

me to pay my respects to the legacy of such a powerful community organizer and advocate.

Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero was born on August 15, 1917 in San Miguel, a small neighborhood in the city of Barrios, El Salvador. After three years of public schooling and about four more years of private tutoring, Monsignor Romero was apprenticed to a town carpenter. Soon after his apprenticeship began, his strong faith and love for the Catholic Church led him to forsake his training as a carpenter to attend the seminary in the city of San Miguel. He continued his theological studies at the national seminary in San Salvador and completed them at the Gregorian University in Rome. On April 4, 1942, Monsignor Romero was ordained as a priest to his home country and began his journey as a crusader for the people of El Salvador.

A brilliant career in the Church soon followed, as Monsignor Romero became rector of the interdiocesan seminary of San Salvador, then general secretary of the Bishops' Conference and executive secretary of the Episcopal Council for Central America and Panama. He continued to move up within the Church hierarchy, and on February 22, 1977, he was appointed archbishop of San Salvador.

Monsignor Romero took over the archdiocese of El Salvador at a time of social conflict. A brutal civil war was taking the lives of 3,000 people a month. Monsignor Romero became personally acquainted with the bloodshed when two of his priests were murdered. He immediately demanded an inquiry into the events that had led up to the death of the priests and set up a permanent commission for the defense of human rights.

Monsignor Romero became an outspoken critic of the ruthless oligarchic state and a defender of liberty and justice for the lower class of El Salvador. Sunday after Sunday hundreds of people flocked to his masses to listen to his message. As the archbishop of San Salvador, he also sought to inform the world about all the people who had been tortured, slaughtered, and of those who had "disappeared" in El Salvador. As the civil war intensified and Monsignor Romero became a popular figure for the poor, he also became a target of attacks by the ruling class. However, his commitment to a peaceful resolution to the two-decade-old war was unflinching and the world took notice. In 1979, Monsignor Romero was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his outspoken defense of human rights.

Monsignor Oscar A. Romero demonstrated extraordinary courage and an unyielding determination to do what is right, true, and just. He demanded peace, a peace that could only be found in human rights and assurances of basic dignities. In the face of injustice, Romero took it upon himself to use the Church as a light of hope and to challenge the oppression of the Salvadoran military regime.

On Sunday, March 23, 1980, Monsignor Romero directed his homily to the military from the San Salvador cathedral where he pleaded with them to stop the killing and to cease the repression in the name of God. Sensing his imminent death, Monsignor Romero said,

I have been the target of frequent death threats. I must say as a Christian, that I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will be reborn in the Salvadoran people . . . hence I offer God my blood for the redemption and for the resurrection of El Salvador . . . let my blood be the seed of freedom and the sign of hope that soon will be a reality.

Sadly on March 24, 1980, Monsignor Romero was killed by a bullet aimed to his heart, as he was giving mass in the chapel of the Carmelitas Nuns hospital in San Salvador. A single bullet transformed him into a martyr. His life was taken, but his voice could not be silenced. Monsignor Romero was and continues to be a beacon of hope in a country ravaged by poverty, injustice, and sorrow.

Today, I join the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the California State Assembly, Clinica Monsignor Oscar A. Romero, and the 22nd Anniversary Commemoration Committee, in paying homage to Monsignor Oscar A. Romero and to celebrate his life and legacy.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN FROM NORTHWEST OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the following article to my Colleagues. Women from Northwest Ohio have been trailblazers in the fields of education, health, business and politics. Toledo has a rich history of strong women and I commend their achievements.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? AN HONOR FOR WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

LOCAL PLACES NAMED FOR THOSE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

(By Ann Weber)

"You can use my name as you do a great job," longtime local volunteer Elizabeth Zepf is said to have told admirers years ago when they asked if they could name a community mental health center for her.

Members of the Lucas County mental health board and the board of the newly established center agreed to the deal, and apparently have lived up to it. Since 1974, the Elizabeth A. Zepf Community Mental Health Center, 6605 West Central Ave., has been serving the severe and persistently mentally ill.

Mrs. Zepf, who is in her 90s and living in Toledo, was prominent at the local, state, and national level of the March of Dimes, a member of the mental health board, and active in more than a dozen other organizations. The Zepf Center is one of numerous places in northwest Ohio that are named for women.

At least one person believes there should be many more such places.

"Maybe they're not as obvious as men, but there are a lot of women who have made major contributions to the community and have not been recognized," said Ann Hurley, chairwoman of the Women Alive! Coalition and a reference librarian in the local history and genealogy department at the Main Library.

But she noted that many of those women haven't worked in fields from which names usually have been plucked, such as high government office. Most of the places that are named locally after women are related to the fields of education, social service, and health—the "invisible career fields," says Barbara Floyd, University of Toledo architect.

