

Public and private cooperation is also critical to funding the park. The bill authorizing the creation of the park relied on private partnership funding with federal matching funds. This shared funding fosters the development of the park's cooperating sites.

Mr. Speaker, preserving the past for the education of future generations benefits the area both economically and educationally. America's 102nd Congress recognized the benefits of establishing the Keweenaw National Historic Park. The area residents and businesses have and will continue to benefit economically, culturally, and educationally from the park for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on October 27, 2002 the Keweenaw National Historic Park will celebrate its tenth anniversary. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting, a great historical and economic asset to Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula as the Keweenaw National Historic Park celebrates the community's past while providing for the community's economic and historical future.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JERRY GRAY CHAMPION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor and praise to the National President of Church Women United, USA, the Reverend Jerry Gray Champion.

Rev. Champion is one of the most learned and accomplished women to ever hold this position within the Church Women United organization. An Associate Pastor with Tanner African Methodist Episcopal Church in Phoenix, Arizona, she holds not only a Masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary but also masters degrees in library science and public administration as well as a B.A. in English and Speech and a doctoral certification in Clinical Pastoral Education. As a certified clinical chaplain, Rev. Champion holds specialties in numerous trauma and intensive care areas. She is also credentialed in pastoral, spiritual, and bereavement counseling; spirituality and healing; and biomedical ethics. Before entering the ordained ministry, the Reverend had careers in education, public policy and corporate administration. In the 1970's and the 1980's, she directed the Scottsdale Public Library and also served for six years in the cabinet of former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt.

Rev. Champion has served at the local, state, area, conference branch, district, national and connectional levels in Church Women United and the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She has been continuously active in these organizations throughout her entire adult life. As the eldest of five children born to The Rev. Dr. Alfred David Gray and Valerie Geeston Gray, and a third generation minister, her church activism should come as no surprise. As Rev. Champion has said in describing her own ministry, "my love of God and ability to love God's people just as they are wherever they are in the experience of life is my strongest gift for ministry and leadership".

As a wife, mother and grandmother, Rev. Champion's ability to balance a busy career

with her pastoral duties, organizational responsibilities and her family life make her a truly remarkable person. And she readily admits that her success is due to the genuine love and support that she has received from her family.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing one of America's most gifted theologians and church leaders, the Reverend Jerry Gray Champion.

CELEBRATING SUMMERBRIDGE CINCINNATI INC.'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Summerbridge Cincinnati, Inc., a non-profit innovative teaching and mentoring program in Greater Cincinnati that recently celebrated ten years of success.

Summerbridge began nationally in 1978, and now encompasses 26 programs on 31 campuses throughout the United States and Hong Kong. The results are impressive: 90 percent of Summerbridge students have gone on to strong academic high school and college programs, and 64 percent of the teaching staff have pursued teaching careers.

In 1992, Odessa Hooker and Bill Hopple recognized a need in Cincinnati for providing academic guidance outside the traditional classroom environment for middle school students. Ms. Hooker and Mr. Hopple began Summerbridge Cincinnati, a summer program at Cincinnati Country Day School, with fifty sixth and seventh graders. That initial summer program has grown to a year round one for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. The programs and staff are now located on the campuses of the Cincinnati Country Day School and The Seven Hills School.

Summerbridge brings together talented high school and college students who are interested in teaching with promising but underserved younger students. The mentor students instruct small, diverse classes in writing, literature, math, science, arts, music and theater, and also plan field trips. Each host school provides a director who is part of the school faculty.

The focus is on developing leadership skills and self-esteem in a dynamic and academic environment. The program's success has been truly inspiring; both student and teacher participants have said the program was a breakthrough experience for them. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to Summerbridge's teachers, students, and staff for ten years of making a positive difference in our community. We wish Summerbridge Cincinnati many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL, LINDA, AND MICHAEL BUSBY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Russell, Linda, and Michael Busby for

their outstanding citizenship in the City of Wilmington.

