

has been an employee of the County for 26 years. As Department Head of the Journal Department of the Clerk's office, where she has been for the past 22 years. Porter supervises seven other employees in ensuring that civil and domestic journal entries are properly processed, including judgment entries in the Civil and Domestic Divisions. Orders of Sale from the Sheriff's Department. Writs of Possession from foreclosures and other important legal documents. Thelma has been married to Emanuel Porter for over 43 years. The Porters have two grown children, and Thelma is proud to have raised them to be good, responsible, hard-working, honest and caring individuals. She is also blessed with a 2 year old grandchild, Amiri. A graduate of John Hay, she is an active volunteer at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church. Thelma looks to the example of her father, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday and who taught her that hard work and treating people in a way one would like to be treated are the keys to success. Thelma's hobbies include bowling, movies, traveling and shopping at different malls.

ANN VANIK—CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Nominated by Administrative Probate Judge John Donnelly, Ann Vanik has been an employee of the Court since 1972. After serving as a deputy clerk and secretary, Ann became Probate Court Auditor, her current position, where she is responsible for maintaining personnel and payroll records, along with purchasing, accounts payable and other budgetary matters. Ms. Vanik is the mother of two daughters, and lives in South Euclid, where she is active at her parish, St. Gregory the Great, where one daughter attends school, and at Beaumont School, where her other daughter is a student. Ann spends much of her time with her daughters and is an active spectator at their volleyball, basketball, softball and fast-pitch softball games. She enjoys cooking and crafts. Each year, she and her daughters "adopt" a family at Thanksgiving and provide that family with a Thanksgiving feast. Ms. Vanik enjoys travel and has been to such varied locales as Hawaii, Cape Code, Florida, Arizona, Aruba and the Bahamas.

JOHNNY WILLIAMS—CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

The Juvenile Court's Administrator John Zachariah's nominee, Johnny C. Williams, has been an employee since 1973 and is a licensed social worker at the Court's Detention Center. A native of North Carolina and schooled in that state, Mr. Williams was a public school music teacher in North Carolina, and then relocated to Cuyahoga County after finishing his military service in 1972. Johnny has worked his entire life, and in addition to his duties at the Detention Center, he has provided custodial care at other agencies, including the United Labor Agency, Cleveland Crossroads for Youth and Ohio Boys Town. In addition to this award, Williams has been recognized by the National Juvenile Detention Association, on two separate occasions, and has received letters of recognition from Mayor White, Governor Voinovich, Former Congressman Stokes, Senator Metzenbaum and other public officials. Johnny is active in the 11th Congressional District Caucus and chairs its Youth Initiative Committee. He also counsels troubled students at a local middle school upon referral of that school's principal and helps supervise social work students from Cleveland State University as their Field Instructor.

SALUTE TO JOHN ALEXANDER AND CBORD

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2000

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as you know, food service is the second largest contributor to our Gross National Product. The quality and expense of food is important to us all—as individuals and as a society.

I rise today to share news with you and my colleagues of dedicated food service professionals in Ithaca, New York, who have married high technology to food distribution in a way that enhances the quality and quantity of food served, while dramatically reducing waste and unnecessary expenses.

I'm referring, of course, to CBORD, which was founded in 1975 by John E. Alexander, then an MBA candidate at Cornell University, and two of his associates with a start up investment of \$1,000 each. Their dream—to create a software system that could organize the haphazard menu planning process for institutional food service systems, increase the nutritional value of every meal served, and rein in runaway food costs.

Working nights and weekends, this tireless team of entrepreneurs built their system, and today the company they launched on a shoestring served over 4,000 food service clients world wide, while employing over 300 people.

Here is a story that exemplifies the very best in American business. We have long admired individuals with a vision and the courage to pursue it until they achieve success. Today, CBORD's food service control systems are in use by major corporations, colleges and universities, health care facilities, nursing homes, and the United States Armed Services.

But there is more to this story.

In 1983, John Alexander founded the Computer Applications in Food Service Education (CAFE) Society, which provides free or reduced cost software systems for use in hospitals and dietetic programs and promotes innovative educational uses of computer applications to help solve the problems of world hunger and chronic food shortages.

CBORD is actively involved with numerous anti-hunger organizations such as HUNGER and FOODCHAIN, provides generous support to the Special Olympics, and sponsors a number of charitable and educational programs throughout the Ithaca region.

The social conscience exhibited by CBORD and the leadership that its founder, John Alexander, has shown in applying America's advancements in technology to one of the world's oldest and most pervasive problems is something we can all applaud.

It is encouraging, as we look to the dawning of the new millennium, that there are still opportunities in this great land to follow your dreams, build a thriving business from the ground up, and then share all that you've learned for the benefit of people everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WILLIAM L. BIELE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief William L. Biele, who will be retiring from the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District. I hope you will join me in honoring his fine career and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

Chief Biele joined the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District in October of 1959. He was promoted to Captain in 1964 and after several promotions was named Chief in 1983. During his tenure, he established an aggressive educational program to enhance the management potential of his staff as well as the establishment of an In-house District Fitness Program. This fitness program led to the District's participation in the International Firefighter Combat Challenge, in which the Creve Coeur District continually demonstrates its commitment to athletic excellence.

