

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Mr. Stearns also served as president of the San Joaquin Division of the League of California Cities from 1991–1992. While dedicating much of his time to public service and private organizations, Mr. Stearns was employed by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. until his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Tom Stearns for his dedication to improving the lives of others in the local community. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Stearns.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID W.
NELSON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Dr. David W. Nelson from Middleton, Wisconsin. On June 30, 2001, Dr. Nelson will be inducted as the 80th president of the American Optometric Association at its 104th Annual Congress in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Nelson's commitment and contributions to his profession have earned him this prestigious recognition.

Dr. Nelson has an impressive record of service at the local, state, and national level showing his dedication and leadership in the field of optometry. He was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board in 1994 and held the elective offices of Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President. He also served as chair of the Membership Development Committee and Computer Network Task Force.

Dr. Nelson is also past president of the Wisconsin Optometric Association (WOA) and the Madison Area Optometric Society. His professional leadership began during his optometric doctorate studies as president of the American Optometric Student Association, a national organization of 5,200 members representing optometry students' interest in their four-year post-graduate programs.

Dr. Nelson has been recognized with the Optometric Recognition Award in 1989 and the Legislative Achievement Award in 1989, 1990, and 1994. He also was named Wisconsin Young Optometrist of the Year in 1995.

In looking at Dr. Nelson's past achievements, it is apparent that his devotion and motivation will meet the leadership demands of the American Optometric Association. I join his many friends and professional colleagues in congratulating him and wishing him well as the new president of the American Optometric Association.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2001

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to the 2001 graduating class of Michigan State University. Due

to their hard work and dedication, they are now prepared to make significant contributions to the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

As graduates from the first land grant University in the United States, whatever endeavors the Michigan State class of 2001 may pursue, success is certain to follow.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Michigan State University Class of 2001. May this only be the beginning of the great accomplishments they will achieve in their lifetime.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST
UAW CONTRACT WITH FORD
MOTOR COMPANY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to live in a country which protects our freedoms and liberties—the right to free speech, freedom of assembly, and free association.

The right to safe working conditions, an 8 hour workday, a 40 hour workweek, the weekend . . . are things prior generations fought, bled and even died for—and we should never forget that.

On the 60th Anniversary of the first United Auto Worker contract with Ford Motor Company, we need to recognize the difference the UAW has made in the lives of working families.

Prior to their UAW contract, Ford workers had no health and safety protections, no sickness and accident benefits, no grievance procedures, and no respect.

When Walter Reuther and Richard Frankensteen led UAW workers in the Battle of the Overpass in 1937, where they were beaten repeatedly, they began the process of bringing Ford Motor Company to the table to recognize the importance of quality union workforce.

The years 1937 to 1940 were full of similar battles where workers fought, and some died, to bring dignity to their workplace and to build a better community.

Back then, every Congress of Industrial Organizations member in the Detroit area was asked to sign up to the Ford worker “who lives next door or goes to the same church or is married to your . . . second cousin.”

On December 30, 1940, 1,000 men organized a strike in the Rouge River tool-and-die department over rest periods. Ford tried to discharge the UAW leaders, but the National Labor Relations Board ordered 22 of them reinstated. When the union members heard the news, they marched triumphantly back into the plant wearing their CIO buttons . . . something they would not have dared to do just a few weeks earlier.

Then in April, 1941, the company refused to meet with any union committees and followed this up by firing eight committeemen. When word of these discharges passed through the River Rouge plant, one worker shouted “strike!” Another voice took up the cry, “strike!” And soon, louder and bolder, the cries rolled through the plants “strike! strike!” There had never been anything like it in Ford history. Workers left their lathes and benches.

Assembly lines ground to a halt. Workers began walking out, first in trickles, then soon in columns, and they marched from the Rouge River plant to a union hall, half a mile away. By nightfall, the hall was filled. The Ford workers couldn't believe what they had done—Ford Motor Company was shut down.

On April 10th, the strike came to an end, as quickly as it had started, it finished. Henry Ford, for the first time in his life, agreed to negotiate with a labor union. On June 20th, the first 24-page contract between the UAW and Ford was signed.

In contract after contract, the UAW has been able to improve upon that original document—in terms of wages, benefits, job protections, pensions, etc.—to the point where the UAW contract with Ford Motor Company ranks among the best in the world.

Today, we should remember those who fought so hard for that first contract 60 years ago . . . and we should draw strength from their perseverance so that 60 years from now our children will look back and see the exponential progress made by current generations.

HONORING ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD COMBAT UNITS DE-
PLOYED IN SUPPORT OF ARMY
OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we honor the continued commitment of the Army National Guard in supporting peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, as well as recognize the sacrifices made by these brave men and women who so valiantly serve our country. H. Con. Res. 154 commends the gallantry and dedication of these soldiers who have not only restored peace to the Balkans but have facilitated the recent democratization of the former Yugoslavia.

With such distinguished units as the 49th Armored Division, Texas Army National Guard, and the other National Guard combat units deployed to Bosnia in support of the NATO peacekeeping mission, we have met our obligation to our European allies while serving our national interest in maintaining calm and promoting democracy in this part of the world. We must continue our commitment to providing the necessary resources to ensure the continued readiness of the National Guard and Reserve in the future.

The National Guard and Reserve personnel at home and abroad play an instrumental role in the national security of the United States. I am honored to commemorate their efforts with this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO CARRIE SINKLER-
PARKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Carrie Sinkler-

Parker upon her appointment to the board of Friends of HelpAged—Ghana International.

Friends of HelpAged—Ghana is a member of HelpAged International, a nongovernmental association established in 1988. Their goal is to assist older persons who are poor, marginalized, or isolated with their daily needs. They seek to promote adequate health care treatment and medicinal availability in rural regions. They work to provide vital services to older persons without care, and enlist volunteers to visit with isolated persons in their homes.

