

service to the hospital and surrounding community.

Kurth Cottage is the gift shop and restaurant/tea room at Valley Hospital. It once was an actual cottage, however, and the rooms it occupies in the hospital building today have been renovated to closely resemble the lovely surroundings of the original cottage.

Valley Hospital has put so much effort into what might otherwise be a simple, utilitarian facility because of extra level of comfort that warm, friendly surroundings can bring to patients' families. Family members visiting seriously ill relatives have many worries on their minds. A good meal in comforting surroundings can help ease those worries and make their outlook more optimistic. A positive outlook among family can, in turn, offer encouragement to patients themselves as they face recovery from surgery or illness.

Kurth Cottage has its origins in 1948, when the Women's Auxiliary of Valley Hospital decided that the hospital, which was still under construction, should have a "small gift shop and snack bar." Rather than include the shop and snack bar in the hospital building, a small house on the hospital grounds was chosen as its site and named for Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Kurth, major benefactors of the project. The cottage opened for business May 1, 1950, five months ahead of the opening of the hospital itself.

Kurth Cottage proved to be much more than the typical stainless steel and Formica hospital snack bar. The cottage included an 18-seat Snack Bar, a 40-seat Tea Room and a 28-seat Fireside Room, which also included the gift shop.

The Kurth Cottage facility became part of the main hospital during a 1963 expansion and the original cottage, unfortunately, was demolished to make room for a parking lot in 1963. The new facilities included a beautifully appointed, Williamsburg-influenced Tea Room, Snack Bar and Gift Shop, a new kitchen and a gracious Fireside Room incorporating many features of the original. Furnishings included Mrs. Kurth's Victorian sofa, chairs, a drop-leaf table, fireplace andirons and white birch fireplace logs. Fresh flowers in the Tea Room were donated twice weekly by local florists, as they still are today.

The cottage underwent major renovations in 1990, adding a Colonial blue color scheme to the woodwork, new wallpaper, swag draperies, new tables and chairs and handsome new flooring. The china has matching blue borders and volunteers wear matching blue smocks. A canopied walkway leads to the entrance of the facility and a new waiting area has been designed around the former Fireside Room.

Throughout its history, Kurth Cottage has always been a profitable enterprise, helping fund the many charitable activities of the Ladies Auxiliary.

None of this success would have been possible, of course, without the untiring dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who have served over the past half-century. These women have done more than simply run a "snack bar." They have made the emotional trauma of injury and illness more bearable for the families of patients at Valley Hospital for decades. They deserve our deepest gratitude for all they have done to lighten the burdens of patients and families. Most especially, we bow in deepest admiration and respect for the

many volunteers who have given of themselves, both in time and personal dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kurth Cottage on its 50th anniversary and thanking everyone involved with its success for their hard work.

HONORING THE ILLINOIS EDUCATORS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the 2000 Golden Apple Scholar award winners from my district. The Golden Apple Scholars program is to recruit talented high school juniors who want to become teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Curtis Carpenter from Centralia High School in Centralia, Illinois. Teachers, like parents, have a unique opportunity—to touch the life of a child. I can't think of a more rewarding experience.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was a former high school teacher. I want to wish Curtis all the same joy and success that I shared in my teaching career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2000, I missed six recorded votes because I was present at a bankruptcy trial in my community's effort to keep St. Michael Hospital and other Cleveland area hospitals from closing.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 80, "no" on rollcall 81, 82, "aye" on rollcall 83, 84 and "no" on rollcall 85.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I was unable to be present for House consideration of the following bills. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote #76—H.R. 2412, a bill designating the E. Ross Adair Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #77—H. Con. Res. 292, a resolution congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000 and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #78—H. Con. Res. 269, a resolution commending the Library of Congress and its staff for 200 years of outstanding service to the Congress and the Nation—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #79—H.R. 5, the Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act—as I voted the previous time the House considered it, I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #80—Approving the Day's Journal—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #81—H. Res. 450, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3908; making emergency supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2000—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #82—an amendment to H.R. 3908 to cut \$1.631 billion from several programs in the bill and to strike all references to emergency designations, making the bill subject to spending caps—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #83—an amendment to H.R. 3908 to appropriate \$4 billion in FY 2000 funds to reduce publicly-held debt—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #84—an amendment to H.R. 3908 to cut \$552 million in Title I of the bill set aside for illegal drug interdiction and counter-drug programs—I would have voted Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for the vote on final passage of H.R. 3908. Had I been present I would have, albeit reluctantly, voted in favor of the bill. While I wholeheartedly endorse the provisions of Title III, I did have concerns about much of the new spending provided elsewhere in this legislation. Much of what is provided for in this bill could have been addressed through the normal appropriations process.

