

IN RECOGNITION OF GERMAINE
ORVILLE "JERRY" KOOIMAN

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of one of my staffers in Michigan, Germaine Orville "Jerry" Kooiman, who is leaving my office after eight solid years of service.

Jerry has been a member of my staff since I first joined Congress in 1993, working as my Director of Constituent Services for nearly all of that time. Jerry is the person in my district offices who made sure the trains ran on time and made sure that the constituents of Michigan's Second Congressional District were being served.

Since 1995, Jerry has juggled this job with the task of being a Kent County Commissioner, ably representing the county's 16th District in his hometown of Grand Rapids. During his tenure on the county Board, Jerry has served as Chairman of the Kent County Board of Public Works and Vice Chairman of the county's Legislative and Human Resources Committee.

A native of Waupun, Wisconsin, Jerry's adult life has been dedicated to public service. After graduating from Calvin College with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1984, Jerry initially worked as a campaign worker then as a district staff assistant to Congressman Paul Henry through 1992 before joining my office. In all, Jerry has been a conscientious Congressional staffer for 16 years.

However, our loss is Michigan's gain. In January, Jerry will embark on the next phase of his life as an elected state legislator, representing the 75th District in Michigan's House of Representatives. I have no doubt that he will take the many skills that he has developed over the past two decades and use them to serve his constituents and the entire state of Michigan with the highest standards.

Thank you, Jerry, for all your hard work and good advice. I wish you the best success as you move on to the state Capitol in Lansing.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JAMES DAKEN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with great respect, gratitude, but sadness, I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the life story of Mr. James Daken, one of the most accomplished city managers in our nation, who died earlier this year in Peoria, Illinois.

For those of us who knew Jim as City Manager for the City of Toledo, there is no question his professionalism and leadership remain with us even until today. He served our community honorably, beginning in 1967, and then moved to Peoria in 1979 to continue his work building America's midwestern heritage. For certain, it was Toledo's loss and Peoria's gain.

I can remember Jim as the type of manager that would compliment other city employees, even beginning staffers in low level positions.

He was a team builder and lifted public administration to a higher level in our community, for which we remain grateful always.

To his wife, children, and family, may I officially extend deepest sympathy coupled with true admiration for a superb public servant who moved America forward in the 20th century.

[From the Blade, Toledo, OH, July 12, 2000]

EX-TOLEDOAN SET U.S. RECORD AS CITY
MANAGER

James B. Daken of Peoria, Ill., a former Toledo city manager who was America's youngest manager of a major city when he took the job at age 29, died of lung cancer Monday in his home. He was 58.

In 1971, the International City Management Association named him one of its 10 outstanding young men.

Mr. Daken, who was born, raised, and educated in Cincinnati, came to Toledo in July, 1967, when he took the job of assistant city manager. He was promoted to city manager in March, 1971, and held the post until October, 1976, when he moved to Hartford, Conn., to become its city manager.

Former Mayor Harry Kessler credited Mr. Daken with being "largely responsible for the success I had as mayor. He and [the late] Frank Pizzo did the most. I was questioned seriously about hiring a 29-year-old as city manager, but Jim was a 29-year-old going on 39 years old or 49."

Under the city charter at the time, city council selected the city manager from candidates recommended by the mayor.

Mr. Kessler said after he became mayor, he organized a citizens committee to study municipal government to help city officials identify problems and possible fixes.

"More than 90 per cent of the committee's recommendations were adopted," Mr. Kessler said. "Jim Daken was responsible for organizing the recommendations of the committee so that they could be made into ordinances that would pass council's scrutiny."

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Andy Douglas said he was a member of the Toledo council committee that selected Mr. Daken for the city manager's job.

"His major contribution was bringing stillness to troubled waters," Justice Douglas said. "He inherited a number of cumbersome, difficult, and complicated matters, and he provided solutions generally acceptable to all."

Expansion of Toledo's water and sewer services to outside communities in Lucas and Wood counties was a priority with Justice Douglas as a councilman, and he credited Mr. Daken with helping the city to achieve those sales.

"The only thing the city makes money on is the sale of water," Justice Douglas said. "I think the city's water-pumping capacity was increased from about 140 to 160 million gallons a day, and there are plans to raise that to more than 200 million gallons. He was directly involved in bringing that about."

Former Toledo Councilwoman Carol Pietrykowski said she was chairwoman of the council committee that hired Mr. Daken. She noted that "Jim came in and made a presentation, very professionally, and I was impressed with it. Whatever Jim did, he did well."

Later, Mr. Daken as city manager impressed Mrs. Pietrykowski again with his ability to explain to each council member complicated legislation that was coming before council.

