

Force. He is legal advisor to many non-profit volunteer and youth groups throughout the area.

District Justice Pierantoni is active in the community as well, having held a seat on the Pittston Chamber Board of Directors, and several cabinet posts in the Hughestown Lions organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Mother of Sorrows Church in Dupont. Justice Pierantoni is Parliamentarian of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Polish American Citizens Club, and St. John's Lodge. He lectures for Marywood College, Luzerne County Community College, and the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Pierantoni is a dedicated professional, committed to his community and the justice system in Luzerne County. I applaud the Italian-American Association's choice of this year's honoree and am pleased to join with them in honoring this fine Pennsylvanian. I extend my sincere best wishes to Justice Pierantoni as he accepts this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WILLIAM
"CHUCK" EVERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in memory of my friend, Mr. William "Chuck" Evers, who was born June 13, 1945 in Alton, Illinois, and died Sunday, September 12, 1999.

Chuck practiced law in Collinsville, Illinois for twenty years. He was active in our community and generous in sharing his knowledge of the law. Those who agreed and disagreed with him almost always re-evaluated their positions after speaking with him. This role was very healthy for all levels of government as it greatly enriched the public debate.

Chuck Evers touched many lives as an active citizen of Collinsville. He is survived by his wife, Lynda nee Vandewater, daughter, Caren Evers, son, W. Clark Evers, and mother, Dorothy Mae nee Gericke Evers.

Collinsville and I will remember Mr. Evers for his great contributions to the community. He will be forever cherished for his commitment; first to his family and faith, and then to his country and to his work.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOOD RIVER TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Wood River Township Hospital.

As we near the end of the millennium, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of the small towns and cities which have made a commitment to better health care in their own communities. This past sum-

mer my district celebrated the 50th anniversary of Wood River Township Hospital, with reflection on its vital role in our region.

The Wood River Township Hospital opened its doors to the public on August 1, 1949 with great fanfare. A referendum to build a public hospital had passed three years earlier in a landslide margin of 4,049 votes for to just 270 against. Once passed, plans for the community hospital quickly commenced with the architectural designs of Jamieson & Spearl, built in a year by Brunson Construction Co.

The town's enthusiasm for their new hospital was enhanced by the respect accorded to the patients of wood river township Hospital. The hospital staff today still proudly recall their first doctor, Harry S. Mendelsohn, M.D., first patient, Anna Westbrook, and first baby, Randall Charles Harmon. Today, more than 14,000 babies have been born there.

Remarkably, the Wood River Township Hospital, is well known throughout the state of Illinois for being the site of other significant "firsts" in the world of health care. It was the first hospital in the state of Illinois to be built under a 1945 state law, which authorized townships to levy taxes for the construction, operation and maintenance of hospitals. Additionally, it was the first hospital in Illinois to give chiropractic physicians privileges, as well as the first to have paramedic-staffed ambulances.

Every community is marked by the institutions that serve them, and Wood River is no different. The Wood River Township Hospital's devotion to patients and commitment to community allows us to see the town as a leader in progressive ideas built on a foundation of mutual respect.

As the 20th Century ends and the beginning of the new millennium approaches, Wood River Township Hospital reminds us of our nation's heritage. As they did, 50 years ago, Wood River officials plan to bury a time capsule to honor the community's values and achievements. In this they will show that while the advances in technology made each day continue to fortify our nation's capabilities, it is the principal of caring in which our future generations may find inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wood River Township Hospital in commemoration of its 50th Anniversary.

CARMEN COSENTINO WINS FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME AWARD

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker: Today I am proud to commend one of my constituents and a very good personal friend, Mr. Carmen Cosentino. Last week the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of outstanding individuals in the floral industry and gave its highest honor, induction into the Floriculture Hall of Fame, to Carm Cosentino.

The purpose of the Floriculture Hall of Fame is to honor men and women who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the advancement of floriculture as an integral part of the American way of life.

Carm, who owns Cosentino's Florist in Auburn, New York, is a well-known industry

spokesperson who has touched many in the floral industry through his talks, magazine articles and educational seminars. In his 43 years in the floral industry, Carm's passion has redefined how potent a grassroots effort can be. He has dedicated his life to teaching others in his industry about proper care and handling in order to prolong enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty of flowers.

