

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MURIEL
SARGENT NORTH

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a beloved member of our community in northern New Jersey—Mrs. Muriel Sargent North, who celebrated her 100th birthday on August 31, 2002.

For a full century, Muriel has demonstrated a sincere commitment to promoting education. After graduating from Wheaton College, she worked as a school teacher in New Hampshire before settling in Ridgewood to raise a family with her husband, Ernest "Hap" North. In New Jersey, Muriel served as a member of the College Club of Ridgewood, a charitable organization that seeks to expand opportunities for advanced education by offering need-based grant and interest-free loan programs to students. Her involvement in the Club, which is composed of women who are graduates of four year colleges and universities, led to her election as president, a position she held from 1949 to 1951.

Muriel is an outstanding example of the type of person who makes Bergen County such a wonderful place. An exemplary citizen, during the Second World War Muriel assisted the country in the war effort by participating in the American Women's Volunteer Service. As an active member of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church and the local Wheaton College Club, Muriel donated her time to support the activities of these worthy groups. In addition, Muriel served as a leader in the community Girl Scouts chapter.

Full of energy and with a spirit of adventure, Muriel's enthusiasm is truly contagious. Even at the age of 100, she remains active in the Heath Village Community, participating in many of the group's planned trips and outings. Her hard work and assistance in organizing the Heath Village Craft Fair have helped to make the event a tremendous success.

It is an honor to recognize Muriel Sargent North today for her 100 incredible years of service to her fellow citizens and her generous spirit. Muriel's outlook on life is a wonderful example for us all. Bergen County is truly fortunate to have her as a member of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Muriel Sargent North on her milestone 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN YORKO

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and a wonderful person, John Yorko. John was honored on August 21st in my hometown of Flint, Michigan by his friends, and former co-workers for his dedicated service to the United Auto Workers and its membership.

John started working at the Fisher Body 1 plant on February 2, 1934. He joined the CIO

the next year and in 1936 he participated in the historic Sit Down Strike. He was inside the plant until the strike ended on February 11, 1937 with an agreement between the union and General Motors. John's career as a lifelong advocate for working men and women was born in that fateful event.

Shortly thereafter he was elected as an alternate committeeman and served in that capacity until the plant was converted to World War II production. During the war he worked in the aluminum foundry at Buick, building the Allison airplane engine. He served as a Local 599 committeeman for the duration of the war and returned to Fisher Body in 1946. He remained at Fisher Body for the next forty years and was elected to numerous committees and groups culminating in his repeated election as President of Local 581. John served as that Local's president more times than any other individual. From there he was elevated to President of Region 1C. He worked tirelessly on statewide and national committees for the United Auto Workers to bring about tolerable working conditions, equitable pay, and a humane environment for the workers of our country.

On October 1, 1974 he retired from Fisher Body with 40.8 years of service but his union career was just getting its second wind. He organized the Flint Area Retired Workers Council in 1978 and served as its president for 22 years. His work with the United Auto Workers retirees led him to one of his greatest achievements. Instrumental in compiling a written record of the Flint Sit Down Strike in 1987 for its 50th Anniversary, John is recognized by the community as the historian who captured the memories of that event for future generations. He took the recollections of the men and women who acted with courage and boldness in 1936, and ensured that their words and actions will live forever. Our children and grandchildren will be able to learn about the valor of these individuals who changed our world forever. Our debt to him is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise today and pay tribute to one of the great men. John Yorko's humility, compassion, and forthrightness have inspired many to follow in his footsteps. I am proud to call him my friend.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF REVEREND MARVIN WILLIAMS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Reverend Marvin Williams' devotion to the Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead.

Reverend Williams has an admirable background. He has an undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University, and Master of Divinity degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center. Williams expects to receive a Master of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University in December 2002, and anticipates earning a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in the area of Biblical Studies in December 2003, after successful completion of his dissertation project.

The Reverend has touched many lives through his ministering. Over the past 16

years, he has served in varying capacities, including chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserve, Director of Christian Education at the Brookhaven Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and adjunct professor at Nyack College. His service in the pastorate has included the Renaissance Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee; the Roseville Church of Newark, New Jersey; and the North Church of Manhattan, New York.