Ms. Sinkler-Parker holds a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and a Masters in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. Throughout the course of her career, Ms. Sinkler-Parker has focused on eliminating barriers to obtaining quality health care and on addressing social issues that significantly impact older persons. Ms. Sinkler-Parker has been very valuable to me and my staff and I am certain she will use her experiences, dedication, and knowledge to help shape our world views and understanding of the aging population.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Ms. Carrie Sinkler-Parker good luck and Godspeed in her new position and in honoring her for the incredible service she continues to provide to elderly citizens around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN IMMIGRANTS SAFE HARBOR ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today we join the world community in the first observance of "World Refugee Day." On this day we express solidarity and support for the world's refugees and recognize the contributions refugees make to their newly adopted countries. Against this backdrop, I am pleased to join with my colleagues CONNIE MORELLA, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and NANCY PELOSI in introducing the "Women Immigrants' Safe Harbor Act (WISH)." The WISH Act provides help to women and children who are focused to seek refuge not from an oppressive political regime, but from members of their own families. Victims of domestic violence, like victims of political oppression, are often forced to flee with little other than their children and the clothes on their backs. Battered immigrant women, who are often far from their families and have limited English skills, are particularly alone and vulnerable.

Public benefits have long been a key avenue of escape from family violence. Victims of abuse are generally economically and socially isolated. Many of them believe they cannot leave their abusers because doing so will expose them and their children to economic hardship—in fact, a recent study found that more than two-thirds of battered immigrant women still trapped in abusive relationships said lack of money was the biggest obstacle to leaving. Programs like Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families help them care for their children until they can get back on their feet. These programs also expand the capacity of our nation's domestic violence shelters and safe houses by providing partial support to their residents.

The economic hardship is compounded because many abuse victims are initially unable to work because they must remain in hiding from their abusers. Congress specifically recognized this barrier in the 1996 welfare reform law, which provided states with a "family violence option" to exempt victims of domestic violence from work requirements. Somewhere between one-third and half of domestic abuse victims are harassed by their abusers while at work. For that reason, some of them have no choice but to avoid the workplace until the abuser is brought justice.

The WISH Act would restore access to critical public programs for a vulnerable group of battered women, many of whom have U.S. citizen children. It would also remove the threat of deportation for those who sought help to protect themselves and their children. Passing the WISH Act would provide these women with a safe harbor from the violence that plagues their families and the kind of fresh start the United States has always offered to refugees of all kinds. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating "World Refugee Day" and in supporting an escape route for battered women.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA FELDT

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gloria Feldt on five years of remarkable service as the president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the world's largest and most trusted voluntary family planning organization.

Like me, most of my colleagues know Gloria very well. She is a knowledgeable and thoughtful leader who works closely with Members, and has repeatedly testified before Congress in the fight to ensure and protect the health of all women and their families. That is why People magazine called her "the voice of experience" and Vanity Fair named her one of "America's 200 Legends, Leaders, and Trailblazers."

Gloria's work deserves our honor and applause. Since becoming president in 1996, she has led Planned Parenthood Federation through a dramatic revitalization. Under Gloria's direction, the organization kicked off the Responsible Choices Action Agenda, a comprehensive advocacy and service campaign to prevent unintended pregnancy, improve the quality of reproductive health care, and ensure access to safe, legal abortion.

In addition, she has been the driving force behind dynamic public awareness campaigns, which have helped put the issue of insurance coverage for contraception on the map, and brought widespread attention to the need for responsible, medically accurate sexuality education in America's schools.

Gloria is a dedicated leader, an inexhaustible activist, and an inspiring role model for all women. We wish her many more successful years as she continues to advocate for women's health and women's rights.

THANKS, TONY ARMSTRONG, FOR
A HEALTHY FUTURE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my close friend, Anthony W. Armstrong, for a truly outstanding and highly commendable tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bay Health in Bay City, Michigan. Tony has held key leadership positions with Bay Health since 1985 and has been a major force in making it one of the premier medical facilities in the region.

After the merger of four hospitals in the 1970s and 1980s, Bay Health became the pre-eminent full-service medical facility for Bay County and many surrounding communities. Since first joining Bay Health, Tony's guiding hand has continued to shepherd vital expansions in widening the scope of medical services offered to the greater community. In the process, he also has been resolute and careful in those efforts never to sacrifice the quality of care provided to patients.

Today, Tony Armstrong and the dedicated professionals who make up Bay Health can be proud of their great success in providing the best and most affordable health care possible. Organizations such as Bay Health depend upon the direction, talent and dedication of those at the helm and Tony's lead-by-example approach has put Bay Health on the right path for a hale and hearty future.

In addition to Tony's significant successes in health care, it is also noteworthy to mention that his contributions to the whole community have gone far beyond his work-related duties. His involvement has extended to a wide spectrum of community endeavors, including Past Chairman of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Alliance for Bay County Schools. He also has drawn high praise for his work with the Lake Huron Area Boy Scouts Council, including spearheading an Explorers program to give high school students exposure to the health care profession. Clearly, he has been a tremendous asset to the civic health of his community; efforts that he certainly could not have accomplished without the love and support of his wife, Barbara, their son, Travis, and daughter, Alicia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tony Armstrong for his strong and admirable record of enhancing and encouraging the good health of his community. I am confident that Tony's legacy will ensure that Bay Health will continue for many years to offer a healing hand to those who need care.

LUKE ROBERT WALLACE JACKSON
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clay and Anna Jackson on the birth of their first child, Master Luke Robert Wallace Jackson. Luke was born on Friday, May 11th, 2001 and he weighed 8 pounds and