Not only has he distinguished himself with an impressive career with the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District, he has long been a civic leader in his community. His work with the Creve Coeur Lions Club, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Dream Factory, the Missouri Mules, the Backstoppers, the Missouri Children's Burn Camp and the Salvation Army, stand as a testament to his tireless efforts to serve the community and the less fortunate.

In addition to his many charitable and civic contributions, Chief Biele has provided leadership and expertise to several professional organizations, including: the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association, the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Numerous accomplishments and contributions to professional organizations highlighted his long service with the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District. Among these are: 1978 Firefighter of the Year Award, the 1981 Lion of the Year Award, the 1997 Creve Coeur—Olivette Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Businessperson of the Year, member of the Board of Governors for the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chief Association, Co-Chairman of the St. Louis County Fire and Police Memorial Committee and Chairman of the Central County 911 Chiefs Operating Committee.

Again, Mr. Speaker I hope you will join me in congratulating and thanking Chief Biele for his service to the residents and businesses of Creve Coeur. He is truly a great humanitarian, mentor, leader, and citizen. His efforts are indeed an inspiration to us all.

HONORING JAMES GRIFFIN, JOHN MERCADO AND VERNON MICHEL

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2000

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three heroes from my district: James Griffin, John Mercado, and Vernon Michel. Recently, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Griffin were presented with a Medal of Valor from the Saint

Paul police department; Gertrude Michel, the widow of Mr. Michel, accepted the award on his behalf.

Fifty years ago, these three police officers selflessly risked their lives in pursuit of a man who had robbed a liquor store, and in the process fatally shot one of their colleagues and wounded another. The suspect ran into a deserted building. After the building had been tear-gassed, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Michel volunteered to go inside to apprehend him.

It has been said that courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. I applaud these men for their willingness to put their fear aside, to risk their own lives to protect the lives of others. Although this event took place fifty years ago, their courageous actions serve as an inspiration to those serving in the police force today.

I have included, for my colleague's review, an article from the December 16, 1999 edition of the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, which describes the heroic actions of these three men.

HONORS FOR POLICE HEROES

(By Amy Mayron)

St. Paul police award the department's highest commendation to three officers for their bravery 50 years ago. "Good work should never go unrecognized," says the police chief.

Fifty years ago, three St. Paul police officers volunteered to storm a dark, tear-gas-

filled house to find a man who had robbed a liquor store and fatally shot another police officer.

On Wednesday, the three were honored for that act with the department's Medal of Valor.

James Giffin, 82, and John Mercado, 77, who both retired in 1983, received the medal at an awards luncheon in St. Paul. The widow of Vernon Michel, who retired in 1978 and died in 1982, accepted the award for her husband.

Only 28 officers have received the department's Medal of Valor since its inception in 1965. The last medal was given in 1997. Last summer, Police Chief William Finney and people inside and outside the police department began talking about honoring the three officers for their heroism in 1949.

Finney, who grew up in St. Paul and followed a family legacy into the police force, knew the three officers throughout most of his life.

"Good work should never go unrecognized," Finney said. "Time shouldn't matter when good work is done. It's a minor thing that we let 50 years pass."

On the afternoon of Sept. 10, 1949, Oliver Crutcher of St. Paul robbed a liquor store at 365 University Ave. He ran from the store with police not far behind, and gunshots were exchanged. No one was injured, and the robber got away.

But at about 7 p.m. that day, police received a tip that Crutcher was hiding in a house at 324 St. Anthony Ave. Police sur-

rounded the building, and the suspect ran from the house firing gunshots, killing Detective Allen Lee, 38, and wounding another officer.

Police searched the neighborhood, often kicking in the doors of residences. At about 10 p.m., they got a tip that Crutcher was hiding in a building on Rondo Avenue, where Interstate 94 now runs. By that point in the manhunt, nearly 3,000 people had crowded the scene, upset about the police raids being conducted while looking for the suspect.

After tear-gassing the building, Griffin, Michel and Mercado volunteered to go inside to flush out the suspect. They went in shooting, and by the time they got to the suspect, several other officers had joined them.

Crutcher died of 12 gunshot wounds.

On Wednesday, Mercado, Griffin and Michel's widow, Gertrude Michel, smiled as Finney presented them with medals and a plaque. Michel and Mercado humbly accepted the awards and quietly thanked everyone at the luncheon.

Griffin, who retired as deputy police chief, thanked his family for supporting him throughout his career and then briefly talked about what it was like to be a rookie cop in the 1950s and the first African-American officer to join the department.

"I don't know what to say. I'm overwhelmed," he said. "When I joined the department, I never thought I'd be standing here today."