

This last December 11th, over 200 senior citizens who ordinarily wouldn't have a joyous Christmas season were our guests here for the 20th year. Howard Harvey and his chorus, the chefs, the waitresses and waiters, the people who contribute their talents, time and resources, are to be commended for their charity and concern.

On occasions, the boys at Nazareth Home in Leicester have been the guests of the Post at the circus, the Red Sox, and the Celtics? Our Honor Guard, especially Bud Hall, has always been present at parades, funerals and other functions. Our antique fire truck is always at the disposal of children of this region.

When you mention names, you run the risk of neglecting someone who has made a sizable contribution to this Post. None the less, we would be remiss if we didn't name some men who have passed on who have made this a great Post. They must be looking down from their heavenly perch with pride; the founder, James B. Lawless, Past Commanders, John C. Wall, Chester C. Trembowitz, Raymond Jermyn, Robert Bruso, Albert Spring, James Spaulding, George Naum, Ed Cove, Bob Coakley, Ed Bulleus, and Red Cochran. We have come a long way in the last five decades from that initial gathering on Ames Street!

We are now the second largest in membership of any American Legion Post in Worcester County. However, by all standards and criteria, the Vernon Hill Post is universally recognized and acclaimed as the finest, most active contributing veteran's organization anywhere. One of our own Past Commanders, Byron McCluskey, was a Department Past Commander, bringing great honor to this post.

This night should serve as a tribute to a great many men who have worked together to make this occasion possible. The cooperation that has made this evening a success has been the hallmark of this group over the years.

In the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution, it says "that we must consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness". May we always continue to look after our fellow human beings with care, concern and compassion.

"Happy Fiftieth Birthday, Vernon Hill Post #435."

TRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY OF WENGER FARM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the history and legacy of one of Colorado's oldest historic farms, the Wenger Farm, and to pay tribute to all of those that worked to create, operate and protect it. Patented in 1894, the land has been in the family ever since. At the Colorado State Fair, the Wenger family received the Centennial Farm Award in recognition of their history with the land. Located near Yuma, Colorado the farm was homesteaded by Fred Wenger. Bob Wenger and his wife Kathryn took over the farm after Bob served an illustrious duty to his country in the Marine Corps in World War II. Now their son Dick continues to operate the farm where he raises cattle and grows corn. The Wengers are fine examples of what good stewards of the land

Colorado farmers have been. Mr. Speaker, the Wenger Farm has left a lasting legacy for their family, and all of their friends and neighbors in Yuma County. I salute them, and all of the good people who worked to preserve that legacy. We all have a lot to gain from preserving our history and preserving the farming way of life.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO CATANI

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a few words about Angelo Catani, a fellow Floridian, who will be retiring next month.

Angelo distinguished himself in a variety of positions throughout his 30 plus years of service, including his initial employment with the American Machine & Foundry, where he was responsible for installation of the hydraulic lift system on the Titan missile program.

He followed up that position by joining General Electric Co. where for the next 12 years he was involved in engineering programs such as the update of the Possidon fired control systems, Launch Complex-34 propellant transfer system at Kennedy Space Center and the Saturn V, S-IVB stage support equipment.

Following a successful career at General Electric, Mr. Catani joined Aerojet Ordnance Company as Vice President, Ammunition and was responsible for the development of Aerojet's 25mm ammunition programs. In 1983, he joined Olin as Vice President and General Manager of its Defense Production operation. Subsequently, in 1987 he was also appointed President of the Ordnance Division; then in 1993 was elected to the position of Corporate Vice President, of the Olin Corporation; and, finally, in 1997 he was elected Vice President of PRIMEX Technologies, Inc.

Among his many other accomplishments, Mr. Catani was an active member of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), and the National Defense Industrial Association (INDIA). In 1997, Mr. Catani was inducted into the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame.

