

years, including those of his baseball team and his classmates. To honor his memory, the City of Craig has recently dedicated a baseball field in remembrance of Jake.

Jake was known for giving 110 percent to everything that he did and held an optimistic spirit and enthusiasm for life. Jake touched everyone he encountered. The witnesses at the dedication ceremony were moved by their memories of the boy who never gave up in the face of insurmountable odds or defeat. On his baseball team, Jake was a key member on and off the field. He was the spirit of the team and was a constant cheering force for his teammates. He is fondly remembered by the Craig community and is deeply missed by his loving parents, family, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Craig will remember Jake as a boy whose short life was filled with joy and inspiration every time a team takes his field. This dedication will keep Jake's enthusiasm for life alive in the hearts of those he touched, and I am honored to be able to bring the enthusiasm and optimism of Jake Satterwhite to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. While his family and friends continue to mourn his loss, I am confident his memory will live on through this wonderful baseball field.

MINNESOTA REP. DARLENE
LUTHER'S LASTING LEGACY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, we have all learned in the last eight months how fragile life can be, and how nobility and grace can rise from tragedy and sadness.

We have all mourned recently with our colleague Bill Luther the loss of his beloved wife, Darlene, who was a distinguished member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, as well as a loving wife and mother of Alex and Alicia Luther.

Mr. Speaker, I was profoundly moved by a recent story from the Fergus Falls Journal which reflects the great love Darlene and Bill shared for each other, as well as others.

The story, by Mary Mahoney, also speaks volumes about the enduring power of human kindness.

Because I would like to share this beautiful story of love, sacrifice and the enduring bond of friendship, I respectfully submit for the record the enclosed article from the Fergus Falls Journal of February 7, 2002, entitled "Family's gift of life leaves enduring bond," by Mary Mahoney.

More than 25 years before his unexpected death, Gary Bradow told his wife Norma that he wanted his organs donated.

"I told him that if he went first, I didn't know if I could do it," Norma said from her Fergus Falls home. "Gary told me I could, that I would just know it was right."

But nothing could have prepared Norma for the awful day that Gary died. A malformed artery in his brain caused a fatal stroke in March 1998 at the age of 57. Norma was faced with the one decision she didn't want to make.

"People think of 'harvesting' organs as an awful thing," she said. "But I realized we were farmers; harvesting is a wonderful thing for

farmers. And in the case of donating Gary's organs, 'harvesting' was wonderful too."

A man in Wisconsin received a kidney. A 63-year-old widow got another kidney. Two others received his eyes.

And State Rep. Darlene Luther was the recipient of Gary's liver, literally occurring hours before she would have died.

A simple thank-you letter written to Norma six months after the transplant established a bond that couldn't be broken—even after Darlene's death on Jan. 30.

"I don't think of myself as one but as two persons," she wrote, signing only her first name.

With those words, Norma knew she had to connect with this woman who had reached out to her.

"Her letter touched my heart in a way I just can't describe and I immediately called LifeSource and said I had to meet her," Norma said. "It took awhile, but two weeks before Christmas 1998, both of them (Darlene and her husband U.S. Representative Bill Luther) were here."

In the four years since Darlene's transplant, the Bradow family became dear and special friends with the Luthers, visiting often and corresponding frequently. Darlene even flew out to Seattle one day to have lunch with Norma and her daughter Pam, who lives in Seattle, and flew back the same afternoon.

"The bond we had was completely beyond words," Norma said. "She was such a kind and generous lady."

Another twist of fate connected the families as well. Bill, who grew up on a dairy farm near Fergus Falls and has relatives in the area, had briefly known Gary before his death.

"I knew of them and had spoken with Gary before all of this happened," Bill said. "And the odds that my wife would receive a liver transplant from a man from my hometown—it's just amazing the way life can bond people together."

To Darlene, it was a sign that more needed to be done to increase awareness of organ donation. She felt she was the perfect person to educate people about the benefits of organ donation as a state representative, and helped enact legislation providing funding for a mobile education unit for LifeSource, the organ donation procurement organization that helped secure her liver.

"She (Darlene) did such a great amount of work, getting families to talk about organ donation," said LifeSource Public Relations manager Susan Mau Larson. "She was a living statement of the wondrous good provided by organ donation."

The mobile unit is similar to a bookmobile, with displays and kiosks about organ donation. In late December, LifeSource presented a plaque that will hang in the mobile unit, thanking Darlene for all the work she's done for organ procurement.

Last week, a bill passed through the House of Representatives—named in honor of Darlene—making a person's organ donation wishes a binding contract, meaning a family member cannot override the decision. The Senate will begin its process on the bill today, Mau Larson said.

But despite the positive work Darlene provided, tragedy struck the Luthers—and the Bradows—once again.

"Darlene called me in late October to let me know she had stomach cancer," Norma said.

"The anti-rejection drugs masked the cancer and by the time they found out, it was inoperable."

