

The group works toward more cooperative active participation in religious and educational programs and also fosters a closer working relationships between both Belleville and Scott's governmental operations.

The Belle-Scott Committee arose from the need to address community and base relationships in the late 40's and early 50's. Media reports at that time, which indicated that local military personnel were treated as second class citizens, paying higher prices than normal and unable to secure appropriate housing opportunities were reasons that the Belle-Scott Committee came into existence.

Since then, the Belle-Scott Committee has received national recognition. It was featured on the CBS Radio Network's "The People's Act" series in March 1952, and at least 10 nationally circulated magazines have published special features to list their achievements. In addition, newspapers throughout the country have also published articles dealing with the work of the committee. Several other air force bases and their host communities are using "Belle-Scott" as a guide in developing their efforts. The committee's research leads them to believe that they are the oldest military/community cooperation committee in continuous existence at any U.S. military installation.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of the first "G.I. Pal Dinner" now known as the "Belle-Scott Enlisted Dinner." The event brings more than 150 civilians, 50 officers from Scott Air Force Base and more than 100 enlisted guests. While the reasons for the formation of this committee had initially to do with civilian-military cooperation, it is the solving of these problems by persons both from the Base and from the city and the 50 years of continuous good relationships fostered by the Belle-Scott Committee that we now look to with pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of the Belle-Scott Committee and for the assistance it provides in fostering the support of our civic and military personnel.

MEDICARE BOARD: BAD IDEA NO. 4

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, some people are proposing legislation, such as S. 1895, that would turn Medicare over to a 7-person board and noncivil service staff.

Bad idea.

For the last 3 days I've entered in the RECORD portions of Congressional Research Service memos describing the administrative problems such a board could create.

I would like to submit in full the following footnote from the CRS memo that quotes the National Academy of Public Administration's warning about boards:

The National Academy of Public Administration is on record as being opposed to boards of directors for most corporate bodies.

We believe that this arrangement, borrowed from the private corporation model, has more drawbacks than advantages and that in most cases the governing board would be better replaced by an advisory board and the corporation managed by an ad-

ministrative with fully executive powers. A governing board may cut or confuse the normal lines of authority from the President or departmental secretary to the corporation's chief executive officer. With an advisory board, the secretary's authority to give that officer policy instruction is clear, as is the officer's right to report directly to the secretary and to work out any exemptions from or qualifications of administration or departmental policies and practices which the corporation requires.—National Academy of Public Administration, NAPA Report on Government Corporations, vol. 1 (Washington: NAPA, 1981), pp. 31-32.

CASTELLINO HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a close personal friend and devoted public servant, Frank Castellino, upon the occasion of his retirement. Frank will be honored by his friends and colleagues on March 23rd, and I am honored to have been asked to participate in this event. Frank Castellino is an institution in Luzerne County Courthouse, and his daily presence will be missed by everyone who has become so accustomed to his warmth and genuine concern for people.

Frank Castellino began his public service as a clerk in the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds office in 1940. In 1968 he was elected Recorder of Deeds and proceeded to serve eight consecutive terms. No matter how busy he was, Frank always had time to get personally involved in solving people's problems.

I first came to know Frank Castellino when I was a boy tagging along with father as he visited the Recorder of Deeds office in his law practice. Later I grew to know him as the father of one of my classmates at Dickinson School of Law. Once I began my own practice of law, I frequently took advantage of his considerable expertise and helpfulness.

A lifelong resident of Pittston, Frank also served as Alderman from 1946 to 1966. He is a member and past president of the Pittston Lions Club and the Luzerne County Columbus League, which erected the Columbus memorial in Pittston. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Under Frank's leadership, the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds office was the first in the state to computerize its records.

Mr. Speaker, the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners paid a fitting tribute to Frank when they praised him as a "gracious and good-natured gentleman, who carried out his professional and personal responsibilities with a zeal many of us would envy, and whose broad community impact can never be fully measured."

I am pleased and proud to join with the Commissioners in thanking Frank Castellino for his years of dedicated service to Luzerne County and commending him on a "job well done." I send my sincere best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive retirement.

BENIN MAKES PROGRESS IN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the West African nation of Benin and its President, Mathieu Kerekou. This country's story is a remarkable one, and an encouraging one. Under President Kerekou's leadership in the 1970s and 1980s, Benin made the difficult transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. President Kerekou won the country's second free election in 1996, an election which our Department of State called "generally free and fair"—strong praise for a country on this continent where democracy has suffered many setbacks in recent years. President Kerekou succeeded the former president in a peaceful transition of power.

The State Department's 1999 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices notes that President Kerekou "continued the civilian, democratic rule begun in the 1990-91 constitutional process." The report also notes that the government has generally respected the human rights of its citizens. The Constitutional Court has shown its independence of the government, and when the court recently ruled provisions of a decentralization law unconstitutional, the legislature and the President accepted this decision.

Benin is a small country and a poor one, but the Kerekou government has taken positive steps to strengthen its economy through privatizing state-owned enterprises and deregulating the economy. Under President Kerekou's leadership, Benin has been peaceful and stable.

Mr. Speaker, Benin has been willing to take courageous foreign policy decisions that run counter to generally accepted practice. The Government of Benin recently announced that it plans to open an embassy in Israel's capital city of Jerusalem. Benin becomes just the third country to establish an embassy in Israel's capital, after Costa Rica and El Salvador. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the time when the United States will join these three countries and move our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem as mandated by the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me paying tribute to the nation of Benin and its President, Mathieu Kerekou.

HONORING THE GOOD SHEPHERD REHABILITATION FACILITY VOLUNTEERS

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a group of my constituents who do volunteer work helping others in my district. Over 300 volunteers at the Good Shepherd rehabilitation facility recently received Raker Memorial Awards for their service. These volunteers contributed over 38,000 hours of service in 1999, helping to improve the lives of thousands of people in the community. From assisting residents with their chores to inspiring

them during difficult physical therapy, the acts of these volunteers show the depth of their generosity and compassion. The volunteers help individuals with disabilities achieve their full potential, and represent a light of hope to the entire community. I applaud Good Shepherd's wonderful volunteers for providing a service that aids so many members of the Lehigh Valley community. Mr. Speaker, all the volunteers at the Good Shepherd rehabilitation facility are Lehigh Valley Heroes.

LIST OF HONOREES

Mr. Bruce Achey, Ms. Edna Adams, Mr. David Allen, Ms. Janet Ober, Ms. Althea Axe, Ms. Veronica Baker, Ms. Lucille Balzano, Ms. Virginia Bankhard, Ms. Betty Barrall, Ms. Rachael Bartek, Ms. Kathleen Batz, Ms. Shirley Baum, Ms. Christine Beck, Mr. James Beck, Ms. Dori Ann Becker, Mr. Michael Beecham, Ms. Diane Beil, Mr. Joseph Bemolas, Mr. Nicholas Bolling, Jean Borchick, Ms. Michelle Botelho, Ms. Evelyn Bouchat, Ms. Diane Bozzelli, Ms. Marilyn Breitenfeld, Ms. Sarah Brint, Ms. Donna Buzby, Ms. Heather Capuano, Mr. Matthew Cascioli, Mr. Vincent Carvallaro, Ms. Sandra Christman.

Ms. Sara Christman, Ms. Lois Cocanougher, Ms. Barbara Colby, Mr. James Collins, Mr. Frank Conlon, Richard Covert, M.D., Ms. Gloria Cowdrick, Mr. James Craig, Ms. Amber Cromer, Ms. Shannin Crone, Ms. Krystal Cruz, Mr. William Czar, Ms. Katie Czekner, Mr. Michael Daniels, Ms. Heather Deeble, Mr. Stephen DeLacy, Ms. Dorothy DeLazaro, Mr. Michael Delgrosso, Ms. Sarah D'Emilio, Ms. Ashley Donchez, Ms. Mary Dreisbach, Mr. Nathan Druckenmiller, Ms. Patricia Engler, Ms. Jill Farrara, Ms. Catherine Favata, Jean Feldman, Ms. Linda Ferrol, Ms. Elizabeth Fillman, Mr. Joseph Fischl, Ms. Jennifer Fleck.

Ms. Nichol Foster, Ms. Irene Francoeur, Ms. Janet Frederick, Ms. Lauren Gallagher, Ms. Erica Garber, Ms. Suzanne Garber, Ms. Cynthia Ann Garguilo, Mr. Sephen Gaul, Ms. Katherine Geiger, Ms. Mary Geiger, Ms. Maria Gentis, Ms. Sharon George, Ms. Kristen Gilbert, Ms. Megan Gilbert, Ms. Katie Grasso, Ms. Henrietta Graul, Ms. Maureen Griffin, Mr. William Griffith, Ms. Kristen Grob, Mr. Raymond Grube, Ms. Pauline Gruber, Mr. Warren Haas, Ms. Gladys Hahn, Ms. Rachel Halton, Ms. Mary Lou Hann, Ms. Katie Hannon, Mr. George Hargeshimer, Nichole Harris, Ms. Alison Hartman, Francis Hartneft.