Carm has spoken at hundreds of industry gatherings, instructed and acted as a spokesperson for major wire services, and has even translated his witty personal style onto paper as a contributor to many publications. His dedication to the floral industry is evidenced by his service as director of the SAF Board of Directors, vice president and president of the New York State Florists Association, and as director of the Seeley Conference.

It is a true accomplishment that Carm also owns and operates his own retail flower shop and wholesale business. Throughout his life in the floral industry, he has demonstrated the highest regard for improving the lives of everyone through flowers.

I am proud to call Carm Cosentino my good friend, and I join his lovely wife Anne Marie and his family today in recognizing this professional achievement.

PROTECTING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SPECTRUM

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization bill contains a number of provisions critical to protecting military access to the radio spectrum. We all know how important spectrum is to information technologies, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), which are critical to a wide range of military and civilian applications.

The importance of ensuring the continuous availability of critical information was demonstrated recently, when the Air Force successfully managed the so-called roll-over of the GPS clock—an event similar to the Y2K transition that we have heard so much about.

By successfully managing the GPS roll-over, the Air Force has ensured the continued stable reception of GPS signals by tens of millions of global users who depend on GPS for everything from air navigation and farming to guiding the war fighter on the battlefield and managing the Internet.

The concerns leading up to the Y2K-like rollover of GPS highlighted the potential global impact from any disruption to GPS services. To its credit, the Air Force, in close cooperation with industry, engaged in rigorous testing and analysis to ensure GPS signals would continue to be received through last month's transition. This effort upheld national policy, as expressed in both Presidential directives and Congressional legislation, that GPS signals will be continuously available and receivable at all times, everywhere in the world.

I and many of my colleagues believe it is in our national interest for the government and industry to continue to cooperate in ensuring that GPS spectrum is protected from disruption and interference. The GPS spectrum band

is coveted by commercial interests because of increasing demand for limited international spectrum. The American public has invested well over \$14 billion to date to have the GPS services we enjoy today and we need to guard this investment from any harm. I urge the Department to continue its efforts to ensure GPS signals are continuously available in support of national policy, and applaud the continued strong congressional support for initiatives that will help us achieve that goal.

DEDICATION OF THE NAVAJO GENERATING STATION SCRUBBERS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an important construction project in my home State and District that has set a precedent for balancing economic values with the delicate needs of the environment. I am referring to the recent completion of a \$420 million air-emissions project at the Navajo Generating Station, or NGS, located near Page, Arizona, some 12 miles from the eastern boundary of the Grand Canyon National Park.

NGS was built in the early 1970's by the Salt River Project, or SRP, the nation's third largest public power provider, and a consortium of other utilities, to serve the needs to nearly three million customers in Arizona, Nevada and California. With a 2,250-megawatt capacity, the power plant is the second largest in Arizona and remains, to this day, one of the largest coal-fired power plants in North America. NGS participants include the Salt River Project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Arizona Public Service Company, Nevada Power Company and Tucson Electric Power Company. A sixth participant, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, sells its share of NGS electricity for power pumps of the Central Arizona Project, a 336-mile canal system critical to sustaining agriculture, industry and development in the greater Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

At the time of its construction, NGS was recognized for its advanced environmental controls and strict compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1971. Amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1977, however, put the plant on a collision course with new laws aimed at protecting clear vistas at our nation's national parks. Studies completed by the National Park Service indicated that the plant may be contributing to haze over the Grand Canyon National Park. Environmental groups subsequently filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency demanding action to mitigate NGS emissions. Costly and protracted litigation, which would incur high costs to both taxpayers and customers of NGS, appeared inevitable.

Rather than litigate, SRP took the commendable route of seeking an environmentally and economically responsible solution to the plant's sulfur-dioxide output. With financing from NGS participants, independent and thorough scientific studies were conducted. While it was discovered that much of the haze in the Grand Canyon region derived from urban smog, dust, forest fires and visitor traffic at the Grand Canyon itself, it was also discovered

that the NGS did contribute to Canyon haze under limited conditions.