The City of Wilmington has been overshadowed by drugs. The drug community has risen throughout neighborhoods, local parks, and even in the privacy of some homes. One of these homes belonged to Russell, Linda, and Michael Busby. A drug induced neighbor forced his way into their home threatening their privacy and safety.

The Busby family not only convinced local groups, the police department, and the city council the importance of a canine unit, they contributed their own time and money in the process. The Busby family set up contests and car washes to raise money. They encouraged donations from individuals and organizations. The Busby family also attended all city council meetings to ensure their concerns were being heard and progression was being made.

Russell, Linda, and Michael rose to national recognition through their timeless efforts in reducing drug activity in their community. Their devotion and perseverance will be remembered by everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, and missed rollcall votes Nos. 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, and 470. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 464, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 465, "aye" on rollcall vote No. 466, "no" on rollcall No. 467, "no" on rollcall No. 468, "yes" on rollcall No. 469, and "yes" on rollcall 470.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. IAN GRAY

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a humanitarian, Mr. Ian Gray, who tragically passed away on September 11th, 2001.

Ian Gray worked for Baltimore Medical System (BMS) as part of his personal mission to ensure quality health care access for the underserved in the Baltimore area. He helped to build a health care system which serves over 30,000 patients throughout Maryland. He touched many lives in unseen ways through his commitment to BMS.

Mr. Gray died during the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, as he was a passenger on Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon. His death serves as a reminder to all of us to continue the work he began. While his life was cut short, I know that his many co-workers, friends, and family members continue the noble mission of helping those in need by providing high quality health care.

In recognition of the one year anniversary of the attacks on our nation last month, BMS launched a capital fund drive, named for Ian Gray, to raise money for the health care needs of Baltimore's residents.

Ian Gray's dream of improving health care is something we all share. His work was noble and improved the lives of countless Marylanders. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Ian's wife, Ana, and their children and family members. Ian's commitment to the health care of Marylanders lives on through the dedication of a fund to assist Baltimore Medical System to help those in need.

Over one year after the tragic attacks on our nation, we remember and celebrate the life of Ian Gray and continue his important work.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD CLARK

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a constituent of the 22nd District of New York—a man who epitomizes the spirit of this great Nation, Mr. Richard Clark of Ticonderoga, New York. In March of 1952, Mr. Clark joined the Ticonderoga Fire Department by enrolling in the Defiance Hook and Ladder Co. #1. He has served his community continually since then, and throughout his half century of service, Mr. Clark has served the Fire Department as a Trustee, Caretaker, Warden, Assistant Foreman, Vice-President and Assistant Chief.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Clark's selfless dedication to Ticonderoga and neighboring communities embodies the true spirit of an American hero. As the result of the September 11th attacks, firefighters have finally received the attention and admiration they have so long deserved. Firefighters put their lives in harm's way with every call, everyday. Some do this because it is their chosen profession as a paid firefighter, others do it as volunteers to assist those in their communities. Risking one's life for the sake of helping others is extremely admirable—to do so without compensation or reward for over 50 years is truly amazing.

Mr. Clark is a true volunteer. He is always willing to assist in training new members, conduct the Fire Company Fund Raisers and assist in the day-to-day operations of the Fire Company. His ability to safely operate the fire apparatus is unparalleled and he is often called on to assist the new driver trainees.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Firefighter Richard Clark deserve to be recognized. I truly believe that the amount of service one dedicates to his community is a true measurement of one's character. Fifty years of continuous service to the community of Ticonderoga surely speaks volumes about the character of Mr. Richard Clark. I ask my colleagues, along with the 22nd District of New York, to join me as I thank Mr. Clark and for his continued service and contribution to the community.

BEN MCKIBBENS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an old friend and a pillar in the South Texas community, Ben McKibbens, the President and CEO of Valley Baptist Health System in Harlingen. Ben is a unique patriot and a consummate businessman, and the hospital system in our community will honor him upon his retirement on November 16, 2002.

The health care system in our nation has faced—and continues to face—enormous and mounting problems in the administration of medical services and health care in our communities.

