

vision and ability to link sometimes unlikely partners also has helped to launch a number of innovative programs that continue to serve the needs of our community. One such partnership includes a joint venture between the FreeStore/FoodBank and the University of Cincinnati's Health Resource Center to provide medical care to those who cannot afford it. Among other initiatives, he also established a relationship with Goodwill Industries to help increase donations.

Thanks to Steve's efforts, the FreeStore/FoodBank is often recognized as one of Cincinnati's most outstanding charitable organizations. All of us in the Cincinnati area thank Steve for his dedication to improving the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO MILLERSBURG,
MICHIGAN ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Millersburg, a small community in my congressional district, the 1st District of Michigan. On Labor Day this year the people of Millersburg will celebrate the centennial of their village. The history of their community is rich and complex, a story of growth and decline and several major changes in the core industry of the community. Like other centennials, however, this date marks more than a chronology of events. It is a history of family unity and old-fashioned values, and the centennial is a wish and prayer for the future of this small village, a hope that it will endure another 100 years.

Village president Bruce Doran and his wife Jo are assembling a book on the community as a reference for this historic event. Their account of the community's beginning tells how on the morning of September 23, 1897, a party of land owners and railway men assembled near the spot where a primitive highway crossed the Ocqueoc River in Presque Isle County, Michigan, for the purpose of laying out a new town. Except for the openings along the river and along the highway, the unbroken forest extended for miles on every side. The line of the D&M Railroad was blazed on the trees, and in a few days the noise of railway trains would be heard for the first time in this primeval forest.

Many towns have been laid out like this in Michigan, Mr. Speaker, but, according to the Dorans' research, Millersburg was probably one of the last Michigan communities deliberately planned in the forest. By noon the actual site was selected, and a gang of 35 choppers went to work. Axes flashed, and the mighty hemlocks, the giant elms, the majestic maples and the lofty basswoods were laid low, giving birth to the town of Millersburg.

The community took its name from Mr. Charles R. Miller of Adrian, Michigan, president of the commercial Savings Bank there. Mr. Miller had traveled through the area on business and had become interested in this area of the state through business contacts. He watched the progress of the D&M Railroad with keen interest and decided to purchase a tract of land. With several logging branches

planned, it was expected that the town of Millersburg would be the hub of activity.

In 1901 Millersburg became incorporated as a village. It grew and developed, with a variety of important local businesses, including four sawmills, one stove mill, five general stores and a newspaper.

But a town built in the forest and dependent on the forest can also be threatened by the forest. The decline of Millersburg as a lumbering town began with fires that swept the greater part of Presque Isle County in October 1908, inflicting a tremendous amount of damage. One fire threatened the village at the sawmills, and every available man fought to keep it from entering the town. Their efforts were rewarded, and the town was saved. But thousands of acres of timber were lost.

By 1911 the population had dwindled to 850 from a high of more than 1,000, and in July a fire burned the community's business section, the schoolhouse, the post office and numerous homes. Two sawmills and 26 boxcars were destroyed. The business section was never rebuilt and many of the merchants and dealers, realizing that the era of large-scale lumbering was over, chose to leave to try their fortunes elsewhere. By 1916 the town's population leveled off at 300, a figure which has remained relatively unchanged to this day. Agriculture became the chief industry in the township until the 1950s, when many of the farmers were forced out of business due to rising prices.

Today tourism is becoming the mainstay of the community, marking the community's willingness to adapt to new economic opportunities. Many people have come to the area to enjoy its lakes, streams and snowmobile trails.

One can look back over the community's history, Mr. Speaker, and acknowledge that, yes, the town once had more local industry and a greater population. But one can also say that Millersburg, strengthened by its trails by fire, is as vigorous and forward-looking a community today as it once was, ready to utilize its local assets for the advancement of its citizens.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the people of Millersburg and wishing them great joy in their celebration of 100 years as a community.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROMEO LODGE
#41 FREE AND ACCEPTED MA-
SONS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an organization whose outstanding dedication and commitment to the bond of brotherhood and community has led to a great accomplishment. On Saturday, March 31, 2001, the Romeo Lodge #41 Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan will celebrate their 150th anniversary, a milestone occasion that heralds the lifelong Masonic creed of Love of God, Love of Country, and Love of Freedom.