Mr. Catani also serves with distinction on the Board of Trustees at the University of Tampa, and is Chairman of the Tampa Bay Watch Foundation. I wish Angelo and his wife, Paige, all the best as they look forward to their years of retirement, in which they will split their time between Florida and their home in Durango, Colorado.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act and in support of safe workplaces across our nation.

This important legislation extends the ability of the Occupational Safety and Health Admin-

istration to regulate the U.S. Postal Service as it would for any private business. This is welcome legislation for the over 2,000 postal employees in the State of Vermont, and the hundreds of thousands in the country.

This bill is supported by the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Lettercarriers, the Mailhandlers (Laborers International), and the Rural Lettercarriers Association—every union that represents our postal employees. We should listen to our postal workers who desire the full protection of OSHA.

Mr. Speaker, OSHA is a vital piece of our social contract. It was passed in response to unsafe working conditions that were found throughout the United States, and it has prevented countless injuries and fatalities on the job. Now, 27 years after the passage of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, we should continue our commitment that every worker in America has the right to a safe workplace.

What we have before us today is legislation that says to many of the federal government's most valued employees—those who process and deliver the mail and keep our country on the move: We honor your work and we will protect you from workplace hazards.

Mr. Speaker, every American deserves the full benefits of an OSHA compliant workplace. I urge strong support for our nation's hard working postal employees. Pass this legislation for them, for the people who love them, and for the country that employs them.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Resources Committee, I have worked to advance and strengthen tribal self-governments and promote private enterprise on our Nation's reservations. One tribe that has been a national leader in exercising its self-determination to build a strong tribal government and reservation-based economy is the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Through the vision of Chief Phillip Martin, the Tribe used its sovereignty to develop a tribal economy to foster a highly responsive approach to providing traditional government services on the reservation. When Chief Martin became leader of the Tribe, he knew that the tribal government had to assume responsibility of government functions rather than they rely on the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take care of its members.

Dramatic gains have occurred during the past 20 years on the Choctaw Reservation. The average educational level of adult tribal members has jumped from sixth grade in the 1970s to twelfth grade today. Life expectancy has also increased by nearly twenty years, and infant mortality has declined substantially. Through the efforts of the Choctaw Housing Authority, housing for tribal members has risen above substantial levels.

The tribal members of the Choctaw Tribe have worked extremely hard to achieve their vastly improved living standard. The innovative

approach to eradicating poverty on the reservation by reaching out to private businesses to invest in the tribe has been very successful for the Choctaws.

I commend Chief Martin for believing in his tribe and taking the risk to develop the enterprises on the Choctaw Reservation. The restoration of the Choctaw Indian tribe is a great American success story of self-reliance and sheer determination that we all can be proud.

HUMAN SERVICES
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2206, the "Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998." Title III of the legisla-

tion reauthorizes the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through fiscal year 2001, and authorizes \$1.1 billion in funding for fiscal year 2000. The legislation also extends the authorization for the President to release contingency funds to meet the additional home energy assistance needs of one or more States arising from a natural disaster or other emergency. The LIHEAP program is a State block grant program that provides assistance to 4.3 million low income households to help families pay their heating and cooling bills. It is a sound program and should be reauthorized.

On the whole, the legislation does not make significant changes to the LIHEAP program. However, the bill does make one improvement to the program, by clarifying the circumstances under which the President can release contingency funds to meet the additional needs arising from a natural disaster or emergency. There have been problems releasing emergency LIHEAP funds in the past. For example, after ice storms in New England earlier this year the President was constrained by the

provisions of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act regarding the release of contingency funds, since the Act does not define "natural disaster" or "emergency." The bill defines these terms in order to expedite the future release of contingency funds.

The Committee on Commerce has jurisdiction over the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981. As indicated in the exchange of correspondence in the report filed by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Commerce waived referral of the legislation reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, H.R. 4271, the Community Services Block Grant Amendments of 1998, in order to expedite floor consideration. However, that does not constitute a waiver of jurisdiction. The exchange of letters also commemorates that the Committee on Education and the Workforce will support a request by the Committee on Commerce for conferees in the event there is a conference.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2206.