

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the United States became home to more than 20 million European immigrants who brought with them the rich cultural heritage of their homelands. Northwest Indiana pulsed with the influx of Slavic immigrants who settled along the shores of Lake Michigan, eager to make their impact on the region. Throughout the region, the imprint of the Slovak and Polish cultures remain yet today, and are evident in the names these Hoosiers bear and in the traditions passed down from each generation. The most significant contribution to the area, however, has been the establishment of parish churches.

Early Polish Catholics had to travel to neighboring communities throughout Indiana and Illinois in order to worship. In 1902, with the bishop's approval, Whiting's Poles purchased land and constructed a wooden church on Indianapolis Boulevard. First known as St. Peter, the church was later renamed St. Adalbert to honor the congregation's Polish heritage. This simple structure born out of the devotion to their culture and to their faith became the foundation for new generations of Polish Catholics to discover the bonds that bind them together as a spiritual family.

Over the past 100 years, St. Adalbert has been served by many able leaders who have ensured the congregation's spiritual growth and cultural heritage were not compromised as it evolved structurally with each passing decade. Father Peter Budnik was St. Adalbert's first pastor, who established the parish school. St. Adalbert experienced significant growth under Father John Skrzypinski. As the acting pastor from 1911 to 1922, he expanded the service of St. Adalbert's to include a convent for the sisters of Nazareth, which housed the sisters for sixty years, an addition to the school, and the construction of a new rectory. Later, in 1950, Father Walter Pawlicki supervised the construction of the present church, which was completed in 1953.

The church and its members have remained steadfast in its promise to assist those friends less fortunate than they. The St. Hedwig's Society, a society for women, was founded in 1904. Among their philanthropic causes, they donated their time and energy to the church and the school, as well as to homes for the aged, and assisting relief funds for Polish orphans. In 1942, the Holy Name Society was established and was instrumental in providing morale to members overseas fighting on the battlegrounds in World War II. During the 1930's, the St. Adalbert Choir became associated with the Polish Singers Alliance of America. This choir, which was dedicated to the enrichment of Polish musical culture, was recognized as one of the most active singing groups in the alliance.

Father John Zemelko, the current pastor, has imparted this philosophical mustering to his congregation: "We live in a world that is coming together as a human family. There's no doubt that, if the world exists another 100 years, the human family will become more united than it is today. This of course, will be a reality if, and only if, the Church and other world religions continue to foster a respect and dignity of the culture of life." It is this respect and dignity of the culture of life that has sustained St. Adalbert for the past 100 years. As we ourselves advance into this brave new world heralded by the dawn of the twenty-first century, perhaps we might all reflect upon the

unity of the human family for whom Father Zemelko is so optimistic, and find opportunities to foster respect and dignity for all in our own lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me today in commending the parish family of St. Adalbert as they prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their founding. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of their love and their devotion for their church.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday March 6, 2002 I had the pleasure of spending my day with Patricia Buckley in celebration of International Women's Day on Friday March 8th. International Women's Day is a time to acknowledge achievements of women around the world and come together to appreciate our similarities and differences.

The Community Advocate Mentor Program (CAMP) is a program within the International Women's Democracy Center (IWDC) that was developed in partnership with the Ulster People's College in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was designed to strengthen the public policy, advocacy and lobbying skills of community-based leaders from Northern Ireland. Over a 5-year period, IWDC and UPC will train 100 women leaders from Northern Ireland how to effectively lobby their government and strengthen civil society.

Ms. Buckley is the mother of three daughters and a volunteer. She is the Vice Chair of the South Armagh (Northern Ireland) Rural Women's Network. The Network was formed to support women's community-based groups in South Armagh. Patricia traveled to the United States for the first time with a group of women from Northern Ireland. Her interest of helping women in rural areas with community development and adult education led to her involvement in the IWDC and CAMP, which sponsored the trip to the United States.

Patricia spent the entire day with my staff and me; traveling from meetings in the morning, committee hearings in the afternoon and receptions in the evening. She was able to get a sense of what a "typical" day is for a Member of Congress and experience the legislative process. Not only did she learn about my daily life, but I was able to take a step into hers as well. The amazing thing I learned from her is that women's issues—as broad as they are—are not unique to any area of the world. Women face the same problems in every community.

