

federal service at Lansing, Michigan on October 15th, 1940. The "Red Arrow" arrived in Australia on May 14, 1942 and participated in a number of heroic WWII campaigns, seeing action in Papua, New Guinea, Leyte, and Luzon, and later in Japan they often withstood bitter hand-to-hand combat, and fought bravely and honorably for their country. During their tour of duty in World War II, the members of the 32d Division laid their lives on the line for their country, asking nothing in return. And once again on October 15th, 1961 the "Red Arrow" answered the call of their country to protect our vital interests overseas, this time for the Berlin Crisis.

For their bravery, members of the 32d have received a total of ten Congressional Medals of Honor and fourteen Distinguished Unit Citations. In addition, the unit has received several decorations including the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

This special day serves to honor the many veterans who answered the call to duty to serve their country in this distinguished division, a number of whom made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned home to family and friends. To the veterans, as well as those on active duty, my sincere congratulations on this very special milestone in the 32d Division's history. It is an honor that is well deserved.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
DAN GLICKMAN PAYS TRIBUTE
TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
INSPECTORS TOM
QUADROS, JEANNIE HILLERY
AND BILL SHALINE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences to the families of Tom Quadros, Jeannie Hillery, and Bill Shaline—the three United States Department of Agriculture inspectors who were brutally and senselessly murdered during an inspection visit to a sausage factory in Oakland, California, in June.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to condemn publicly their brutal murder. What has our nation come to, when unarmed USDA compliance officers are brutally shot while inspecting the food we eat? Anyone familiar with the novel "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair is aware of the potential for hazards that come with unsanitary meat packaging or processing plants. The USDA, with the help of loyal and diligent inspectors like Tom Quadros, Jeannie Hillery, and Bill Shaline, has worked hard to ensure that our nation's meat plants provide clean and sanitary food for the American public.

Mr. Speaker, these three individuals represent the finest example of public service. The men and women who serve their fellow Americans in government positions assure safe food, safe travel, public safety and security, and a better life for all of us. All Americans owe a huge debt of gratitude to the federal employees who serve us. Sometimes this service is performed at great personal risk, as was the case in this tragedy in Oakland. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to

these fallen federal employees and to all federal employees who serve our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD the heartfelt words of condolence that Secretary of Agriculture Glickman delivered at the memorial service for Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros, and Bill Shaline on June 30th of this year in Oakland, California.

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
DAN GLICKMAN

On behalf of the entire U.S. Department of Agriculture, I want to offer my condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros and Bill Shaline. USDA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture are better off for the time that they gave to us. Many people have come up to me and expressed their sadness at this loss. Just the other day, I received a letter from the members of the Safe Food Coalition asking that pass along their condolences as well.

Food safety compliance officers perform one of the most important functions in public service, protecting the American people where they are largely powerless to protect themselves. Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros and Bill Shaline did the people's work. And over this holiday weekend, as we grill our steaks, chicken and burgers, I hope we'll all remember that it's the efforts of these three people and the thousands of others like them that ensures the safety of the food we serve to our families. And while their work is absolutely critical, rarely do we think of it as dangerous and life-threatening. Which makes last week's tragedy all the more shocking and unsettling. It's cruelly ironic that, in the process of protecting the lives of the American people, their own lives were taken from them violently and needlessly.

All of them led lives of purpose and dedication, not just at their jobs but within their families and their communities. Whether it was Jean Hillery going to college and beginning a new career after raising three daughters, or Tom Quadros' work with the Special Olympic, it's clear that these were more than distinguished public servants . . . they were extraordinary people as well. Yesterday, back at USDA headquarters, I gave a speech about civil rights at our Department. And although I talked some about programs and procedures, the message I really tried to convey was that civil rights and human rights begin with people simply treating each other with respect and common courtesy. This tragedy is not about race or civil rights in any way, but I think it can still teach a lesson about civility and decency, about open communication and the importance of resolving disputes peacefully and sensibly. Jean Hillery, Tom Quadros and Bill Shaline lived those values, but they died because some people still do not.

I want to close with a message to their children. Last December, I lost both of my parents, within just a few weeks of each other. They were old, and they were sick. But I'm immensely grateful that they lived into their 80's and that I was able to enjoy them for 55 years of my life. I can't imagine the pain you must feel at losing parents in the prime of their lives. But I hope that you measure their time in terms of quality rather than quantity . . . always remembering that their lives, though short, were ones of both accomplishment and integrity. Thank you.