"He was the most communicative and the easiest city manager to work with while I was on council," Mrs. Pietrykowski said. "When there was an issue, he would come to

every councilman. He would answer every question we had. And he was very fair with the city council's office staff."

Mrs. Pietrykowski added that Mr. Daken "knew who he worked for. It was city council in those days."

J. Michael Porter, a former city manager, said that when he was Toledo's director of natural

Mr. Porter added that Mr. Daken was a "professional's professional. He believed in the city-manager system and did everything he could to enhance the profession."

Mr. Daken was city manager in Peoria from 1979 to 1987 and was vice president of the Foster and Gallagher, Inc., mail order and telemarketing firm in Peoria from 1987 to 1996. He was executive director of the Peoria Historical Society from 1997 to 1999, when he took his most recent job as Peoria County administrator.

His daughter, Amy, described him as a very intelligent and just person who "had a lot of integrity. I think he just really tried the hardest to do what he truly believed was right. He had a very strong sense of social justice and civil rights: He always stood for people who were oppressed and always thought about them."

She added that he recently told her a story about his trip to Peoria just before he became city manager there.

"The first thing he said was, 'Show me the slums, because that's what the state of the city is,'" she said.

He also recently refused to get a higher pay increase than the people working for the county under him, she said.

Raised in Cincinnati where he finished high school, Mr. Daken held a bachelor's in political science and a master's in public administration from the University of Cincinnati. In 1964, he began his career as a student intern for the city of Cincinnati. He later worked as a budget analyst for the city of Cincinnati until the city of Toledo hired him as its assistant manager.

Mr. Daken was a member of Toledo's Downtown Kiwanis, Old Newsboys Good-fellow Association, American Society for Public Administration; Children's International Summer Villages Association and YMCA, Peoria Rotary Club, where he was president in 1997, and the Peoria Symphony, for which he was a longtime member of the board.

Surviving are his wife, Peggy; daughters, Amy and Sarah, and sons, Russ and Kevin.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Peoria. Visitation will be after 4 p.m. today in Wright and Salmon Mortuary, Peoria.

The family request tributes to a charity of the donor's choice.

TRIBUTE TO SILVIA RILEY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime staff member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Silvia Riley. She came to the House of Representatives 35 years ago to work in a Member's personal office, Clement Zablocky. In January 1970, she joined what was then

the Education and Labor Committee as a secretary. In 1977, her title changed to staff assistant, and the following year she was promoted to Minority Clerk. Three years ago, Silvia's title changed again, and she became the Financial Administrator.

No matter what her title has been, Silvia's role has remained constant. She is one of the pillars of the committee, ensuring that administrative functions run smoothly. Silvia Riley is the person who orients new staff members, and she is the last person departing staff members see, to turn in their keys.

Silvia has always handled all aspects of her work in an exemplary fashion. The committee has passed its annual reconciliation by the General Accounting Office with flying colors for as long as Silvia has been the Financial Administrator.

Silvia has served under six Republican Ranking Members and one Republican Chairman. Throughout her tenure, she has exhibited an extraordinary personal commitment to the committee. One of her most memorable challenges occurred when Republicans became the Majority after the 1994 elections. Silvia was at work on New Year's Day, preparing space and materials for the Republican Majority staff.

Silvia has always been there for the Members and staff, whether it's problems with supplies or guidance on where to turn for special requests. Whenever a major project needs additional volunteers, Silvia is always the first to sign up.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I, too will be retiring at the end of this Congress. I am very fortunate to have had my 26 years here coincide with Silvia Riley's. Members and staff join me in wishing her all the best as she leaves the committee to devote time to her family, particularly her mother. They are fortunate to get her back, and the committee was lucky to have her on board for 31 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACOB HEILVEIL, TONY VOLPONENTEST AND JENNIFER BUTCHER, U.S. PARALYMPIC TEAM ATHLETES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize these members of the U.S. Paralympic team. These extraordinary athletes have overcome great barriers to achieve athletic feats among their peers.

These athletes have recently competed at the Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia, one of the most elite multi-disability sports competitions. They have contended with a record setting 3,824 athletes from over 120 countries.

Jacob Heilveil, from Bothell, has competed in several sports including basketball and notably as a marathoner. Born in Korea, Jacob contracted polio and was left with residual paralysis and the determination to succeed. In Sydney, he raced as part of the men's wheelchair relay and in the marathon. racing in the paraplegic classification, he finished the marathon course in 1 hour, 36 minutes and 6 seconds.

