

crops, and reading over and over from his three books: the Bible, Dilworth's Speller, and Aesop's Fables. He also wrote poems.

Shortly after the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, young Abe attended a new one room schoolhouse. When his father remarried, his new stepmother Sally Bush Johnston brought four new books, including an elocution book.

W. Fred Conway pointed out in his book "Young Abe Lincoln: His Teenage Years in Indiana" that the future president after reading the book occasionally "would disappear into the woods, mount a stump, and practice making speeches to the other children."

Abraham Lincoln also received his first exposure to politics and the issues that would later dominate his presidency while in Indiana. One of his first jobs was at a general store and meat market, which was owned by William Jones, whose father owned slaves in violation of the Indiana State Constitution. This was Lincoln's first introduction to slavery.

In addition, he exchanged news and stories with customers and passersby, with the store eventually become a center of the community due largely to Young Abe's popularity. Once he was asked what he expected to make of himself, and replied that he would "be President of the United States."

Mr. Speaker, Indiana takes pride in its contributions to the life of President Lincoln, and we greatly look forward to the work of the Commission in honoring him and reminding Americans of his legacy.

HONORING PAUL EDWARD SHUEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember the life of a man that will be missed by many people. Paul Edward Shuey passed away on January 17, 2000.

Paul grew up in Pennsylvania, from grade school to college. He worked for West Penn Power Company until he met Ernestine Gigax of Grand Junction, Colorado. Paul and Ernestine had two children together. Tragically, Ernestine passed away during labor with their third child.

Paul enlisted into the United States Navy in 1942. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation as an Electrician's Mate 2nd class. He was honorably discharged in 1945.

While he lived in Colorado, he was employed by Sweet Candy Company. The sweet must have worked as he married Lucy Chiaro in Grand Junction in 1953. In 1959, Paul moved his family again to Salt Lake City, Utah, to be a sales manager for the Sweet Company. He retired in 1982 and lived in San Diego, California until his death.

Paul was a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council #1062 in Grand Junction. He was very dedicated to his faith and loved singing in the choir. Paul liked to play tennis, take care of his garden and smoke his pipe.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of Paul Shuey. He was a great man who loved life to the fullest.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN McNEIL

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Alexis de Toqueville once said that America was great because her people were good. Today I have the honor to pay tribute to one of these truly good people.

Earlier around noon today, Jean McNeil of Wichita, KS, died. Jean was a wonderful woman. She had a laugh and smile that made you feel warm and safe. She was humble and kind, quiet and compassionate. Why was Jean so good? Because she loved. Her love permeated all who knew her; it enveloped her children and grandchildren, and touched all who were blessed to call her a friend.

One cannot remember Jean without remembering the times she would simply sit back and laugh at someone's story, encourage her grandson Tony to perform just one more magic trick, or make a pithy comment about some politician who had lost his way. Although Jean was kind, she had a passionate side. Her anger could be aroused, but only in the most serious of circumstances, and those usually involved a loss for her beloved Kansas Jayhawks.

St. Francis once said that we should preach the Gospel every day, and when necessary use words. Like St. Francis, Jean lived less by her talk than by her walk. You saw Christ within her in her kindness, her gentleness, her constancy and yes, her humility. Each of us is thankful for the time we had with Jean. I am sure her friends at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church would agree.

Mr. Speaker, life is such a precious gift. It is so special that often we fail to consider it. Our founders enshrined this gift in our Declaration of Independence as the first right. Back in 1994 Jean's daughter, Charlotte, her husband, Tom and their five kids, Andy, Emily, Mike, Paul, and Tony probably did not fully consider the value of each other's life. But, when Tom went down in his private plane that year, each of their lives changed, forever. Tom, Mike, and Paul crossed the threshold of Heaven that day, but Charlotte, Jean and the surviving children remained: left to make sense of it all.

Some questions are not easily put to rest, but for Jean the question of life was simple: respect it.

There is much disagreement on the floor of this great body, about whose life should be protected in law, but Jean was never confused. The great Chairman, HERRY HYDE, could have been talking about her when he reflected on the moment when each of us will appear before our Creator to account for our lives. He said:

I really think that those in the Pro-Life Movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard very beautifully and very loudly in the next world. And, I think they will plead for everyone who had been in the movement. They will say to God: "Spare them, because they loved us." And God will look at us and say not, "Did you succeed" but, "did you try?"

Mr. Speaker, today, the Chorus in Heaven just became a bit louder. Rock Chalk, Jean.

JOSEPH THEODORE'S GOOD WORKS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last year, too late for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for 1999, I received a very inspiring packet of material from a resident of South Dartmouth, MA, Joseph Theodore, Jr. As the accompanying article from the New Bedford Standard Times points out, Mr. Theodore decided nearly 30 years ago to respond to the anguish that our country was undergoing as a result of the debate over the war in Vietnam by flying a flag 24 hours a day from a very prominent spot in the city of New Bedford, which I am privileged to represent. As the column by Hank Seaman notes, every day since 1971, a total of 341 flags—"which had draped the coffins of SouthCoast servicemen, have flown from the former fire station observation spire overlooking Route 1-195" in New Bedford. In addition to his wonderful gesture with regard to the permanently flying, illuminated American flag, Mr. Theodore has devoted his efforts to calling attention to the 44-year-old U.N. Peace Tree. Mr. Theodore three years ago called attention to this tree, which had been planted by 25 New Bedford residents in 1955, as a symbol of dedication to world peace. At a time when some have unfairly doubted the importance of the United Nations, I think it is worth some attention that thanks to Mr. Theodore's efforts, the city of New Bedford has re-dedicated this tree as a symbol of our hopes for world peace.

John Doherty's article from the New Bedford Standard Times describes the impressive ceremony in which Mayor Frederick Kalisz, Jr. and members of St. Paul's Methodist Church congregation joined Mr. Theodore in rededicating the tree.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of Mr. Theodore to celebrate our country through the permanently illuminated American flag, and to reaffirm our dedication to world peace with the U.N. playing an important part, are good examples of how a citizen can take actions which bring out the best in us. I commend Mr. Theodore's example to others and hope that it may be an inspiration to people elsewhere in the country and submit the aforementioned article for the RECORD.

HOMETOWN SNAPSHOTS

(By Hank Seaman)

If ever New Bedford has had a super patriot, Joe Theodore is the one.

The man is so committed to the concept of love of country that he'd like to see a United States flag fly from every public building and private home—at all times.

"In the 1960s and early '70s the Vietnam war was tearing this country apart. I was ashamed * * * angered * * * saddened by the division. I thought the country was dying. I wanted to do something to encourage our fighting men, and promote peace and unity at home."

He hit upon the idea of flying a flag 24 hours a day—"Illuminated from dusk to dawn with a light for peace"—in what is now known as Old Glory Tower.

Every day since 1971, a total of 341 flags—which had draped the coffins of South Coast servicemen—have flown from the former fire station observation spire overlooking Route 1-195.

All thanks to Joseph Theodore Jr.

Better still, over the years, many American communities have started to follow New Bedford's lead, and now illuminate flags above their own public buildings.

But the retired New Bedford wiring inspector would love to go one step further. If he had his way, every nation's flag would be similarly lighted.

"My No. 1 goal is to get the United Nations to illuminate each country's flag." Not only in the United Nations, he emphasizes, but over every national capitol as well. "I want to illuminate every flag, everywhere, with lights for world peace."

A lofty objective?

Certainly.

But it is fueled by one man's genuine desire for global harmony and love of country. And he comes by this love honestly, he maintains.

"Uncle Sam grabbed me the day I got drafted for World War II * * * and he's never let go."

And while the self-described "just a little guy from New Bedford" downplays his four years of U.S. Army infantry duty with the 26th Yankee Division during WWII, his two Purple Hearts tell a different story.

Anyone wounded twice when two different vehicles were blasted out from beneath him by land mines is a pretty big man by anyone's yardstick. And when you couple that with how Joe Theodore went on to become an unwitting eyewitness to history in three entirely different—though equally impressive—ways, it does nothing but improve his statute.

One proud memory was his time spent as President Truman's unofficial bodyguard at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. His job was to chauffeur the secret service group charged with protecting the president for the nearly month-long series of historic meetings with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Josef Stalin.

"I would see President Truman and Winston Churchill nearly every day," he recounted. And when he got one glimpse—however brief—of the highly protected Soviet premiere, as well, he calculated he was one of the few American GIs to do so.

That month-long Potsdam stint, however, is perhaps the only period of Joe Theodore's entire WWII experience that is not equated with horror and sadness.

Whether inspecting Hitler's underground bunker in Berlin mere weeks after the end mad architect of World War II committed suicide, or reacting to the repugnance of naked bodies piled high in the concentration camps, Mr. Theodore viewed some strange, horrible sights.

"Many things I'd like to forget," he adds softly.

Even more than he could possibly have known at the time, these experiences instilled a revulsion to war that has only deepened with the passage of time. "Wars are stupid. We simply have to learn to live with one another. Today we are friends. Tomorrow, we're killing each other."

And he has been on a quest for peace—and the illumination of flags—every since.

"I'm living two lives," Mr. Theodore explains. "One for my family (his wife of 58 years, Hilda, their two children, and one grandson), the other for Uncle Sam."

Having seen the carnage of war firsthand, his rationale is simple. "When I saw those piles of naked bodies I didn't know whether they were Jewish, Polish, German * * * or even American * * * All I knew was they were human rights beings." He shakes his head sadly.

"That was enough."