Reverend Williams has ministered to Christ's First and the surrounding community for the past 8 years. Word of his wisdom and strong belief spread quickly, and the church rapidly expanded to include a large number of congregants. His preaching reached a global level through the Worldwide Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (USA), an organization that distributed his sermons in Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay.

Our community was lucky to have Reverend Williams in our midst for the past 8 years. His sermons and lectures have taught us a great deal about God, charity, the church and our community. We wish him well in his future endeavors, and we will miss him greatly.

THE EXTENT OF CORPORATE GREED

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, for weeks we have heard of the apparently boundless greed of the leaders of some of America's largest corporations—greed that has led them to ignore the retirement needs of their own employees and devastate their pension funds, slash their retiree health benefits, mislead their own investors and stockholders, lie to public regulators, and cheat taxpayers.

That greed has taken the form of unconscionable salaries and benefits, grotesque retirement benefits (even as employee retirees were being deprived of their life savings), cashing out weakening stocks (even as they encouraged employees to invest more in the same depreciating stocks), preposterous insider loans, and other types of executive compensation that financed a lifestyle of multi-million dollar homes and other lavish displays of wealth.

As Arianna Huffington has recently pointed out, we might read the numbers that describe the greed of these corporate criminals, but the numbers are simply beyond comprehension. Ms. Huffington has thoughtfully calculated some comparisons to help us appreciate the extent of the greed.

Take, for example, the practice of corporations making astronomical—and usually unsecured—loans of tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars to their executives: loans there is no realistic expectation they will repay, and loans which certainly are not being offered to other employees of the corporations. I recently introduced legislation, H.R. 5048, prohibiting such loans in excess of \$50,000, a version of which was incorporated into the recently enacted accounting reform legislation thanks to the initiative of Senator CHARLES S. SCHUMER of New York.

We now know that the insider loans extended to John Rigas of Adelphia, Bernie Ebbers of WorldCom, Stephen Hilbert of Consec, Dennis Kozlowski of Tyco and Ken Lay of Enron totaled \$3.9 billion.

As Ms. Huffington calculates, that \$3.9 billion could:

—Fund Habitat for Humanity to build 83,691 homes at a cost of \$46,600 each for America's homeless.

—Send 35,583 poor but deserving students to Harvard Business School.

—Loan United Airlines the \$1.8 billion it says it needs to avoid bankruptcy—twice.

—Buy every WorldCom shareholder a Xerox copier, some aspirin from Rite Aid, a year of long-distance service from Qwest, and a share of Enron stock (suitable for framing).

—Fund the SEC's now, greatly increased, annual budget for five years.

Other efforts to achieve real reform have been less successful than our insider loan restriction. For example, when the House considered pension legislation last spring, Republicans voted to deny Democrats the opportunity to offer any amendments, including one we had unsuccessfully offered in the Committee on Education and the Workforce to assure that executives did not enjoy special treatment in the sale of corporate stock while their employees were locked in through a pension fund completely controlled by executives. Because the Republican cared more about protecting the greed of the executives than about equity for employees, that provision is not in the House pension bill.

According to Fortune magazine, corporate executives made \$66 billion by selling their company stock even while their employees were prohibited from doing so, or continued to buy stock based on the "buy" and "hold" recommendations of those same executives. As a result, employees and investors lost hundreds of billions of dollars. Republicans also defeated our efforts to assure that employees be included on the pension boards that manage their own money, so that this kind of deceit could not reoccur.

What could we do with that \$66 billion, grabbed by greedy executives while their employees and stockholders were left destitute? Here are some examples provided by Ms. Huffington:

—Fund the annual budget of the FBI, corporate crime-fighting included, for 16 years.

—Increase by 74 times the U.S. foreign aid to all of sub-Saharan Africa.

—Cover the entire \$25 billion America has spent fighting the war against terrorism in Afghanistan. And still have enough left over to give every Afghan more than two times their average yearly income.

—Pay the \$1.08 million sales tax on Dennis Kozlowski's artwork and still have \$66 billion left to buy every masterpiece in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Impressionist collection at its assessed value.

As the executives took their money and ran, investors lost \$427 billion in the market value of WorldCom, Tyco, Qwest, Enron and Global Crossing. With that \$427 billion, you could:

—Fund the United Nations for the next 300 years.

—Pay off Argentina's external debt three times over.

—Give \$356 to every man, woman and child on the planet living in poverty.