It was such an honor and a pleasure to host Patricia Buckley for a day. I am encouraged by her efforts and the efforts of the International Women's Democracy Center. Person to person, woman to woman, I am committed to working towards stronger communities. It is an inspiration when women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and economic differences, are able to come together to celebrate and learn from one another.

AFGHANISTAN'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL
PROGRAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Afghan Interim Administration for its steadfast work in officially reopening the schools in Afghanistan. On March 23, 2002, nearly 3,000 schools throughout Afghanistan opened their doors. The reopening of the schools began with the delivery of stationery for over 20,000 primary school aged children in addition to teacher kits, blackboards, and textbooks. The materials are essential tools in order to make the learning experience of the children a success. Because of the reopening, more than 1.5 million girls and boys were given hope and the opportunity to pursue their dreams and make a better lives for themselves and their families. This is the first time Afghan girls have legally been allowed to attend school since the Taliban came to power four years ago.

Today, the adult literacy in Afghanistan is forty-six percent for males and a dismal 16 percent for females. Enrollment in primary school is even more disturbing: fifty-three percent for males and just three percent for females. This remarkable event of reopening schools across the nation demonstrates the high priority the Afghan Interim leaders assign to the education of the Afghani people, to reversing these trends, and to the long-term commitment to improving the quality of life for the nation. The dedication to programs which focus on the education and development of Afghan children is essential if the nation is going to move forward and allow its people to make a better life for themselves.

Finally, let me commend UNICEF and the many other organizations providing critical support for the Back-to-School Campaign. Their commitment to working hand in hand with the Afghan Interim Administration has played a pivotal role in the success achieved thus far and will go a long way in ensuring that the children continue to benefit.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
STOVER, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to the city of Stover, Missouri, which will celebrate its 100th Birthday on November 13, 2003.

Stover, Missouri, was incorporated on November 13, 1903, as Newstover, after being settled by pioneer citizens, including those of the Lutheran, Methodist and Baptist faiths. These settlers came to the area, now known as Stover, because of the establishment of a railroad.

After Stover was established, numerous businesses were started and many have thrived. Fajen Lumber Company was established in 1905, Farmers Bank in the same

year, the Morgan County Press began in 1911 and the Stover Milling Company started in 1917. All of these businesses are still in operation and many are being run by the same family that founded them. Today there are 63 businesses licensed in the city of Stover.

The city government and citizens are planning various activities to commemorate this milestone. The Centennial Fair will be held June 19–21, 2003, the city is publishing a commemorative centennial book to highlight the city's history, and on November 13, 2003, the United States Postal Service will celebrate with a special cancellation at the Stover Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the citizens of Stover, Missouri, for this outstanding accomplishment. I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to a great American city.

PROMOTING SELF-RELIANCE FOR
THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE
ACT OF 2002

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with the distinguished gentleman from New York, AMO HOUGHTON, the "Promoting Self-Reliance for the World's Poorest People Act of 2002." This important legislation directs our limited foreign aid dollars to a proven and effective form of international development—microenterprise.

Microenterprise, the lending of very small loans to the world's poorest people that serve to start and expand small business, typically in amounts as low as \$100, is founded upon the principle of promoting opportunity and free enterprise for individuals who are subjected to abject poverty and harsh economic conditions. Furthermore, microenterprise is a foreign aid issue that garners wide bipartisan support. Over thirty Members already support this legislation. This is truly an issue where Republicans and Democrats can agree.

In a recent address at the United Nations' Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico, President Bush called for a renewed commitment to promoting opportunity and free enterprise as tools necessary to alleviate global poverty. The President stated, "Nations' most vital natural resources are found in the minds and skills and enterprise of their citizens. The greatness of a society is achieved by unleashing the greatness of its people. The poor of the world need resources to meet their needs, and like all people, they deserve institutions that encourage their dreams."

Now more than ever, Congress must rigorously support U.S. foreign aid programs that foster hope and opportunity to counter the fear and desperation that is exploited by terrorists among the masses of unemployed and impoverished people around the world. Because the war on terrorism will not be won by satellites and soldiers alone, our arsenal must also include humanitarian assistance that promotes freedom and opportunity for the world's poorest people. Microenterprise programs undeniably fulfill this role in the developing world.