Mr. William Hathaway, Ms. Dolores Hauze, Ms. Elizabeth Held, Ms. Helen Held, Ms. Hilary Hermansader, Ms. Elaine Herzog, Ms. Kitty Heydt, Ms. Sarah Hilbert, Ms. Varta Hojjat, Ms. Connie Holleman, Ms. Erin Hontz, Ms. Jennifer Hoyt, Ms. Sahnnon Hrabina, Mr. Nathan Huskey, Ms. Gale Hyman, Ms. Brittany Johnson, Ms. Carol Ann Johnson, Phyllis Johnson, Ms. Julie Kametz, Ms. Valerie Kamon, Mr. Joseph Kane, Ms. Davene Kates, Ms. Kristie Kapinas, Ms. Dolores Kelhart, Ms. Andrea Kiechel, Ms. Debbie Kiniuk, Ms. Tammy Kissel, Mr. Christopher Kissel, Mr. Kenneth Kissinger, Kelly Klampert.

Mr. Jason Klepac, Mr. Frederick Knauss, Mr. Winfield Knechel, Ms. Anne Knecht, Ms. Dorothy Knerr, Ms. Eugene Knerr, Ms. Sue Ann Knoebel, Mr. Donald Knowles, Mr. Joseph Koch, Mr. Sean Kopishke, Ms. Caitlin Kordek, Ms. Linda Kreithen, Ms. Cynthia Kutz, Ms. Sarah Lang, Mr. Brian Larrimore, Ms. Elizabeth Lawson, Mr. James Layland, Currelle Lee, Maur Levan, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lichtenwalner, Ms. Maria Lieberman, Mr. and Mrs. Delsin Lindter, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lloyd, Ms. Samantha Loving, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Lucas, Ms. Harriet MacDonald, Ms. Virginia MacDonald, Ms. Holly Macko, Ms. Susann Madara, Elfie Maniatty.

Ms. Reba Marblestone, Ms. Tara Marsh, Ms. Judith Marushak, Ms. Ellen Masenheimer, Ms. Rita Maugle, Jahvon McAuley, Ms. Ann McCandless, Ms. Marie McClay, Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCormick, Mr. Daniel McFadden, Mr. Charles McKenna, Ms. Patricia Mease, Mr. Hector Mendrell, Ms. Elizabeth Messer, Ms. Pauline Metzger, Ms. Erica Miller, Ms. Justine Miller, Mr. Kyle Miller, Ms. Sharon Miller, Ms. Stephanie Minarik, Ms. Ruth Morgan, Ms. Doris Moser, Mr. Patrick Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nagle, Ms. Milly Nagle, Ms. Lauren Neveling, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Oberdoester, Ms. Elizabeth Oberly, Mr. Kevin O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Orach.

Mr. Michael Orendock, Mr. Gus Orphanides, Mr. Michael Palumbo, Ms. Georgine Patt, Mr. and Mrs. John Pello, Vergen Perez, Ms. Lillian Peters, Ms. Cheryl Petrakovich, Ms. Betsey Pitt, Kelly Potter, Ms. Judy Prodes, Ms. Linda Quinn, Marian Ramacci, Ms. Cynthia Raub, Ms. Eleanor Reichard, Ms. Valerie Reinhard, Ms. Sara Reink, Ms. Janna Reiss, Ms. Sara Reiter, Phares Reitz, Ms. Susan Reynard, Ms. Kimberly Reynolds, Ms. Sharon Ritchey, Ms. Patricia Rice, Mr. Rey Rivera, Mr. Jorge Rodriguez, Mr. Joshua Rodriguez, Ms. Reina Rodriguez, Ms. Julia Rossi, Mr. Charles Roth, Mr. Ryan Ruch.

Ms. Allison Ruyak, Ms. Jennifer Sabot, Ms. Virginia Saemmer, Mr. James Sawruk, Mr. Roger Scanlon, Ms. Brenda Schaad, Ms. Betty Scharfenberg, Ms. Dorothy Scherer, Mr. Charles Schmehl, Ms. Mary Schmitt, Mr. Joshua Schnalzer, Mr. Justin Schnoll, Mr. Justin Schurawlow, Ms. Marie Scofield, Ms. Berverly Seibert, Mr. Richard Seitzer, Mr. Bobbie Shuhler, Ms. Kathy Schumack, Ms. Tara Siegle, Ms. Cathryn Sinnitz, Ms. Catherine Smicker, Ms. Dariene Smicker, Ms. Brenda Smith, Jamie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Smith, Ms. Arline Snyder, Ms. Melanie Snyder, Ms. Susan Soler, Mr. Simon Song, Mr. and Mrs. Travis So.

Mr. Justin Spanburgh, Mr. Jason Stauffer, Mr. Jerome Stephan, Ms. Lucille Stephens, Ms. Ruth Stier, Ms. Farahlee Straukas, Ms. Joyce Szmodis, Ms. Tamey Nora Lee, Ms. Nichole Taylor, Mr. Ted Terry, Ms. Lynn Teumim, Ms. Carol Thompson, Ms. Mary Lynn Thompson, Mary Kay Thomson, Mr. Bradley Trabosh, Ms. Jamie Trumbauer, Ms. Arlene Uhl, Ms. Mary Jane Uhl, Ms. Hope Ulmer, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vorholy, Ms. Louise M. Wagner, Ms. Phyllis Wagner, Ms. Philomay Walker, Mr. Allen Walp, Ms. Mildred Wehr, Mr. James Wickert, Ms. Alice Widmann, Mr. Henry Williams, Ms. Geraldine Wilson, Ms. Katrina Wilson, Mr. Fred Yeakel, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Youst, Ms. Dolores Zale.

JOSEPH W. DIEHN AMERICAN LEGION POST

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the request of the Auxiliary of the Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Post in Toledo, Oh. The auxiliary has asked that its 2000 Annual Americanism Program be officially recognized, and I am pleased to submit the auxiliary's report for the record. The American Legion Auxiliary continues to play a vital role in holding dear the flame of freedom and imbuing its spirit in generations of young people through its annual Americanism program. Further, the program benefits the young participants di-

rectly by awarding academic scholarships to winners.

The Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Post Auxiliary's Legislative Chair, Jane Ann Rhoades submits:

"On February 20, 2000, J.W. Diehn held its annual Americanism program. The program was opened by Sylvania's Town Crier. Colors were posted by the newly formed Post Color Guard. The program was attended by local dignitaries including Sylvania's Mayor, Craig Stough, and Lucas County Commissioner Harry Barlos.

"The Sylvania Southview band played the 'Star Spangled Banner' and several patriotic hymns, including those of each branch of the armed services.

"The Americanism and Government test winners were presented with scholarships. This year's topic was 'Voting and the Importance of One Vote.' The winners were Chung Van Koh of Southview, Karen Wabeke of Northview, and Mike Samples of Northview. The government test winners were Rustam Salari of Southview, Jeff Allota of Northview, and Alexi Osborne of Southview.

"Miss Poppy, Cortney Furguson, read the 'Poppy Story.' The program concluded with the singing of 'God Bless the USA.'"

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN PATRICIA SCHROEDER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, to mark National Woman's History Month, I rise to honor an outstanding leader from Colorado—a woman who broke down stereotypes and fought hard for what she believed was right, Representative Patricia Schroeder.

Pat represented Colorado's 1st Congressional District from 1973 to 1996. As a 12-term Member of Congress, she was affectionately known as the feminist "Dean" on Capitol Hill at a time when feminism was thought of as a radical idea. She helped change the way people thought about women. Her hard work in Congress ensured that women would be allowed to take care of their newborn children, that men and women would be able to take family and medical leave to care for a loved one, and that violence against women would not be tolerated in America.

Representative Schroeder was first elected to Congress in 1972 on an anti-Vietnam war platform. One of her first committee assignments was the Armed Services Committee, where she helped reshape the debate about arms control, responsible defense spending and improved working conditions for military personnel. On that committee, Pat worked to make sure that spouses of military personnel received health and survivor benefits. She also authored legislation that authorized State courts to divide military pensions in accordance with State divorce laws.

During her tenure on the Armed Services Committee, Pat was the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Installations, and later she chaired the Subcommittee on Research and Technology. She also served on the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and the Select Committee on Children, Youth and