Even an exception—Ella P. Stewart, the first African-American woman pharmacist—was hailed not for her business acumen but

for her work in human rights, she pointed out. Toledo has a rich history of strong women.

"Toledo was a hotbed of the women's suffrage movement," Ms. Floyd said. "A lot of those women are perhaps lost to history because their contributions have been forgotten."

Today, "one of the areas that is striking is our prominence in the political field," she said, citing U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, State Sen. Linda Furney, Lucas County Commission President Sandy Isenberg, and State Reps. Teresa Fedor, Jeanine Perry, and Edna Brown. "That's an amazing success for women in this area."

Many of the area's prominent women have been profiled in a series of books written by the women's history committee of the Women Alive! Coalition. Volume I of *In Search of Our Past: Women of Northwest Ohio* was published in 1987; Volume VIII is in the works.

"We are a treasure trove of women's history. We don't ever see these volumes ending," said Susan Coburn, editor. She is the manager of the humanities department at the Main Library, and predicts that in the future women's names will be seen increasingly on government, professional, and technical buildings.

Here are just some of the places in the area named for women, with information on what inspired the honors:

MILDRED BAYER CLINIC FOR THE HOMELESS, 2101 JEFFERSON AVE.

Mildred Bayer (1908-1990) "was always helping somebody," a classmate from the St. Vincent School of Nursing recalled in Volume III of *In Search of Our Past: Women of Northwest Ohio*. From Mrs. Bayer's concern for others came medical clinics for migrant workers in Lucas County, Mobile Meals of Toledo, and mobile medical clinics in Nigeria. The Toledo clinic provides dental, vision, and primary health care to the homeless.

CATHARINE EBERLY CENTER FOR WOMEN, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

The center was founded in 1978 and in 1980 was named in honor of Catharine Eberly (1922-1979), who served on the UT board of trustees from 1974 until her death in an automobile accident. Its services include career counseling, support groups, and leadership training for students and community women.

JOSEPHINE FASSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL, 3025 STARR AVE., OREGON

Every St. Patrick's Day, staffers at Fasset Middle School in Oregon put a green balloon on the office portrait of Josephine Fasset, born March 17, 1884. The school's namesake was appointed supervisor of schools in Oregon and Jerusalem townships in 1914 and later, when the districts were consolidated, was superintendent of Oregon schools until she retired in 1954. Miss Fasset died in 1975. The school has just over 500 students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

GILLHAM HALL, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

The University of Toledo had a library collection of about 8,100 volumes when Mary Gillham (then Mary Mewbom) joined the staff in 1921. When she retired in 1969, it had grown to 600,000. Gillham Hall, now used for classrooms and faculty offices, was the first free-standing library building at UT. Designed by Mrs. Gillham herself, it opened in August, 1953.

AURORA GONZALEZ COMMUNITY & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 1301 BROADWAY

Aurora Gonzalez (1924-1991) was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Ohio Hall of Fame. The neighborhood outreach center

named for the activist hosted two presidents last year: George Bush and Mexico's Vicente Fox. It provides a food pantry, clothing locker, youth athletic and job-readiness programs, and family counseling.

A nearby stretch of South Avenue between Broadway and the Anthony Wayne Trail honors Aurora's sister, Ruth Gonzalez Garcia.

ELEANOR M. KAHLE SENIOR CENTER, 1315 HILLCREST AVE.

Eleanor M. Konieczka Kahle (1916–1995) was an advocate for seniors who was elected to Toledo City Council in 1987, 1989, 1991, and 1993. Until 1993 she was director of the West Toledo Senior Citizen Center, which was named for her after her death. The center offers a variety of programs and activities—from computer classes to line dancing, bingo to flu shots.

JOSINA LOTT RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES, 120 S. HOLLAND-SYLVANIA RD.

Lott Industries, Inc.

Hers is a familiar name to area residents, since two organizations have honored Josina Jones Lott (1898–1973), an educator and advocate for children with mental and physical disabilities.

Lott Industries, chartered in 1955, serves Lucas County residents with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities through sheltered workshops and a vocational training center.

Josina Lott Residential & Community Services, a separate entity, also serves adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. It includes group homes and life-skills training programs for people living independently.

CORDELIA MARTIN HEALTH CENTER, 905 NEBRASKA AVE.

Cordelia Martin (1915–1999) was devoted to providing health care to Toledo's poor. The center is one of 10 sites (including the Mildred Bayer Clinic for the Homeless) administered by the Neighborhood Health Association. Primarily serving low to moderate income, uninsured and underinsured people, the center includes doctors' offices, dental care, a lab, pharmacy, the federal WIC program, and social service education and referrals.

ANNA C. MOTT BRANCH, TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1085 DORR ST.