In response to the results of the study, SRP and its NGS partners took the lead in reaching a balanced agreement to outfit the plant with additional emissions equipment. On September 8, 1991, I accompanied President George Bush and then-Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and others to the south rim of the Grand Canyon to witness the signing of the NGS Visibility Agreement, the first such compact under the Clean Air Act. In accordance with that agreement, NGS is now outfitted with three wet-limestone scrubbers capable of removing more than 95 percent of the plant's sulfur-dioxide emissions. The last unit was put on line this summer.

In addition, during the scrubber construction process, SRP was able to save \$100 million. The savings will be passed on to NGS customers at a time when the utility industry is being opened to retail competition.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 14, 1999, a ceremony will be conducted at the plant to commemorate the fulfillment of a promise made eight years ago. The Grand Canyon is one of the crown-jewels of our National Park System, with more than four million visitors a year. The Navajo Generating Station can no longer be credited with contributing to the haze at this national treasure.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication this month of the NGS Scrubbers exemplifies a true balance between economic and environmental values. This effort deserves wide recognition.

CELEBRATING PFIZER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pfizer, Inc. on its 150th anniversary. As one of the global leaders in the important pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer has helped to improve the health of men and women around the world for the last century and a half.

Pfizer's long history is full of adventure, daring risk-taking, and intrepid decision making. Founded by German immigrant cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart in 1849, Pfizer has grown from a small chemical firm in Brooklyn, NY to a multinational corporation which employs close to 50,000 people, including 219 men and women in its tradition of developing innovative drugs to combat a variety of illnesses. In 1944, Pfizer was the first company to successfully mass-produce penicillin, a breakthrough that led to the company's emergence as a global leader in its industry. Since then, Pfizer has marketed dozens of effective medicines designed to fight conditions like arthritis, diabetes, infections, and heart disease in humans, and infections, parasites, and heartworm in animals.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Pfizer has made innumerable contributions to our nation and our world, and I applaud Pfizer's accomplishments as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

BOLIVIA'S SUCCESSFUL COUNTER- NARCOTICS PROGRAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an often overlooked story in the debate over the war on drugs in the Western Hemisphere—that being the surprising success story of Bolivia. Even today, as we consider providing additional counter narcotics aid to Colombia to fight the terrible scourge of the drug trade which has so completely engulfed that nation, there is hardly any mention of the success achieved in Bolivia and Peru nor of the importance of providing additional assistance to those nations. It would be critically important that as the Administration considers a new aid package for the anti-drug fight in Colombia that some additional money be included for Peru and Bolivia so that they can continue their progress and ensure that as the Colombians become more successful in their efforts, the drug trade does not return to these other nations.

Bolivia is a success story which many of my colleagues need to know more about. When the current government of Hugo Banzer took office in 1997, the President proclaimed a goal of ridding Bolivia of all illegal coca and cocaine by the Year 2002. Many people familiar with Bolivia's situation proclaimed their skepticism and said that the drug trade was too lucrative for the farmers and peasants of Bolivia to give up, at least not willingly, that there was too much corruption, that given the condition of Bolivia's economy at the time, the Government could not sustain any type of alternative crop development program to win the coca farmers over.

Now, just a little over two years later, Bolivia has successfully eradicated over 50 percent of the illegal coca crop and reduced re-planting to a historically low level. This story has not been easy, nor without problems but with the firm commitment of President Banzer to succeed and under the strong leadership and direction of Vice President Jorge Quiroga and the Dignity Plan, Bolivia is well on its way to meeting its goals. According to the Bolivian government, between August 1997 and October 1999, over 27,000 hectares of coca have been eradicated. 121,000 square meters of coca seedbeds have been destroyed and 225 tons of cocaine bound for the United States or Europe have been interdicted.

Through a combination of domestic political leadership and international support, mostly from the United States, Bolivia has been able to develop a successful strategy which balances interdiction, eradication and alternative development. It is the alternative development program which has been the real success story and one which could become a model for even Colombia if the guerrilla war in that country is ever brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of illegal coca farmers into the legal economy of Bolivia has been the most urgent priority of the government and has thus far been highly effective. But it is also the most fragile element of the strategy in that unless the alternative crops can be produced and gotten to market in a