—Transplant the lungs of 1.7 million patients—at \$250,000 each—suffering from irreversible emphysema.

—Pay the salaries of every Major League baseball player for the next 237 years.

Now, perhaps these wouldn't be the priorities you'd spend your billions on if you had them, instead of the selfish executives who have devastated the lives of millions of American families. But the scope of the greed highlights the extent of the corruption that has been tolerated by some in the business community, inadequately regulated by those charged with policing corporate behavior, and ignored by Republicans in developing thoroughly inadequate legislative responses to protect the economic security of America's working families, employees and investors.

TRIBUTE TO LISA HERRINGTON,
BRANDY O'BRIAN AND REBECCA
RAPPLEYEYEA

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute Lisa Herrington, Brandy O'Brian, and Rebecca Rappleyea. All three of these young women were recently honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Green Meadows Council in Urbana, Illinois. These women were honored on May 13, 2002 for earning the highest achievement that a young woman aged 14–17 or in grades 9–12 can earn in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments, each of which helps girls develop skills in the areas of leadership, career exploration, self-discovery, and service.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive this award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches—the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and carry out a Girl Scout Gold Award project that requires a minimum of 50 hours of participation. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl, her troop leader, and an adult Girl Scout volunteer mentor.

Lisa's Gold Award project A Great Summer for Migrant Families was a result of her volunteer work with migrant families during the past five years. Realizing that migrant families in the Rantoul area had many needs, Lisa developed a plan to receive donations from schools and churches in the Rantoul area. Girl Scout Troops were asked to collect supplies for the daughters of migrant workers. All of the collected items were distributed through the Champaign Unit 4 School District Summer School Program. Lisa concluded her project by using her Program Aide skills to plan and carry out activities during the three week summer Girl Scout program for daughters of migrant workers.

Brandy's Gold Award project Let's Get Kickin' incorporated her love of soccer in a way that would benefit youth in the Fisher area. Let's Get Kickin' had two components:

(1) conduct an instructional soccer camp for grade school aged youth, and (2) provide regulation soccer equipment for the players. To achieve her goals, Brandy recruited girls and solicited donations of used soccer equipment. The donated items were made available to all interested youth in the community. Brandy's soccer camp, held April 6, 2002, included drills for improving skills in shooting, dribbling, passing, and teamwork. She discussed the history of soccer, reviewed the fundamentals of the game, and provided lunch for thirty participants.

Rebecca's Gold Award project Ballet for Young Girls was designed to teach young girls in the fundamentals of ballet to instill in them a love of ballet and to provide a venue to demonstrate what they had learned. Working with 12 girls over a three-month period, Rebecca instructed the girls in ballet skills. To make the experience even more meaningful, Rebecca made costumes for the ballerinas. In addition to learning ballet as an art form, the girls developed an appreciation for teamwork. As a result, Rebecca saw the participants gain self-confidence and self-esteem, both valuable qualities upon which to build their lives.

I ask you, my colleagues, to take the time to honor these three young woman and the many young women in your districts that continue to share their skills and caring hearts to our children and our communities through the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FLINT-TOGLIATTI SISTER CITIES
PARTNERSHIP

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Flint, Michigan and Togliatti, Russia as they celebrate 10 years as Sister Cities. A ceremony will be held tomorrow in Flint to commemorate this event.

Sister Cities is a program to encourage persons and groups to engage in citizen diplomacy. President Dwight Eisenhower gave the idea impetus at a "People-to-People" conference in 1956. President Eisenhower's hope was that the personal relationships between individuals would lessen the prospect of future world conflicts. Born out of this idea, Sister Cities International has established municipal associations throughout the world, promoting an environment of cultural, educational, professional and technical exchanges between communities.

Flint is the birthplace of General Motors and Togliatti is the home of the Volzhsky Automobile Plant (VAZ), Russia's largest automotive manufacturer. This mutual interest in the automotive industry was genesis of the Sister City relationship between the two towns. The partnership has been very active since the beginning 10 years ago. The University of Michigan-Flint School of Management and the Togliatti College of Business and Banking exchange faculty and students. The Community Foundation of Flint and the C.S. Mott Foundation were instrumental in helping Togliatti organize the first Russian Community Foundation. The Flint Area Chamber of Commerce