

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABEL AND MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce H.R. 793, the Abel and Mary Nicholson House Historic Site Study Act. This bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Abel and Mary Nicholson House, located in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey, in my congressional district, as a unit of the National Park System. As part of the study the Secretary would also be required to consider management alternatives to create an administrative association with the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This study is the required first step in designating the site as a national park.

The Abel and Mary Nicholson House was built in 1722 and is a rare surviving example of an unaltered early 18th century patterned brick building. The original portion of the house has existed for 280 years with only routine maintenance. This house is a unique resource which can provide significant opportunities for studying our nation's history and development.

I was pleased to announce the designation of this house as a National Historic Landmark on March 1, 2000, which made it the first National Historic Landmark site in Salem or Gloucester Counties, in New Jersey. The U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Nicholson House as a National Historic Landmark because of its historical importance to the entire nation and listed it in the National Register of Historic Places.

As one of the most significant "first period" houses surviving in the Delaware Valley, the Nicholson House represents a piece of history from both Southern New Jersey and early American life, and should remain protected and preserved to continue as a valuable teaching tool for generations to come.

SAINT ISIDORE SCHOOL  
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I give recognition to St. Isidore School in Grand Rapids, Michigan for its 100 years of service to the Grand Rapids community. Founded by Polish immigrants, the school opened its doors to 144 students on January 2, 1901, in a northeastside building that served as a combination school, church, and convent. Since the ringing of the first bell in 1901, the school has served as an excellent example of families committed to providing their children with a positive Catholic school experience.

St. Isidore School, originally the city's East Side Polish parish school, has been through many changes over the years and has grown into a cosmopolitan school. The current facility on Spring Avenue was built in 1926 and in

cent years has housed an average of 140 students in grades K-8. The record year was 1927 when the pupil count swelled to 920 students. During a 20 year period from 1927 thru 1947 St. Isidore's also opened its doors to ninth grade students.

During its 100 year existence, St. Isidore's has served as the starting point for numerous young men and women who have gone on to very challenging and successful careers. Graduates of the school have become priests, sisters, doctors, nurses, attorneys, engineers, accountants, teachers, administrators, elected officials, and good loyal employees of the many industries in the West Michigan area.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely delighted to take this time to pay tribute to this superb school that has played a vital role in our city's history. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the efforts and commitment of the staff and students who have called St. Isidore home over the past 100 years. Their dedication to learning and excellence is a model for others to follow. Congratulations! May God also bless you for your next 100 years!

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCOTT VFW POST 4183

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Scott Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4183 in Belleville, Illinois.

The Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States traces its roots back to 1899. That year, veterans of both the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their veterans. In Columbus, Ohio, Spanish-American War veterans founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in Denver, Colorado, Philippine veterans organized the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines. In 1913, both organizations merged to form the present Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

The VFW is known the world over for their service not only to veterans, but to all people. They are considered to be one of the most influential forces in the halls of Congress. The efforts of the VFW resulted in the creation of the House Veteran's Committee, the WW 1 bonus, the national Veteran's Day holiday, various GI bills, the creation of a cabinet level office of Veteran's Affairs and support on many veteran's health issues. The VFW is active in disaster relief and also provides information to citizens about our national flag. You cannot also mention the VFW without mentioning their "buddy poppy" program which raises funds for veteran's homes.

The Scott VFW Post 4183 was chartered in 1951 with 88 members and was named the Loren Howerth VFW Post. Their first meetings were held in the basement of the P-3 Building at Scott Air Force base. In 1970, the post was renamed for Frederick M. Kocher, the commander largely responsible for re-energizing the post's efforts in reaching membership goals. Commander Kocher was also responsible for providing a commitment to service to those veterans who served their country. In

the 80's, the Post took on its present designation as the Scott VFW Post 4183.

The Post's present location on 3½ acres used to be a farmhouse that still remains as part of the Post complex. Additions to the farmhouse over the years were the inclusion of a bingo and meeting hall in 1954 and a building addition in 1986. Located just outside the Belleville Gate of Scott Air Force Base, VFW Post 4183 relies on base personnel for the majority of its membership. Currently, the Post has 446 members, residing in 35 different states and five foreign countries. Two hundred and forty of these Post members are considered life members and the membership roll includes a Pearl Harbor Veteran and a WW II Flying Sergeant. The majority of the membership are veterans from Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Post 4183 was the first VFW post in the United States to sponsor a perpetual scholarship for the VFW National Voice of Democracy program. This program allows high school students to participate in patriotic programs and the opportunity to earn awards and scholarships. The Post actively supports area veterans, as well as the Scott Air Force Base Elementary School, the Scott Chief's Group, the Family Support Center and the Scott Officer's Wives Club. The Post also works with local Cub Scouts, high schools, Special Olympics, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, East St. Louis Christmas Food Drives and area VA hospitals and the VFW National Home in Michigan. Post 4183 has the distinct honor of being named an "All State Post" nine times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men and women of Scott VFW Post 4183 both past and present on fifty years of serving veterans and the people of Southwestern Illinois.

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AND COST EFFICIENCY OF MEDICARE SYSTEM: SUPPORT REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSISTANTS

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant (CRNFA) Direct Reimbursement Act of 2001, which will provide equity in reimbursement for certified registered nurse first assistants who provide surgical first assisting services to Medicare patients. I introduced this legislation in the 106th Congress and am grateful that, last year, the Congress asked the General Accounting Office to study the issue and report within a year on the quality of care and cost effectiveness provided by CRNFAs. While I deeply appreciate this support, I also believe it is important to continue this effort on behalf of CRNFAs and am grateful for the fifteen colleagues that have agreed to rejoin me in this effort as original cosponsors of this legislation.

Having received more advanced education and training in first assisting than any other nonphysician provider, CRNFAs serve a vital role, directly assisting physicians with surgical procedures. Additionally, CRNFAs and RNFA

are the only providers—aside from the rare physician making house calls—who sometimes provide post-operative care by actually visiting patients at home following surgery. Thus, not only do CRNFAs have more clinical experience and education than other non-physician providers, but they also provide continuity of care to patients enabling higher quality and better patient outcomes.

CRNFAs also provide the additional benefit of cost efficiency. Health claims data from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) reveal that physicians file more than 90% of the first assistant at surgery claims for Medicare reimbursement. Physicians receive 16 percent of the surgeon's fee for serving as a surgical first assistant. Under this legislation, CRNFAs will receive only 13.6 percent of the surgeon's fee for providing first assistant services. Furthermore, CRNFAs are equally as cost-effective as other non-physician first assisting providers who currently are reimbursed at 13.6 percent of the surgeon's fee for first assisting. Use of CRNFAs would, therefore, be a high quality yet cost-effective alternative for the nation's health care delivery system, affording additional flexibility to surgeons, hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and its president, Brenda C. Ulmer, RN, MN, CNOR, in bringing this issue forward. I also thank the nurses of AORN for contacting their Representatives regarding this important bill; their help has been indispensable. As a provider of health care, the CRNFA is a viable solution for controlling rising health care costs. Working in collaborative practice with surgeons, CRNFAs are cost-effective to the patient and to the health care delivery system. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting equity for certified registered nurse first assistants by cosponsoring the Medicare Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant Direct Reimbursement Act of 2001.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI HILLEL COHN,  
ON THE EVENT OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this June, Rabbi Hillel Cohn will be retiring from Congregation Emanu El, in San Bernardino, after 38 years of service, having served the Congregation since 1963.

Rabbi Cohn is one of the leading citizens of the San Bernardino area. He is known throughout the nation for his outstanding sermons and his work as a fine educator, counselor and community leader.

He is known for inspiring and creative sermons, including ones that reference Bob Dylan and the Genetic Code.

I have been privileged to know Rabbi Cohn, and have found him to be a mentor, a scholar, and an inspirational man.

I have been pleased to know his family, including his nephew, Mike Steinman, who served the people of the State of California as a Legislative Aide on my staff in Sacramento.

I have had the pleasure of working with Rabbi Cohn on religious issues, and keeping

him advised on the progress of legislation, including the Religious Freedom Protection Act, which I authored in California.

Rabbi Cohn is part of a remarkable history of wise and gifted rabbis who have presided over Congregation Emanu El. The Congregation and the San Bernardino Jewish Community trace their history back to the early 1850's, when the first Jewish Settlers came to Southern California. The first Jewish community established in Southern California was in San Bernardino, and services began to be held in the 1850's, with the congregation formally being chartered in 1891.

Under Rabbi Cohn, the congregation has risen to great levels of prominence, winning national awards for the excellence of its Jewish Education program. The Congregation also operates a nationally-recognized pre-school and elementary school.

I am very pleased to have worked with Rabbi Cohn over the years, and wish him many years of blessed retirement. I am sure he will continue to grace the San Bernardino community with his scholarship and learning for many years to come. I offer my best wishes to him and his family on this occasion.

IN HONOR OF EDWIN J.  
KORCZYNSKI

**HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago, the people of the United States asked the brave men and women of our armed forces to take up an important cause in the Persian Gulf. Today, I rise to salute the achievements of a resident of my congressional district, Mr. Edwin J. "Ski" Korczynski, and to commemorate his important contributions.

Edwin was an America West Airline pilot when he served as a volunteer in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, completing numerous missions in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet and Military Airlift Command operation, where civilian airliners were used for lift capability. As a pilot and flight engineer attached to the Military Airlift Command located at Scott Air Force Base, Korczynski helped transport military personnel and supplies vital to the Kuwaiti liberation effort. For his efforts, Pilot Korczynski was awarded the Civilian Desert Shield and Desert Storm medal for Outstanding Achievement as a Pilot/Flight Engineer flying CRAF/MAC missions. Although he is an honorably discharged United States Marine, Korczynski was not an activated reservist during this conflict, but was instead a volunteer committed to the cause.

The five daughters of what is known as the "Korczynski Krew"; Ediane M. Ayers, Kimberly A. Boersma, Elizabeth A. Haak, Bethany A. Korczynski, and Megan M. Korczynski, are understandably proud of their father, as he is of them. As they go about their daily lives in this great nation, they are thankful for the service of their father and his colleagues and comrades who have served in the uniform of this nation's armed services. It is particularly their father's willingness to volunteer which they know is so important to the fabric of our neighborhoods and is an example which is important whether in military service or community service.

Though it has been a decade since those operations in the Persian Gulf, Edwin Korczynski continues to volunteer his time and energy, first as Squadron Commander, United States Air Force/Civil Air Patrol/Lake in the Hills Composite Squadron/IL #482. He is also attached to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps/Division 911 as Personnel Officer at Naval Training Command, Great Lakes, Scout Leader with the Berwyn Air Explorer Post #777, an Emergency Service Disaster Agency volunteer and American Red Cross Disaster Assist Team volunteer serving the citizens of the greater Chicago area. His wife, Diane, and his daughters have come to expect and appreciate this kind of commitment. These efforts are important not only in the organizations which benefit directly from his participation but in the example which is set for his friends, family and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, even though the sands of the Persian Gulf have passed through the hourglass, it is important that we remember that time in our history. I am thankful for Ed Korczynski's participation in that important mission, and I appreciate his continued involvement in the betterment of our lives.

PROVISION TO HELP PRESERVE  
VETERANS FAMILY FARMS INCLUDED IN VETERANS' OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2001

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, in the 106th Congress, I introduced H.R. 5271, the Veterans' Family Farm Preservation Act, to make it possible for more wartime veterans and their survivors to qualify for pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) without being forced to sell their family farms and ranches. I am pleased that the provisions of this legislation have been included in the Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001, H.R. 801, a bipartisan bill introduced on February 28, 2001. This legislation will also benefit low-income veterans who seek to obtain health care from VA.

The productivity of America's family farms is undisputed. Family farms and ranches feed our Nation. Family members and unpaid workers account for 70% of farm labor in the United States. While America's family farmers and ranchers are unmatched in their productivity, they have little or no control over many factors which determine the economic results of their labor.

Veterans who have gone in harm's way and placed their lives on the line by serving our nation in the Armed Forces should not be asked to relinquish their family farm in order to qualify for veterans' benefits. Unfortunately, that is what is occurring today. H.R. 801, which House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith and I introduced together with J.D. Hayworth, Benefits Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Democratic Subcommittee Member Silvestre Reyes, includes provisions to address this problem. I urge Members to support this bipartisan effort.

Pension benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are payable