IN HONOR OF KYM SELLERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kym Sellers, a woman whose story is about everything that is good about America. Growing up as an athlete, Kym learned the value of hard work. Kym would participate in her high school's woman's basketball team, shower, and then cheerlead for the men's team. Outside of sporting events, she would run with her father, practicing for the quarter-mile she would run for the track team. It is this incredible effort and persistence that has made Mrs. Sellers an example for all.

Unfortunately, the athlete in Kym can no longer play basketball, cheer, or run. At age 25, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and the impairing nervous system disease sidelined her from the athletic arena. However, with her determination of steel, and spirit of confidence, Kym has most certainly not been sidelined from experiencing her life.

Now 32, Mrs. Sellers is the mother of two young daughters, wife of a professional European basketball player, and works six days a week. She continues to exercise daily, but now she must also take care of her children, and run a radio show from Cleveland's urban contemporary radio station. As if these efforts wouldn't be exhausting enough, Kym continues to make a difference in her community by establishing the Kym Sellers Foundation, a non-profit organization to help African-Americans with multiple sclerosis.

With an overwhelming amount of responsibility and activity in her life, Kym continues to strive for excellence in everything she does. She has not allowed her condition to distract her from living life to the fullest.

I greatly respect the hardworking and devoted spirit of Kym Sellers. Her attitude is one to be admired by all. My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring this dynamic woman.

KLECZKA HONORS HOME PARISH
ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor St. Helen's Catholic Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

St. Helen's was founded on April 6, 1925 by the Rev. Constantine Wasniewski and has been a fixture on Milwaukee's south side ever since. The church, which began with just 50 parishioners, now serves as the place of worship for more than 900 families.

The parish school, which opened in 1926 with just four Felician Sisters, teaching in four small rooms, currently boasts an enrollment of 130 students. As a 1957 graduate of St. Helen's, I can personally attest to its dedication to education, high moral standards, and the preparation of its students for the challenges that lie ahead.

Polish heritage has always been a cornerstone of the St. Helen's community. In fact, for

years Polish language classes were a standard part of the school's curriculum. Through the work of current pastor, Rev. Michael Ignaszak, and many others at St. Helen's parish, that emphasis on our Polish culture and traditions continues to flourish.

St. Helen's is known throughout its neighborhood as not just a Catholic parish and parochial school, but as an outstanding member of the community. Since 1972 St. Helen's church festival has been a highly anticipated annual event. Its monthly fish fries, run entirely by volunteers, have become a Friday night tradition.

However, St. Helen's community involvement runs far deeper than fish fries and church festivals. It has been home to Boy Scout Pack 264 since 1949. Many clubs, such as the 55 & Over Club and the Christian Women's Group volunteer their time and efforts to numerous community causes. The Human Concerns Committee works closely with the Interfaith Caregiving Network to distribute holiday gifts to the elderly and home bound in the area.

And so it is with great pleasure that I join students and parishioners, past and present, in congratulating St. Helen's on the celebration of its first 75 years, with best wishes for the next 75, and beyond.

OSHA AWARD FOR NATIONAL ENZYME

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly congratulate the administrative staff and employees of National Enzyme Company in Forsyth, Missouri for their outstanding vision, dedication and effort in attaining Merit Status in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. This honor is conferred on less than 1% of the six million companies overseen nationwide by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The manufacturer of private label enzyme-based dietary supplements located in Missouri's Seventh Congressional District joins over 400 other businesses in our nation in participation in this program. They are only the seventh company in the state of Missouri to achieve this designation.

The award was granted after an intensive 9 month-self study by employees at all levels followed by a rigorous comprehensive review visit by OSHA inspectors who found the facility to be fully in compliance with all regulations.

According to OSHA this designation means that the health and safety practices and procedures developed by National Enzyme are models within their industry, and that the facility is preparing itself for even higher levels of health and safety compliance. In fact those inspectors noted that the program has "evolved into a comprehensive process that is an integral part of everyone's daily working procedures, which extends to all levels of the organization."

I would also point out that this outstanding achievement is the result of a cooperative effort between public and private entities rather than a unilateral regulatory effort on the part of a lone federal agency. To quote OSHA "This

concept recognizes that compliance enforcement alone can never fully achieve the objectives of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Good safety management programs that go beyond OSHA standards can protect workers more effectively than simple compliance."