It was then that the friendship shifted and Norma began helping Darlene the way she had been helped after her husband's death.

"I wrote her weekly notes, little inspirational things to encourage her," she said. "Her inner peace was phenomenal; she was such an inspiration to me—and I was trying to help her."

When Bill called Norma the morning after Darlene died, she said the news was heart-wrenching enough. But what came next practically took her breath away.

"Darlene had requested she be buried in Fergus Falls, where she could be near us," Norma said. "I burst into tears when Bill said that."

For Bill and his children Alex and Alicia, it was a natural decision.

"We were so appreciative of those four years Darlene received because of the transplant," Bill said. "The Bradows are part of our family."

He insisted that Norma ride in the lead car during the burial procession and that Gary's family, including his mother, Emma and daughters Tara and Debra, take part in the service held Wednesday afternoon at Oak Grove Cemetery.

"That's what they mean to us," Bill said. "And it's what Darlene would have wanted."

TRIBUTE TO MR. IRA JUNIOR
ANDERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage and dedication of Mr. Ira Junior Anderson.

Mr. Anderson is a Korean war veteran who was recently recognized for his service and issued the Bronze Star Medal. Mr. Anderson will be honored on May 19, 2002 at Hardin-Central High School where he will also be receiving his honorary high school diploma. I feel honored to have Mr. Anderson living in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Mr. Anderson's family members and friends should take pride in what he has done for this country to keep it free and strong.

I commend Mr. Anderson for his courage and dedication and for allowing so many people to celebrate with him during this time. Mr. Anderson and other veterans like him have endured hardships and pain that most of us will never know. I again thank Mr. Anderson for his service and dedication to this great country. He makes the sixth district and all Americans very proud.

HONORING MS. JANET C. WOLF ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE NATIONAL
PARK SERVICE

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride and accolade that I rise today to

honor Janet Wolf, upon her retirement from the National Park Service. Ms. Wolf has distinguished herself with great determination and creativity during her 34 years of service.

Thirty-four years ago, Ms. Wolf began her career as an urban intake employee in Washington, D.C. She has served at numerous sites across the country including: the Catoctin Mountain Park, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Headquarters, the Fort McHenry National Monument and as Superintendent of the Fort Frederica National Monument and the Morristown National Historical Park. In addition, after spearheading the planning and implementation efforts to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Ms. Wolf had the distinction of serving as its first Superintendent.

For the past fourteen years she has prevailed with expertise as Project Director for the National Park Service's New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail. It is in this capacity that I came to know Ms. Wolf. I can attest to the fact that she has labored tirelessly to shepherd this project from concept to reality.

Established in 1988, the Trail has highlighted the natural beauty of over eight counties and six Congressional districts in New Jersey. Since its inception, the Trail has blossomed to its current size boasting over seventy destinations, welcome centers, and local information centers. All sites manifest a theme: Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Migration, Historic Settlements, and Relaxation and Inspiration. The Trail has prospered in part from numerous local partners including: the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism, and the Pinelands Commission. These partnerships have been successful due to Ms. Wolf's perseverance, experience, and creativity. As a testament to her outstanding work, Ms. Wolf has received countless recognitions, including a Citation for Meritorious Service from the Secretary of Interior.

Ms. Wolf's contributions also extend well beyond her role as Program Manager for the Trail. She has been an active participant in the local community, serving on numerous boards, committees and local foundations.

Mr. Speaker, Janet Wolf's contributions to the National Park Service are indeed numerous and noteworthy. By preserving our nation's environmental heritage, she has left a legacy with benefits too countless to number. Her indefatigable work on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail is portrayed in the eyes of a child upon seeing the ocean for the first time, or in the serenity brought in the solitude and wonder of New Jersey's forests, diverse wildlife, and coastal habitats.

For her many years of dedication and diligent efforts on behalf of our nation's parks, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her good health and a very joyous retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL ECKE, JR.

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of my friend, Paul Ecke Jr. who passed away on Monday morning after a long illness. Paul was a devoted husband and father, a

leader in the San Diego Community, and a force in the poinsettia industry. While his leadership in the poinsettia business made him an international figure; it was his warm heart and caring personality that made him a community leader, and a friend.

Since I came to Congress, Paul and I have worked together on issues important to our community of San Diego, and to the flower industry worldwide. Paul's boundless leadership and generosity was evident in his support of local charities like the Magdalena Ecke YMCA, the San Diego Museum of Natural History, California State University San Marcos, and the Del Mar Fair Grounds. In addition, Paul's industry has given America and the world the poinsettia for holidays. Nearly 80% of the world's poinsettias are licensed to the Ecke Ranch, and the popularity of this wonderful plant can be traced to Paul's hard work and efforts to grow the poinsettia as an indoor potted plant, and to make the plant suitable for mass production.

