

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND ROBERT SOUDERS OF ST. MATTHEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the retirement of the Reverend Robert Souders of St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Belleville, Illinois.

Reverend Robert Souders, Senior Pastor, came to serve the congregation of St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Belleville, Illinois in August, 1965, completing almost 37 years at his retirement in June of 2002. Reverend Souders began his 46 years of service as a pastor of Zion, Marlow and Liberty Methodist Churches (1955–1956); Browns Chapel and McHenry United Methodist Churches (1956–1958); Ransom and Blackstone (1958–1961); Steeleville and Percy (1961–1965); and then St. Matthew United Methodist Church. Reverend Souders is a graduate of McKendree College and received his seminary degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminar. He was ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 1961.

St. Matthew UMC has grown physically and spiritually under the leadership of Reverend Souders. For many years the church has had one of the finest youth ministries in the area. The bus and senior citizen's ministry has been exemplary and many churches have sought ideas and information from Reverend Souders to enhance their own programs. The music ministry continues to be one of the most well known in southern Illinois. Since his actual coming, many souls have been won. He began in 1965 with 99 members with the represent church exceeding 1300 members. Reverend Souders has been a leaders in the evangelism work of the United Methodist Church and in June 1990, was a recipient of the prestigious "Harry Denman Evangelism Award".

The New Life Club began in 1972 as an outreach to senior adults in the area. They have traveled many miles from Southern Illinois to Canada, Nova Scotia and Europe. The St. Matthew Day Care was formally established on August 27, 1972 and continues to provide a needed ministry in the community to provide a place of safety where children are cared for and grow in body, mind and spirit. A Thrift Shop was established in 1976 and continues to serve the needs of many through the generous donations of the congregation. In October 1978 and in March 1979, two apartment complexes, each with 17 units, were opened for senior citizens.

The Mission Society for the United Methodist Church was established in 1984 with Reverend Souders as one of the organizers. Over 125 fully funded missionaries now serve on the mission field in various parts of the world.

Reverend Souders has served on the Belleville Memorial Hospital Board of Directors since December 20, 1983. During this time, he also served on the following committees; Buildings and Grounds, Hospital Human Resources, Planning and Convalescent Home Care.

Reverend Souders and his wife, Beverly will be married 47 years on December 17, 2002. They have three children; Michelle, Gregory and Shauna. Michelle and Jerry Haynes live in Tennessee with their four children; Joshua, Courtney, Jonathan and Tucker. Greg and Brenda Souders reside in Belleville, Illinois with their three daughters; Cara, Kimberly and Jessica. Shauna and Tony call Arizona home with their sons, Nicholas and Jared and daughters Renae, Lauren and Neaville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Reverend Robert Souders to the community and to congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement and to wish him and his family the very best for the future.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEWIS & CLARK: A STUDENT EXPLORATION OF ECOLOGY, HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY OF THE EXPEDITION

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 16, 2002, a group of nineteen students and five teachers from Jacksonville High School in Jacksonville, Illinois are embarking on a journey that will follow the footsteps of Lewis & Clark. The students will be focusing on environmental ethics, ecology, geography and historical issues. Throughout their seventeen-day journey through the Dakotas and Montana, the students will meet with historians and biologists to discuss the impact of humans on this land since the early 1800's. Following their trip, the students and teachers will be presenting their historic environmental journey to schools and community groups. The group plans on presenting their findings during the following year leading up to the bicentennial commemoration. These young people are to be commended for embarking on this educational venture that will help them immeasurably in their understanding of the scientific and geographic research done by Lewis and Clark, as well as challenging them to use the skills they have acquired during their studies. I am proud to name these young adventurers among my constituents: Michael Meyer, Kelsey Mason, James Million, David Mosley, LeAnn Shearburn, Sam Dimmick, Aaron Evans, Jaclyn Verticchio, Cailean Bailey, Thomas Baulos, Toni Brooks, Jamey Davidsmeyer, Andrew Massey, Bridget Hubbard, Adam Phillips, James Rice, Janet Clayton, Erica Kemple, and Jonathan Fox. The teachers accompanying these fine students are as follows: Jim Herget, Jim Chelsvig, Heather Beavers, Travis Brockschmidt, and John Lawless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 220, H. Res. 438, ex-

pressing the sense of the House of Representatives that improving men's health through fitness and the reduction of obesity should be a priority. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 221, H. Con. Res. 394, expressing the Sense of the Congress Concerning the 2002 World Cup and Co-Hosts Republic of Korea and Japan. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 222, H. Con. Res. 213, expressing the Sense of Congress Regarding North Korea Refugees who are Detained in China and Returned to North Korea Where they Face Torture, Imprisonment, and Execution. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION 2002