Title III, however, addresses the true emergency needs of many in this country, and in North Carolina particularly. Thousands of people in my home state are still struggling to overcome the impact of last fall's hurricanes. The assistance provided in this emergency appropriations bill will be critical in helping my fellow North Carolinians return to at least a semblance of the lives they led before last September's devastating floods. I am grateful to the Appropriations Committee for providing this much-needed assistance, and appreciate their hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MANDELL I. GANCHROW

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a friend of mine, Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow, who will receive the Kesser Shem Tov Award from the Orthodox Union on May 21st.

After retiring from his successful medical practice, Dr. Ganchrow has devoted himself to serving the Orthodox Union and to enhance its public image. Mandell I. Ganchrow was elected as International President of the Orthodox

Union and has served in that position for the past six years. During his term, he has created the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, which is designed to teach heritage to young American Jews. He has also improved the visibility of the Institute for Public Affairs, which incorporates programs to assist those interested in government careers or in community service.

The Orthodox Union was founded in New York State in 1898 to provide a strong base for Orthodox Jews and to stop the spread of assimilation during the turn of the century. Today it is the voice of 1,000 Synagogues and provides a number of outreach and service programs.

I first met Dr. Ganchrow during my first campaign for Congress in 1972. He raised the public's awareness in that campaign by forming the Hudson Valley Political Action Committee. He has since become a trusted and valued advisor on a significant number of issues. Dr. Ganchrow has served his country as a Viet Nam veteran. Because he is a veteran, he has become especially sensitive of the need of peace and security in the Middle East. Moreover, he was recognized by the Rockland Journal News as one of the ten most influential Rockland County Residents of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating Dr. Mandell Ganchrow on receiving the Kesser Shem Tov Award from the Orthodox Union and I am confident he will continue to be a strong voice for American Jewry.

HONORING THE OKAWVILLE ROCKETS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Okawville Rockets Girls basketball team who won the Class A state title. The Rockets were the number one ranked team this year. They finished the year with a 33-1 record and a 17-game winning streak.

The Rockets, who won their first state championship in 1994, became the first Southern Illinois Team to win a state title since Carlyle did it in 1997. Okawville is the sixth Class A team to win at least two state titles, joining Carlyle, Nokomis, Teutopolis, Carthage and Quincy Notre Dame.

In honor of a near-perfect season, I want to congratulate them and their head coach, Kathy Lanter on a job well done. We are all very proud of you.

The Lady Rockets are:

Head Coach—Kathy Lanter.

Assistant Coaches—Carrie Stallings and Vicki Loquasto.

Managers—Rachel Shubert, Shana Stricker and Erica Bergmann.

Players—Jamie Schrader, Kelsey Klingenberg, Kristen Lehde, Natalie Shubert, Kelly Hasheider, Joan Miller, Erica Geppert, Cheryl Borrenpohl, Jenny Heckert, Megan Brockmeier, Erica Barkau, Justine Krueger, Lauren Borrenpohl, and Katie Hasheider.

JOSEPH PATRICK MCKEOWN—
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Mr. Joseph P. McKeown of Beltsville, MD will retire after spending thirty years, well over half his life, in the role of public servant. Son of Joseph and Claire McKeown of Toms River, NJ, he served in the United States Navy from 1967-1971. A good deal of his Navy service was aboard ship in various locales throughout the world. After the conclusion of his service time and then his graduation from Stonehill College, Joe began a 26-year career with the United States Postal Service.