National Enzyme's commitment to an ongoing program of employee safety is demonstrated by their first place award last year from the four-state Safety Council of the Ozarks for Most Effective Safety Committee.

I express my appreciation, and that of all my colleagues, to President Anthony Collier, and Manufacturing Manager Jerry Holvick for their leadership in bringing this national recognition to Forsyth, Missouri and the Seventh Congressional District.

TRANSFER OF VA FACILITY TO CUSTER COUNTY, MONTANA

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this legislation in the House. An identical version, S. 2637, has been introduced in the Senate by Senators BURNS and BAUCUS of Montana. The intent of the bill is quite simple: to transfer ownership of the Veterans Hospital from the VA to Custer County, Montana. For many years, this hospital operated at full capacity to serve Montana veterans. Then, it was downgraded to a clinic. The result of this change is that the VA only uses a small part of this very large facility. Still, the VA is in charge of upkeep and maintenance of the entire structure. Until recently, there were about 100 employees and only one doctor working for area veterans. The VA estimates that this situation is costing \$500,000 per year which would be much better spent taking care of veterans rather than a building the VA no longer needs.

This situation is not unique to the VA in Miles City. It is estimated that the VA spends \$1 million dollars every day on excess properties around this country. At a time when budgets are tight and when we are having a difficult time honoring the commitments this country made to our veterans, the current situation is simply unacceptable.

What is a liability to the Veterans Administration can be an asset to the town of Miles City and Custer County. In a town of some 8,000 people, the change in the VA mission has cost the economy 145 full-time quality jobs with a \$7 million decline in payroll in just the last 6 years. For a town whose top two industries are agriculture and government jobs, that's a significant loss. The community could have, understandably, objected to the mission change. Instead, community leaders have banded together and devised a plan that works for the town, the VA and our veterans.

The community's main objective for the transfer is long-term economic development which includes: relocation of distance learning technology to a tech center site in the VA complex, development of a multi-purpose day care, work force training site, career development site, food bank distribution site, and potential office space to be rented for start-up business opportunities.

Community colleges traditionally have been recognized as key to sustainable economic

development through the training opportunities they offer. MCC is located across the street from the VA hospital. Their curriculum will benefit greatly with steady access to this facility. MCC will train individuals for today's job market, including training for tech jobs that would be included in the tech center.

The \$500,000 savings achieved annually through this transfer will be used for new outpatient clinics in rural Montana. That represents a significant benefit to our veterans who currently have to travel extraordinary distances to access the care promised them. In rural states like Montana, accessibility to health care is a very real problem and another reason that this legislation makes so much sense.

The alternative to legislative action to transfer the property is a long, laborious bureaucratic process that involves several federal agencies and that can take years to complete. That process can cost several million dollars, not to mention the continuing expense of the VA maintaining the excess property. Our approach will expedite the process, saving the VA money for veterans and, at the same time, jump-starting economic development for a town in serious trouble.

HONORING MRS. ADRIANA G. FIGUEROA OF SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA, CELEBRATING HER RETIREMENT FROM 37 YEARS OF TEACHING

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I convey my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Adriana Figueroa on her retirement. Mrs. Figueroa has dedicated the last 37 years of her life to our community as a public educator, and has exemplified the best in public service.

Mrs. Figueroa was born on March 2, 1940 in Los Angeles, California, and was raised in East Los Angeles. She attended St. Alphonsus Elementary School in Los Angeles and Sacred Heart of Mary High School in Montebello. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Social Sciences, and after graduation, completed course work for a General Secondary California State Teaching Credential. She received her Masters in Education from Azusa Pacific University.

Her admirable career began at Alhambra High School in 1963 as a classroom English teacher teaching ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students. In 1974, she accepted a position as an Adult Basic Educator (ABE) with the Los Angeles Unified School District, teaching adults to read and write. That decision changed the direction of her career, and from that moment forward, she would make a difference by bringing literacy, high school diplomas, and vocational training to adults who were in need.

After receiving her administrative credential in 1979, Mrs. Figueroa was named the site Coordinator for the Mid City ABE center, a branch of Belmont Adult School in downtown Los Angeles.

In 1986, it was our good fortune that she was brought to Baldwin Park to impact the