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well before the Republican majority forced passage of the 1996 "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act" (PRWORA)—the so-called welfare reform package—Oregon pioneered several welfare and poverty alleviation initiatives and landmark education and training programs. The 1996 welfare bill allowed states, like Oregon, a waiver to continue their successful social assistance programs with minimal federal interference.

Oregon was able to offer such programs as the JOBS welfare-to-work program and the JOBS Plus program that assists in job placements in fields with opportunities for real career advancement and makes an impact not just in the caseloads, but in poverty alleviation. Oregon was also one of the first states to include innovations like incentives for employers to train and hire welfare recipients.

There are a number of proposed changes to the Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF) reauthorization that will end up costing Oregon more and reduce its flexibility in delivering innovative, individualized programs.

Under current law, adults have two years to find a job before losing their welfare benefits. One of the most important factors in finding a stable job at a living wage is education. That's why I've advocated that any reforms allow recipients to enroll in two-year college or four-year university programs, job training or professional development programs, or rehabilitation programs for mental health, substance abuse, or domestic violence, without hurting their eligibility for benefits. Over 50 percent of the poor in Oregon have, for one reason or another, not completed high school. Over 35 percent of the poor in Oregon have only an eighth-grade education or less. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the 30 fastest growing, well-compensated occupations, only five can be accomplished with short-term training.

With Oregon suffering from the highest unemployment rate in the nation at nearly 8 percent, and many Oregon counties at double-digit unemployment, education becomes even more important during these tough economic times to ensure living wage jobs. The facts are shocking. A single mom with two children will

only earn \$13,520 a year before taxes working a full-time minimum wage job and not receive TANF benefits because the minimum wage—\$6.50/hour in Oregon—is too high to qualify. This is nowhere near the federal estimate of a living wage for a family of three of \$34,429 (or \$16.55/h). The Republican proposal doesn't even address how Oregon can resolve this disparity. Instead, they leave it to each state to address. Oregon is drastically cutting social service programs in order to deal with a near billion dollar deficit. I can't imagine the state will find resources to deal with this issue.

Equally important is the amount of time TANF recipients spend at work activities and the quality of these activities. I'm concerned about proposals advocating 40 work hours per week, either implicitly or explicitly stated, that will push recipients into "workfare" programs that fail to increase earnings or opportunity. Forty hours of direct work is unrealistic for most TANF recipients because of the other support programs—like training, job search assistance, counseling—that recipients need to participate in.

Education, training and ensuring a living wage are only part of a successful plan to allow recipients to become more self-sufficient. Many working mothers depend on child care. I've always supported significantly increasing funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The CCDBG is currently funded at \$2.21 billion nationally, which means \$2.5 million for Oregon. This funding doesn't come close to meeting demand. A 2000 Radcliffe Public Policy Center study found that for families under 200 percent of the poverty level, the most likely reason parents lose jobs is because of a lack of child care. The Republicans claim that the TANF bill commits \$6 billion towards child care but looking at the fine print, the Republicans have made mandatory only \$2.9 billion and merely authorized another \$3.1 billion. A good press hit in an election year, but given the disastrous federal budget situation, it's unlikely that child care funding will ever reach its full authorized level.

Like many of my colleagues, I want to make sure states have some degree of flexibility in implementing TANF and allow a measure of program coordination with other social assistance initiatives. But I'm also concerned that the Republicans have included a completely unnecessary provision in this legislation that would override, at a governor's request, Congressional authorization and appropriations laws related to a range of social assistance programs. This so-called "superwaiver," would allow the diversion of funds from some programs to others and trump Congressional funding decisions. The superwaiver allows states to circumvent the legislative intent and programmatic standards in the name of state flexibility. Significant amounts of money are involved, too. Programs—like TANF, food stamps, job training under the Workforce Investment Act—slated for superwaiver authority are going to receive \$65 billion in FY2002 and, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates, will receive nearly \$669 billion over the next ten years. This puts an enormous amount of money outside normal Congressional oversight.