I will never forget the first time that I met Paul. He came to meet me in my home when I was a candidate for the U.S. Congress. He walked into my living room, picked up a basket of silk flowers from the coffee table, and immediately threw it into the garbage. He told me that he would replace it with "something better" and later that day sent me an arrangement of fresh flowers. Paul was a man who noticed every detail, never hesitated to tell you what he was thinking, and who always followed through with his promises.

Paul's life exemplified commitment and service to his community, and he leaves behind a legacy for his family, friends, and fellow Americans. Earlier this week, Paul's family released a statement that read, "In tribute to Paul's legendary support of the floral industry, we suggest that you send flowers today to someone you love." I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Paul's legacy by sending flowers to their loved ones.

I have attached an editorial from our local paper paying tribute to Paul and his works. I could share countless stories, but words are insufficient to convey the extent of his kind heart, ambition, and lifetime of effort to improve our community.

PAUL ECKE JR. SUCCEUMBS TO CANCER

(By Adam Kaye)

ENCINITAS.—Paul Ecke Jr., who expanded both his family's worldwide leadership in the poinsettia growing business and its emphasis on local philanthropy, died Monday at 76 from cancer.

Ecke Jr., who was president of Paul Ecke Ranch from 1963 until turning it over to his son in 1991, assembled the scientists and salesmen that perfected the mass production of poinsettias first developed by his father. Today, an estimated 80 percent of the poinsettias sold each year worldwide got their start, in some form, from the Paul Ecke Ranch.

Together with poinsettias, Ecke Jr. leaves a legacy of philanthropy.

His generosity extended to the Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA, named after Ecke Jr.'s mother, to the Del Mar Fairgrounds, local schools, Planned Parenthood and the Republican Party. Ecke Jr. also was instrumental in saving the landmark Carlsbad Flower Fields from being wiped out in the early 1990s.

"Paul Ecke Jr. was a model of what it means not only to be successful in business but also a good citizen who was almost

unique in how much he gave back to the community and in particular the community's youth," said Assemblyman Mark Wyland, who serves on the Ecke Family YMCA board of directors. "San Diego County owes Paul Ecke a great debt of gratitude, and he will be sorely missed."

Ecke Jr. inherited the family poinsettia business his father, Paul Ecke Sr., started in Encinitas in 1923. The business launched Encinitas as a flower-growing hub and made the family a lowkey royalty.

Ecke Sr., who died in 1991, developed the first poinsettia cultivar from a wildflower native to Mexico, so that it could be successfully grown as an indoor potted plant. Over the years, the family marketed the plant so it became synonymous with the Christmas holidays. In 1963, when Ecke Jr. became president of the family company, production shifted to small cuttings in greenhouses. The company now employs 300 people in Encinitas and 1,000 in Mexico and also has an office in Denmark to handle European distribution.

LOCAL WORKS

Ecke Jr. left his mark in North County in numerous ways, friends and colleagues said Monday. Just down the street from the Ecke Ranch on Saxony Road is Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA, which began as a 5-acre gift from the Ecke family in 1968. Twelve years later, the Ecke family added 15 acres more.

Today it is one of North County's premier recreation centers, with the region's largest skateboard park, only public BMX course, gymnasiums, ballfields and pools for competitive swimming and diving. Much of the facility's growth is due to Ecke Jr.'s prodigious fund-raising efforts, said executive director Susan Hight.

A member of the YMCA's board of directors for many years, Ecke Jr.'s signature fund-raiser was the holiday Poinsettia Ball. The annual benefit would raise about \$75,000 a year for scholarships for children from low-income families to use the YMCA, Hight said.

His "attention to detail" at the facility would prompt Ecke to visit regularly, to check on the landscaping, pick up trash, and eat a sack lunch while watching the children play, she said. "He truly treasured the Y," Hight said. "And he will be sorely missed. We came to love him, respect him and treasure him."

From 1992 to 2000, Ecke Jr. was a member of the Del Mar fair board. During his tenure, the fair's flower show expanded to a nationally recognized event.

"Paul's expectations were always a little higher," said Chana Mannen, the fairgrounds' exhibit manager. "He didn't stand for anything that wasn't great."

Ecke Jr. brought to the fairgrounds a penchant for cleanliness and fresh paint. He ordered colorful landscaping for the grounds. And even when he was in his 70s, he rode the scariest rides at the fair. One of his favorites was the heart-stopping 120-foot tall bungee jump.

"He decided he'd go on it every night of the fair," said Andy Mauro, a former fairgrounds administrator. "And true to form, he took great delight in involving us all. At some point during that fair we each had to swallow our fears and brave that bungee jump with Paul. None of us would have done it without him, but we all remember our accomplishment with great pride. Paul inspired those around him to reach a little further."

LEGACY OF INTEGRITY

Ecke Jr.'s son, Paul Ecke III, runs the family business today.

The motto in the Ecke house was, "We never give up," Ecke III said.