It is people like Ben McKibbens who work hard to make hospitals function in an atmosphere of cost cutting. He is true leader both in our community and in the national healthcare network.

Born in Kentucky and raised in Mississippi, this son of the South won honors as an alumni from Mississippi State College. He completed his Masters program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. After residency in Hospital Administration at Mobile Infirmary Medical Center in Mobile, Alabama, he moved up the ladder of administration.

An exemplary citizen with a caring heart, Ben has been the President and CEO of Valley Baptist Medical Center and Valley Baptist Medical Development Corporation since early 1977. In 1999, he became President and CEO of Valley Baptist Health system and affiliated corporations, which employs about 2,300 people.

He has a large breadth of experience. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and is a Preceptor to graduate programs in Hospital Administration at the University of Alabama, and Trinity University in San Antonio.

He is widely recognized for his efforts to improve regional health care needs for the South Texas/U.S. Mexico border region, a difficult geographical place to manage health care. In 2002 alone, he was honored with an award from the pharmacists of Texas, the Harlingen Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the American Heart Association.

He has always been enormously helpful when my office has asked for wisdom on issues related to healthcare. He has worked well together with the South Texas and state entities.

This true Southern gentleman is now Chairman of the Texas Hospital Association (2001-2002) and serves on the Voluntary Hospitals of America Board. He is also past Chairman of the Baptist Hospital Association and Past President of the Texas Baptist Hospital Association.

Ben has been supported throughout his career by his lovely wife Loren, and their children: Ben Jr., Mitchell, Merridy, and Woods. I ask my colleagues to join me today in wishing Ben the best in his retirement.

CHILDREN IN PERIL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the story below, from Sunday's Pittsburgh Post Gazette, offers yet another example of a child welfare system's failure to provide children and their families with necessary services and safeguards—even in one of the nation's best child welfare systems.

The story below discusses several examples of bad casework that are frightening, and some examples of good casework that are inspiring. But most frightening is the fact that these stories come from one of the best child welfare systems in the country. In most other jurisdictions, the child welfare system is worse.

While this story describes caseworkers that failed to use resources available to them, in most communities, resources and supportive services are not available at all. In other jurisdictions, not only have child welfare workers been found derelict in their duties, but children have died under agency supervision. We cannot continue to spend billions of federal dollars on a system that does not provide what children need to thrive, or in some cases, even to survive. The government must require greater accountability to ensure the health and safety of every child in its custody.

The article follows:

[From the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Oct. 13, 2002]

Dana Perkins wasn't looking for any help, though she'd admit getting by as a single mother of three was a relentless struggle. Sometimes, too tired to argue, she let her children skip school. Sometimes, too tired to face reality, she numbed herself with cocaine. Then, about 18 months ago, a judge informed her that she'd accept help whether she wanted it or not.

Common Pleas Judge Cheryl Allen decided the combination of truancy and drug abuse endangered the Perkins children. That meant the judge could place them in foster care. But she didn't.

She said Perkins could keep her children as long as she cooperated with Allegheny County's Office of Children, Youth and Families. Allen directed CYF to help Perkins get off drugs and get her kids to school.

Perkins' first caseworker reached into the treasure chest of tools and services available to Allegheny County caseworkers with one hand and grasped Perkins with the other, in a focused attempt to pull her and her family up to the solid ground of sobriety and school success. Perkins' second caseworker, however, seemed to have no reach at all.

The quality of a caseworker can make or break a family. It can be the difference between reunification and termination of parents and children. Some caseworkers are renowned in juvenile court for their ability to solve problems and bring together strengthened families. Others are notorious for the opposite.

Frustrated juvenile court judges have tried to crack down on such workers. Last month, Common Pleas Judge Kathleen R. Mulligan directed CYF to pay a \$150 penalty because a caseworker had failed for 30 days to formally explain why she'd placed children in foster care and neglected to call witnesses for a hearing to determine whether the removal was justified.

Lawyers who practice in juvenile court say casework has improved over the past five