Finally, I'm concerned that the TANF block grant of \$16.5 billion to states has not even increased with the rate of inflation since it was instituted in 1997. By 2007, the block grant will lose nearly 22 percent of its value. This needs to change.

I urge my colleagues—especially those across the aisle—to pursue responsible reforms that offer a hand up, rather than a hand out; that offer a real chance of reducing poverty, not just caseloads.

HONORING THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF ALTON, ILLINOIS AND THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Alton Exchange Club.

Exchange is known to millions as America's service club. From their earliest days, the Exchange Club has been usefully serving the Alton area and improving the quality of life for the Alton community. The diverse array of Exchange-sponsored programs and projects has made a considerable impact on both the Alton area and America as a whole, thus enhancing the lives of countless men, women and children across the country. In a very real sense, Exchange exists for the simple purpose of serving others.

The Exchange Club philosophy of service addresses Americanism, Community Service and Youth and Child Abuse Prevention as national programs. America's young people are its most precious natural resource. That is why for many years, Exchange has sponsored an impressive selection of activities designed to benefit and encourage area youth. In Alton, the Exchange Club promotes the Basketball Player of the Year program.

In addition to developing youth activities and programs, promoting pride in country, respect for the flag and appreciation of our freedoms are primary purposes of Exchange's Americanism programs. The Alton Exchange provides flags for children during parades and other patriotic activities for young people in the community. The club promotes patriotism by donating 8,000 to 10,000 flags annually for children and bystanders in the annual Memorial Day parade.

The Exchange Club is also responsible for the installation and placement of the Freedom Shrines many of us see in our public places. The Shrine is an impressive, permanently mounted collection of 28 of the most important and historic American documents including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the Gettysburg Address. These remarkable documents serve as windows to the world of America's proud past. They show our nation's youth the strength and courage of their forefathers by allowing them to read, with their own eyes, the immortal words of inspired Americans who so decisively changed the course of history. Alton's Club installed a Freedom Shrine at Gordon Moore Park in Alton.

The Alton Exchange also follows the tradition of providing community service through many crime prevention programs. The club provides assistance to the Alton police department by providing bulletproof vests and supporting other crime prevention and awareness programs. In fact, through their fundraising efforts, the Alton Exchange Club purchased the

first body armor for the Alton Police Department.

The following year, again through fund-raising efforts, the club purchased Defibrillator equipment for the Alton Fire Department. The Exchange Club of Alton has also raised funds and donated them to the Child Abuse Prevention Project of Alton.

In furtherance of its goals to provide community service, the club has provided much needed manual labor in support of the Women's Oasis Center Building and actively works with and supports the Boys and Girls Club of Alton and hosts a special annual event for the children.

Finally, the club also periodically recognizes an outstanding community member or volunteer who otherwise may have been overlooked through their "Book of Golden Deeds" award. The Alton Exchange Club is truly a part of the fabric of the Alton community. Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities a better place to live through programs of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of the Exchange Club of Alton and to congratulate all of their past and present members on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary.

JAMES WILLIAM SMITH-BETSILL

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of a distinguished public servant and an important player in the civil rights struggle. Mr. James William Smith-Betsill died in Harrisburg recently at the age of 67 after a period of illness. He was a remarkable individual.

Mr. Smith-Betsill was an outstanding athlete, who earned a college basketball scholarship, was twice named a small college All-American—averaging more than 20 rebounds per game—and was drafted to play for the Boston Celtics in 1958. Unfortunately, his professional basketball career was derailed by the development of knee problems during his service in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1960. But his athletic achievements pale in comparison to his other accomplishments.

Mr. Smith-Betsill pursued a career in public service that lasted for more than 30 years. In the 1960s, he trained volunteers and managed redevelopment projects in the Hazelwood neighborhood. He also trained people to take and pass union apprenticeship tests. Finally, as the western regional director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Corrections Education, he worked for many years to provide inmates with better educational opportunities.

In addition, Mr. Smith-Betsill has a long, proud record as a community activist in Wilkinsburg and Hazelwood. He worked hard for many years, at significant personal risk, to desegregate local unions. Mr. Smith-Betsill also was credited with keeping the peace in Hazelwood when riots raged in Pittsburgh in 1969. Mr. Smith-Betsill's many contributions to his community are widely recognized and appreciated.

Mr. Smith-Betsill will be fondly remembered and sorely missed. I want to extend my condolences to his family and friends.