Mr. Speaker, take for example the story of Violet Mutoto of Uganda. Violet, a mother of

four young children, lives and works out of her small house in the tiny hamlet of Mooni. Her mud dwelling contains no plumbing, yet she pays roughly eighteen dollars a month in rent. Out of the front of her home, Violet operates a rudimentary store. Since receiving her first loan of \$43 from the international development organization, Freedom from Hunger, Violet has been able to pay her rent and expand her stock of supplies in her store. Now she sells cooking oils, cheese, salt, sugar, malaria pills, and other items. The diversified stock of supplies has increased her business and has afforded her the opportunity to send her older children to school. After repaying her first loan, Violet was able to take out second and third loans to begin accumulating a savings account.

The Roemer/Houghton bipartisan legislation modestly increases funding for Microenterprise programs from \$155 million to \$200 million annually in the Foreign Operations budget. This four-year funding level would also ensure that our investment to the world's small business owners is well spent. Specifically, our bill calls for targeting at least half of all microenterprise resources to the world's poorest people. Our legislation defines the world's poorest people as those people in the poorest fifty percent of a country in relation to that country's official national poverty line and/or as those people who are living on the equivalent of less than one United States' dollar per day.

The Roemer/Houghton bipartisan legislation also calls for greater accountability measures that will ensure effective poverty-targeting assistance. With the implementation of poverty assessment measurements, Congress and microenterprise donors can be sure that poverty targeted funding is meeting its intended goal of reaching the world's poorest people.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I strongly encourage my colleagues to review and cosponsor the "Promoting Self-Reliance for the World's Poorest People Act of 2002." Congress must develop and support foreign aid programs that equip the world's poorest people with the tools to empower themselves. Microenterprise programs such as Freedom from Hunger provide these vital empowerment tools in the form of tiny microcredit loans. As the story of Violet Mutoto demonstrates, by devoting greater resources to effective humanitarian programs like micro enterprise, U.S. foreign aid can provide hope and empowerment to the world's poorest people and demonstrate that the United States is committed to spreading the rewards that can grow in a free-enterprise system.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NA-
TIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EM-
PLOYER SUPPORT OF THE
GUARD AND RESERVE

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)—its 4,200 volunteers and Department of Defense (DOD) staff—in celebrating 30 years of service to this Nation.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was

established in 1972, the year the United States ended the Selective Service System and established an all-volunteer military force. DOD realized that support from employers and communities would be instrumental in maintaining Reserve component membership. ESGR was created to obtain employer and community support for the National Guard and Reserve and to promote the role of Reserve forces in the national defense.

ESGR has lived up to the task and accomplished much more. Since 1972, with the help of the Advertising Council, Inc., ESGR has benefited from nearly \$1 billion in pro bono advertising reaching the six million employers with one or more employees in the United States.

Employers have, in turn, signed ESGR Statements of Support, publicly committing to support the National Guard and Reserve. The former Chairman of the Board and CEO of General Motors, Mr. James H. Roche signed the first Statement of Support in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on December 13, 1972. The next day, President Richard Nixon signed a Statement of Support covering all Federal civilian employees. Since the inception of this program, Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and President George W. Bush have all signed Statements of Support, along with hundreds of thousands of employers, including Dell Computer Corporation, Xerox, the Society for Human Resource Management and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. To date, over 300,000 employers have signed statements of support. Additionally, the strategic alliance formed in 1998 between ESGR and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce resulted in more than 1,200 chambers of commerce nationwide signing a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR offers Ombudsman services designed to provide information to employers and Reservists regarding their rights and responsibilities under the law, and to resolve conflicts through informal mediation. These services operate in cooperation with the Department of Labor. ESGR volunteers in 54 U.S. states and territories contribute thousands of hours of effort representing millions of dollars of volunteer service in support of ESGR programs, its services, and the men and women of our nation's Reserve forces.

Mr. Speaker, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is smart government in action. The small ESGR staff in Arlington, VA, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, provides guidance and support to a network of 4,200 volunteer business, civic, and community leaders.

ESGR educates employers on their rights and obligations under the law and recognize employers who actively support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. ESGR also educates members of the National Guard and Reserve in regards to their rights and responsibilities to the value of their employers support. Committees can be found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

With the end of the cold war, the Reserve components have been called with increasing frequency. During the Gulf War in 1990–1991, more than 250,000 Reserve component members were called to active duty to support military operations in the Persian Gulf. Since the start of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring