Baray, Douglas M. West, and Latin Heat's Bel Hernandez and Loyda Ramos, will join BFA's supporters in honoring the outstanding contributions of women at the 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony. Receiving the El Angel Corporate Award will be the Coca Cola Co. and Kraft General Foods, for their support of Latino arts. Muralist Judy Baca and actress/comedian Liz Torres will receive the El Angel Artist Award, for their outstanding and innovative contributions to the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts for its unyielding commitment to promoting the arts in the Latino community, and to join me in congratulating 1997's El Angel Award recipients. I proudly, in recognition of BFA's contributions to our community for nearly a quarter of a century, declare May 22, 1997, to be Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my congressional district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight to Washington, I missed rollcall Votes Nos. 139, 140, and 141. Had I been present I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 139, 140 and 141.

"MY GOOD FRIEND, THE
PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN"

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I had the opportunity to visit Taiwan and I became an admirer of President Lee Teng-hui. He was graceful, charismatic, knowledgeable, and visionary as well. He deeply impressed me with his firm grasp of world events as he articulated his vision of a modern Taiwan that is economically prosperous, politically free, and internationally respected.

President Lee has certainly maintained Taiwan's spectacular economic growth. Politically he has introduced many reforms, including the upcoming debate on Taiwan's constitution. In terms of achieving greater international recognition for Taiwan, I have learned that Foreign Minister John Chang is succeeding in making the world see the injustices of excluding Taiwan, a major economic power, from many important international organizations. As for Taiwan's relationship with the United States, Taiwan certainly has many friends on Capitol Hill due to the efforts of Ambassador Jason Hu and his staff.

Congratulations to my good friend, the President of Taiwan, on the occasion of his first anniversary of his first elected term of office. He will always have my support and best wishes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WEST ST. LOUIS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on the event of its 40th anniversary. This chamber has faithfully served the cities of Ballwin, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Manchester, Valley Park, Wildwood, Winchester, and parts of unincorporated St. Louis County, MO.

Established on May 13, 1957, as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the chamber was founded to enrich the communities of the West St. Louis County corridor. At its first meeting held in the basement of Ballwin Elementary School, the chamber dedicated itself to improving the quality of education, highways, and sewer systems. From these humble beginnings, the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce has grown into one of the most dynamic and progressive chambers in this region. With 385 members and 601 representatives, the chamber continues to advance commercial, industrial, and civic interest, as well as enhancing the community environment within cities and unincorporated areas.

The West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce currently is involved in numerous activities including: monitoring local, State, and Federal legislative issues of specific interest to business; maintaining a proactive status to improve transportation facilities and services; publishing an annual "Buyer's Guide and Membership Directory" which is distributed to 50,000 residents; soliciting of new businesses and residents to the area; acts as a clearinghouse for information for prospective new businesses; and offers its members opportunities for networking, advertising, education, and referrals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the membership of the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on this occasion. I am confident that the chamber will continue to lead the West St. Louis County corridor well into the next millennium.

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that on the eve of his retirement that I rise in tribute to the chairman and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities, Inc., Mr. James R. Leva.

Jim Leva is a true American success story and how he achieved that success defines what it is to be a good civic and corporate citizen—hard work, determination, commitment to

community, excellence in all efforts, and loyalty and love for family.

A 1950 graduate of Boonton High School and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Leva joined Jersey Central in 1952 as a utility worker and progressed to first-class lineman in 1954. He worked for 4 years as night troubleman while attending Fairleigh Dickinson University as a full-time day student in electrical engineering. At the same time, he was beginning his life with his wife, Marie Marinaro of Morristown, and raising their five children.

Mr. Leva graduated from the university magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1960. The same year he advanced to cadet engineer in the utility's central division engineering department and was promoted to assistant engineer the following year. His rise continued—from personnel assistant in 1962, assistant manager-employee relations in 1963, manager-employee relations in 1968, vice president personnel, safety and services in 1969 and vice president consumer affairs in 1979.

In 1980, Mr. Leva obtained his juris doctorate from Seton Hall Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar the same year.

In January 1992, he was elected president and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities Corp., the forerunner of GPU, Inc., and assumed the additional position of chairman in June 1992. He is also chairman of GPU Nuclear, Inc., and chairman and chief executive officer of all other major GPU companies.

And, while all this hard work was accomplished, Jim Leva never forgot his commitment to the county and State in which he lived. Mr. Leva has been active in local public affairs for many years. He served as a member of the Morris Township Board of Education, the Morris Township Committee, and was the township's police commissioner. He also served two terms as mayor of Morris Township.

Jim Leva has had an even broader sense of community than the county in which he lives. Among his other contributions, Mr. Leva is a director of the Utilities Mutual Insurance Co., New Jersey Utilities Association, Edison Electric Institute, and New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. He was national chairman of the 1996 U.S. Savings Bond campaign, chairman of the board of trustees of St. Clare's-Riverside Foundation, and chairman of the joint advisory board of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University. He is also a member of the board of trustees of Fairleigh Dickinson University and the TriCounty Scholarship Fund and a member of the board of directors of Prosperity New Jersey, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, this Friday, May 23, many people will gather to pay tribute to Jim Leva for his many achievements and leadership of GPU as well as his countless contributions to a better New Jersey. They will come from all walks of life—from the lineman to the government official, from business leaders to community volunteers to say thank you. We say thank you Jim for a job well done and thank you for serving as an example to us all. We are most grateful for your service and we wish you and your family many happy and well-deserved years of retirement.