Since the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons recognized the start of the Romeo charter on January 9, 1851, the Romeo Lodge

#41 has been a thriving center of social, religious, and political life to its members. Dedicated to education, morality, brotherly love, and non-sectarianism in religion and politics, the Romeo Masons have worked tirelessly to improve the community through their contributions in medical research, charity, and scholarship.

As the organization began to grow and expand, its ideas and vision for the future began to grow with it. Dedicating their time and talents to new construction efforts and remodeling, the Romeo Masons have worked hard to ensure their organization will continue to cultivate its roots as well as reach out to its younger generations. Preserving their tenets of Masonry, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, this organization will assuredly succeed in their crusade to improve the lives of people through faith, morality and God.

The Romeo Lodge #41 is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of its members and its community. I applaud the Romeo Free Masons for their leadership, fraternity, and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday night, April 1, 2001, the University of Notre Dame Women's Basketball Team won the national championship. As a proud alumnus, I stand before you today to offer my congratulations and to highlight this incredible accomplishment.

It was a storybook ending to a storybook season. In order to defeat a tough Purdue team and win their first national championship, the Notre Dame team rallied and overcame a double-digit deficit. Only four games have been decided by two points or less since the inception of the women's national championship tournament in 1982.

I wish to congratulate the entire team for all their hard-work, dedication, and perseverance. This season truly was a team effort, beginning with this year's coach of the year, Notre Dame's coach Muffett McGraw.

I also wish to congratulate Notre Dame center, Ruth Riley, who was so reliable in the clutch at the end of the championship game and all season long. Accordingly, she has been honored as both the consensus National Player of the Year and the tournament's most outstanding player.

From the gritty play of guard Niele Ivey to the long range sharp-shooting of Alicia Ratay, this year Notre Dame had what it took to be the best. The other team members, including Amanda Barksdale, Imani Dunbar, Ericka Haney, Monique Hernandez, Jeneka Joyce, Meaghan Leahy, LeTania Severe, Kelley Siemon and Karen Swanson, made this the most well-rounded team in the nation. Our hats are off to them as the 2001 National Champions.

TRIBUTE TO GINA THOMPSON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an amazing girl, my friend and neighbor Gina Thompson, who has overcome obstacles to become a starting point guard for the Hale School basketball team.

What makes Gina's accomplishment so momentous is that she is the only girl in a league of boys. Hale School doesn't have a girl's basketball team, but Gina, who just turned 14, is just too good a player to let that stand in the way. While other girls tried out this year, Gina was the only one to make the cut. As a starting point guard, she averages six points a game and has had no problem gaining her teammates' respect.

Most importantly, Gina has accomplished all this despite being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age nine. Just as she never let her gender become an obstacle in playing the game she loves, neither has Gina allowed diabetes to get in the way. She does have to give herself three insulin shots a day and continuously monitor herself to see that her sugar count remains normal, but Gina claims it is no big deal.

Gina has even extended her basketball activities beyond Hale School. She plays for the girls' team at St. Symphorsa (where she attends CCD) and the eighth-grade Windy City AAU club basketball team. After graduation, she plans on taking her game to Maria High School.

Gina is an incredible girl who has faced her challenges head-on to become a success at the game she loves. I whole-heartedly congratulate Gina and wish her all the best in the future.

DORENE LOWERY—TENNESSEE
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, Dorene Lowery has been an employee of the Bradley County Schools for 17 years. During her tenure she has taught grades four, five and six at McDonald School, Prospect School and Black Fox School. She is currently serving as principal at Michigan Avenue Elementary School.

Ms. Lowery has been recognized as a Black Fox Elementary Teacher of the Year 2000, Bradley County Teacher of the Year 2000, District Teacher of the Year 2001 and most recently Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2001.

She indicates there are many reasons she decided to become a teacher—primarily heritage. Her parents were major influences in her life. Her mother, Mary Harris, instilled in her a love for books. Her father, Ron Harris, who has been a professor at Lee University for 35 years is responsible for instilling in her a love for teaching. He tells Dorene her favorite phrases were always, "Why?", "How does it work?", and "Show me." Another reason she became a teacher was her love of school. She would love to come home from kindergarten

and teach her younger brother the things she had learned that day.