[From the New Bedford Standard Times]

(By John Doherty)

NEW BEDFORD—City officials and members of the St. Paul's Methodist Church congregation hope the United Nations takes notice of a small ceremony held last night.

St. Paul's congregants joined Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz Jr. last night in lighting a "peace tree" at the church on the corner of Rockdale Avenue and Kempton Street.

The tree, a stately ginkgo, was planted 44 years ago as part of a worldwide observance of the formation of the United Nations.

"This will alert all people who enter the city from the west side of the dream of peace we all share," said the Rev. Dogba Bass, of St. Paul's.

Several of the schoolchildren—grown now, of course—who participated in the planting of the ginkgo in 1955 were present at the lighting ceremony last night.

The tree, strung with 200 white bulbs, is scheduled to stay lighted through the rest of 1999, and is one of the features of the planned millennium celebration in New Bedford.

The city was one of about 200 communities designated a Millennium City by the White House.

Joseph Theodore, a member of American Legion Post 1 in New Bedford, originally pushed for the lighting.

In remarks last night, he likened the lighting of the tree to another tradition that began in New Bedford.

The first American flag lit up at night as a symbol of peace was lit in New Bedford.

Now, American flags around the country and at U.S. embassies worldwide follow the example set here.

Trees were planted all over the world in observance of the formation of the UN, said Mr. Theodore, and it is not unimaginable to think the lighting at St. Paul's last night could be duplicated elsewhere.

MAYOR TO LIGHT 44-YEAR-OLD UNITED NATIONS PEACE TREE

NEW BEDFORD—Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz Jr. and The Rev. Dogba R. Bass of St. Paul's United Methodist Church will participate in a tree lighting ceremony this evening, to mark the 44th anniversary of the United Nations Peace Tree located in New Bedford's West End.

The peace tree, which stands in front of St. Paul's United Methodist Church at Kempton Street and Rockdale Avenue, was planted in 1955 by children of the congregation to commemorate the 10th anniversary of "U.N. Charter Day," or "World Order Day."

Chartered Oct. 24, 1945, the United Nations offered hope as a new forum for resolving conflicts before they escalated into war.

Mayor Kalisz is lighting the peace tree as part of the city's millennium celebrations, the theme of which is "illumination," Mayor Kalisz said. "The children of St. Paul's Methodist Church gathered on this very spot to plant this tree as a gesture of hope that all governments would join the United Nations and work toward world peace."

The suggestion to incorporate the event into the city's millennium celebrations was made by Joseph Theodore Jr., a longtime Americanism officer for New Bedford Post 1 American Legion.

Director of Tourism Arthur P. Motta Jr. researched the tree, a Ginkgo, and said it is a rare and ancient species that dates back to the Permian Period of the Paleozoic Era, some 230 million years ago.

"The Ginkgo survives today because the Buddhist Monks of northern China considered it to be sacred, cultivating it in their temple gardens," said Motta. "Because of its high resistance to disease and its medical

value, the Ginkgo has been referred to as the "Tree of Life."

Several of the children who participated in the original ceremony in 1955 are expected to attend the event. The ceremony will take place on today at 6 p.m.

JOHN V. WELLS, PH.D., DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR FOR RAILROAD ISSUES ON THE GROUND TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special member of the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Jack Wells, who is leaving us this week to accept an appointment as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration. On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to express our gratitude to Jack for his effective and loyal service, and valued friendship.

Jack has served on the Committee—and its predecessor, the Committee on Public Works and Transportation—since 1993, initially as the Staff Director of our Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, and more recently as the Democratic Staff Director in charge of railroad issues on our Ground Transportation Subcommittee. As our resident expert on rail issues, Jack has been indispensable to me and all of the Members on our side of the aisle, advising us on rail safety, mergers and competition issues, and ensuring the survival of Amtrak's fair treatment of employees, and the development of high speed rail. Jack has the rare ability to explore problems in great depth, while never losing sight of the overriding basic issues involved. His briefing memos were models of outstanding staff work.

In the 104th Congress, Jack worked on the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995, which abolished the ICC, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Amendments Act of 1996, which increased daily unemployment benefits for railroad workers. In the 105th Congress, he worked on the AMTRAK Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 and the rail title of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). During his tenure, he drafted several bills dealing with railroad safety, labor and competition.

Jack Wells, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, received his Bachelors Degree from Harvard and Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. He originally came to the Committee from the United States General Accounting Office where he was the Assistant Director for Surface Transportation Infrastructure Issues. His expertise and reporting at GAO involved overall transportation policy, trucking competition and deregulation issues, antitrust and science technology policy, and general economics issues.

Of direct interest to our Committee, Jack did a lot of the leading studies and analysis on airline deregulation and airline HUB issues. GAO routinely recognized Jack's abilities with meritorious service and outstanding performance awards. I remember reviewing Jack's