For the last two decades, Mr. McKeown has served as a Postal Inspector. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service very seldom gets the credit they deserve for the exceptional law enforcement duties they perform. Postal Inspectors have a well-deserved reputation for tough, relentless, professional investigation resulting in a 98 percent conviction rate. Seldom is there a major crime solved in this nation, at any governmental level, without the involvement of the Inspection Service at some level. Yet, you usually never see them "out front" at the successful conclusion of a case—thus their famous nickname—the "Silent Service." One of our Nation's oldest law enforcement agencies, there are now 2,200 Inspectors, 350 of whom are females.

Joe McKeown in the last 20 years has been both a model and extremely accomplished Postal Inspector. Especially knowledgeable, he has not been detailed to merely one specific investigative area. Inspector McKeown has been critical to investigations involving both external and internal crime, audits, and a variety of criminal frauds both domestic and international. For the better part of his career he has been detailed to the Newark, Baltimore, and Washington, DC regions.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day across this great country distinguished civil servants are retiring. This Congress, and the public as well, owe such exemplary citizens more than we readily recognize. I take this opportunity to publicly thank Joseph Patrick McKeown for three decades of exceptional devotion and service to our nation. May I wish Joe and his wife Ruth nothing but the best in the years ahead.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Hutchinson amendment to H.R. 3908, The Emergency Supplemental

Appropriations for FY 2000. This amendment represents a significant effort to combat the spread of methamphetamine production and trafficking across the nation.

Mr. Chairman, the timeliness of this bill cannot be overstated. The use of methamphetamines is on the rise across the nation. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, methamphetamine use remains high and there is "strong evidence to suggest this drug will continue to be a problem in west coast areas as well as other areas of the United States."

Methamphetamine, also known as crank, ice, crystal, and peanut butter, has been described as the "cocaine of the 90's" or the "poor man's cocaine." It is equivalent to heroin in the 70's or cocaine in the 80's. And its popularity is not without reason. The attractions of meth are many, including increased alertness, weight loss, a general sense of well-being, a cheap price tag, and a more intense and prolonged reaction than cocaine can offer. However, the long-term effects of the drug are equally devastating and can include severe depression, brain and liver damage, stroke, insomnia, behavior resembling paranoid schizophrenia, malnutrition, and hallucinations, among others. Crank and ice are both extremely addictive and have increasingly become the illegal drug of choice, especially for women, throughout the western United States.

Unfortunately, the dangers of meth extend far beyond those who consume the drug. As you may know, meth is made by a hazardous array of products, including ammonia gas and hydrochloric acid, which are both toxic and explosive when mixed. As a result, a meth lab can be a potential life threat to all who live near it. To make matters worse, anyone with access to the Internet can download a detailed, step-by-step meth recipe. All of the ingredients needed to make the drug are easily accessible and can be bought in the supermarket.

Although its roots are in the West coast, this epidemic has recently made its way to my home state of Texas. According to Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) statistics, there were 175 seizures of methamphetamine labs in Texas by federal, local and state authorities in 1999. This is almost three times the number of labs which were seized in 1998. The use and manufacturing of methamphetamines is becoming a serious epidemic in Texas and needs to be dealt with in a comprehensive and aggressive manner.

In order to actively address this problem, I support the Hutchinson amendment which would provide funding to assist state and local law enforcement agencies with the costs of methamphetamine lab clean-up. The DEA has been using FY 1998 and 1999 funds to assist with clandestine meth lab clean-up during this current fiscal year. However, these funds have been exhausted. The Hutchinson amendment uses \$15 million in unspent funds in the COPS program available for policing initiatives to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking. While I would prefer that the funds not be taken from the COPS program for this amendment, I am supportive of its purpose. It is time that we arm our law enforcement with funding to curb the manufacturing and trafficking of this highly destructive drug. Now is the time to aggressively attack this problem.