"For me, there was never a career choice to make. I always knew I was a teacher. I have found through the years that the quest to be the agent of academic growth in students and to witness their successes has not diminished. To help a child step out into the uncharted frontiers of their mind and experiences spurs me on and provides me with boundless joy. I affect eternity. No one can tell where my influence will stop. For this reason, I TEACH." Her husband is Steve Lowery. They have no children.

HONORING TOM STRICKLAND

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend the work of Tom Strickland, who has served the federal government and Colorado with distinction as United States Attorney.

Tom Strickland was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as U.S. Attorney for Colorado a little over two years ago. Before that time he was a successful attorney with the law firm of Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Strickland, and prior to that was a senior advisor to Colorado Governor Dick Lamm.

Tom and his wife, Beth, have been good friends to my father and me. I have enjoyed his association and believe that his service as U.S. Attorney will be remembered for a high degree of professionalism and a commitment to the welfare of Colorado and the nation.

I believe Tom's service as U.S. Attorney ought to be recognized in this House and I submit for the RECORD the following words from the March 28, 2001 addition of the Denver Post, which say better than I can how his service will be remembered.

GOOD WORK, TOM STRICKLAND

We'd like to tip our hats to U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland, who will be leaving office Saturday, for a job well done during the nearly two years he's been in office.

Strickland was sworn in April 21, 1999—the day after the Columbine massacre—but in a relatively short period of time acquired a reputation as a tough, effective law-and-order prosecutor.

Strickland took the initiative in establishing Colorado's version of Project Exile, a Virginia program aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of felons. Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies cooperated in prosecuting the often-overlooked federal violation when felons busted for other crimes were found to possess firearms.

Colorado Project Exile enforces existing gun laws, prosecuting criminals in the jurisdiction with the toughest penalties. During Strickland's tenure, the number of federal firearms prosecutions tripled from 54 defendants in 1999 to 147 in 2000. The successful program is a rare bit of common ground where such diverse factions as the National Rifle Association, Handgun Control Inc. and SAFE Colorado can agree.

But Strickland also targeted other criminal groups, from the Sons of Silence outlaw motorcycle gang to big-time drug traffickers, and even a group of federal prison guards who were brutalizing inmates.

The University of Texas Law School graduate was an effective administrator and well-respected by veteran lawyers in his office.

Strickland is a Democrat who was asked for his resignation by President Bush, a Republican. John Suthers, former El Paso County district attorney, is considered the front-runner for Strickland's post.

One of the unfortunate aspects of the spoils system is that positions such as U.S. Attorney are presidential appointments, and whenever the party in power in the White House changes, many able public servants are asked to leave. Strickland is a recent example; an earlier one is Richard Stacy, who as U.S. Attorney for Wyoming, had to resign when the Clinton administration took office, despite being an aggressive, effective prosecutor.

It's a shame that well-qualified public servants like Strickland and Stacy are asked to resign instead of being given a second look, party affiliation notwithstanding.

THE INCREASE THE PEACE
RESOLUTION**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important resolution which urges the House of Representatives to support "Increase the Peace Day" events throughout the country.

On April 20, 2000, on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School, students, teachers, parents, and community leaders from Challenger Middle School in Lake Los Angeles, California hosted an "Increase the Peace Day".

The program featured the formation of a human peace sign and a presentation by a former skinhead who turned his life around and now works with the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance.

The highlight of the day was when the 650 students of Challenger signed an "Increase the Peace Pledge" in order to avoid any similar acts of school violence. Among the promises in the Pledge were to find a peaceful solution to conflicts, to not hit another person, to not threaten another person, to report all rumors of violence to an adult, to celebrate diversity, and to seek help when feeling lonely or confused.

I was proud to join the other supporters of "Increase the Peace Day" and be a part of this incredible event.

In fact, the event was so successful Challenger is having their "Second Annual Increase the Peace Day" on April 20, 2001. They are expecting over 2,000 participants this year. Additionally, they are sponsoring an essay-writing contest in which the winner will be flown to Washington, D.C. to share their ideas on ensuring school safety with national leaders.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of teacher Bruce Galler, who came up with the original idea for "Increase the Peace Day" because he believes that something can be done. Through his efforts, Challenger Middle School students have promoted the ideals of peace in their school and throughout the community.

As such, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and to encourage their local communities to institute a similar program.