Anna C. Mott (1835–1902) was a founder of the Toledo Woman Suffrage Association in 1869 and in 1884 was one of the founding officers of the Toledo Humane Society. The Mott Library opened in 1918. Originally 6,000 square feet, it now is almost 14,000 square feet. Circulation has increased 45 percent over the past five years.

SOFIA QUINTERO HISPANIC ART & CULTURAL CENTER, 1225 BROADWAY

Sofia Quintero (1948–1994), active in politics and public affairs, was the first Hispanic president of the Toledo board of education. The mission of the nonprofit organization is public education about Latino heritage through the arts and events such as the Day of the Dead celebration, when Latinos remember loved ones who have passed away.

ELLA P. STEWART SCHOOL, TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 707 AVONDALE AVE.

The school was named in 1961 for Ella Nora Phillips Stewart (1891–1987), civil rights crusader and Toledo's first African-American woman pharmacist. She and her husband, William, were the first African-Americans to own and operate a drugstore in Toledo. The school has 340 students in first through sixth grades, and a museum honoring Mrs. Stewart with items such as dolls from her collection, medicine bottles from her pharmacy, and a shirt signed by President John F. Kennedy.

WHITNEY ADULT EDUCATION CENTER, 1602 WASHINGTON ST.

Dedicated in 1941 as the Harriet Whitney Vocational High School for Girls, the building is named for Harriet Whitney (1814–1903), Toledo's first woman school teacher. The building was closed as a high school in 1991 and now houses Toledo Public Schools' Adult Education Center and the Center For Change.

Based there is the Adult Basic Literacy Program/GED and one of 22 local class sites, plus other services for adults such as vocational programs. There's also a night school for youths in day classes who need to make up credits and a program for at-risk students.

THE HISPANIC BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Hispanic Business Association: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio. The association has displayed tireless commitment and dedication to the Hispanic business community.

The association grew out of a task force of Hispanic business owners in 1981 and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1983. The motivation to create the association came from a core of Hispanic business owners who were alarmed over the low participation in the private and public sector. Functioning through its 15-member voluntary board and network of supporters, the association has successfully worked to advocate the economic development and expansion of Hispanic businesses.

By advocating consistently for the needs of the Hispanic business community and assisting other organizations with much needed services, the Hispanic Business Association: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio, has served as an invaluable resource. It has sponsored and co-sponsored various events, featuring many distinguished speakers, such as the Mayor of the City of Cleveland, the National Director of Minority Business Development Agency, and the State Director of Equal Opportunity. In addition the association annually sponsors the "Entrepreneur of the Year" Awards Banquet, recognizing Hispanic entrepreneurs who, despite the odds, have succeeded in business and participated in community development.

My fellow colleagues, the Hispanic Business Association: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio deserves the highest praise for its dedication to advancing the needs of the Hispanic Business Community. I commend this long standing organization.

HONORING VIDA EN EL VALLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vida en el Valle for receiving

the second-place award as an outstanding bilingual weekly newspaper from the National Association of Hispanic Publications. The newspaper received the award at the Association's 20th annual convention in Dallas.

Larger newspapers have recognized the weekly newspaper for its dedication and ability to cover many aspects of the community. Vida en el Valle, published by the Fresno Bee, is a free newspaper distributed to Fresno, Tulare, and Madera counties. The newspaper began publication in 1990, and in 10 years of competition has received 28 first-place awards and 49 second-place awards. The recognition the paper has received shows the amount of respect the paper has gained for itself in only a short time.

Among the many awards the newspaper received, the editor, Juan Esparza Loera, was also recognized. He received first place for best entertainment column for a piece he wrote about the ALMA Awards, which honors outstanding Latinos in the television and movie industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vida en el Valle for receiving second-place as an outstanding bilingual weekly newspaper. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Vida en el Valle for its dedication to the community and wishing the paper continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNUAL BAYONNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance. Co-sponsored by the Inter-Faith Clergy and the Bayonne Jewish Community Council, the event will take place on April 10, 2002, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

On Tuesday, April 09, 2002, Jews around the world commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day, or Yom Hashoah. The colossal crimes against humanity and the unimaginable horrors that cost the lives of 6 million Jews and so many others, perpetrated by the world's most evil forces, shall never be forgotten, as we commit ourselves to fight bigotry, condemn hatred, and foster understanding among people.

Bayonne's annual observance will feature speaker Jay Sommer, 1981 National Teacher of the Year, and a Holocaust survivor.

Jay Sommer, who managed to escape from a Nazi labor camp in occupied Czechoslovakia, and arrived in the United States after more than two years in a displaced persons camp in Italy, has successfully established himself as a successful and well-respected educator in our nation. In 1981, he was appointed to the National Commission on Excellence in Education established by President Reagan, and traveled throughout the United States with the Commission, serving as an official spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Education. He is a specialist in foreign language instruction, and has taught Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, and French for over twenty years at New Rochelle High School.