Tony Volpentest, from Mountlake Terrace, is the current world record holder in the 200-

meter sprint with a time of 23.07 seconds. He competed in his first Paralympics in 1992 and has been returning successfully since then. In 1996, he won two gold medals and broke both world and Paralympic records. His time for the 100-meters, 11.36 seconds, is barely behind the time for able-bodied athletes, 9.86 seconds. Tony was born without hands or feet, but that has not stopped him from setting new records and frequently beating able-bodied athletes at numerous other races. Tony's grandfather, Sam Volpentest, a Tri-Cities leader, justifiably expresses his pride in Tony's accomplishments.

Jennifer Butcher came to these games as her first international competition. She participated in several swimming events: the 200-meter individual medley, 100-meter breaststroke and 50-meter freestyle. Jennifer, an Issaquah native, left Sydney with a bronze medal in the women's visually impaired class of the 100-meter freestyle. At home in Portland, she works at a school for the blind.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these athletes for their determination, hard work and incredible success. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting their fine example of sportsmanship and success on the international stage.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6540, important legislation that removes barriers to housing affordability and encourages homeownership for low and moderate-income Americans.

H.R. 5640 incorporates much of H.R. 1776, a comprehensive housing bill that I cosponsored and which House passed overwhelmingly in April 2000 with my support. The most far-reaching provision of this bill would extend down payment assistance to low and moderate income families, under the Section 8 Program. Specifically, H.R. 5640 would vest local housing authorities with the power to provide a single grant for down payment assistance in the purchase of a home, moving families who receive Section 8 housing rental assistance into the realm of "homeowners". I support H.R. 5640 because it not only broadens the availability of affordable housing choice for many deserving American families, it also removes the disincentives to the production and availability of affordable housing programs.

H.R. 5640 provides for the establishment of a FHA down-payment formula by which lenders and borrowers calculate the amount of down-payment required for an FHA loan, dramatically improving the operation of the Federal Housing Administration's single-family program. This technical correction improves FHA administrative efficiency and provides the home buying industry and their customers a readily comprehensible tool for calculating the down-payment for an FHA loan.

As a member of the House Banking Committee, I strongly support provisions in H.R. 5640 that will make technical corrections and

clarifications to the Homeowners Protection Act. This law ensures that homeowners have the right to cancel their Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) on their home mortgages once the homeowner attains a certain level of equity in the home (usually 22%, but in some cases 20%). This measure clarifies that PMI cancellation rights for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) are based on the amortization schedule that is currently in effect. This provision ensures that consumers get full benefit of any adjustments that have been made based upon recent calculations. Moreover, under this provision, consumers with a "good payment history" will be given the explicit right to cancel their PMI, removing any existing ambiguity about this term. I strongly believe that these corrective provisions improve consumer protections and substantially improve the Homeowners Protection Act.

With respect to consumer protections, H.R. 5640 would provide elderly homeowners with additional measures to refinance their reverse mortgages while establishing protections to shield them from fraud and abuse. I am pleased that senior citizens in Texas' 25th District, who have only recently been given the "green light" from HUD to take out reverse mortgages, would be allowed to refinance these federally-insured home equity conversion mortgages under this provision of H.R. 5640. This provision would enable seniors to obtain loans up to the higher FHA loan limits, enacted in 1998. I am also pleased that this measure orders HUD to prohibit broker fees, limit origination fees for refinanced reverse mortgages and, in cases where loan proceeds are used for the costs of long-term medical care insurance, instructs HUD to waive the upfront mortgage insurance premium.

As the Ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee's Housing and Infrastructure Task Force, I am especially pleased to support this legislation because it includes a section dealing with prevention of fraud in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 203(k) home acquisition and rehabilitation program. I have been working on this specific issue for several years, and with the assistance of my colleague RICK LAZIO, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) agreed to review and investigate HUD's Title I program in 1998. The Title I program, the oldest government housing program, provides low-income homeowners with government backed loans of up to \$25,000 to finance personal home repairs, with the money distributed directly to the contractor. I know of too many cases where unscrupulous contractors have targeted low-income homeowners, convinced them to take out large home repair loans, and then failed to perform the contracted work.

As a Congressman from the Houston area, this issue has particular resonance. In recent years, several investigative news reports in Houston have uncovered cases where unscrupulous contractors used this government's guaranteed FHA loan program to defraud homeowners in and around my district. Many of these homeowners are elderly and live on fixed incomes and had been the victim of shady contractors who provided shoddy or incomplete work. Many of these elderly homeowners were forced into default, and the taxpayers were left holding the bill. I am pleased that this legislation includes important provisions to strengthen the anti-fraud provision in the guaranteed FHA program.