

Not only is the event to be recognized for its contributions to local charities, but also for its promotion of community spirit and vitality. This event brings people from all backgrounds in the community together in support of local organizations. Wisconsinites are given the chance to interact with "celebrity" cashiers. Every year as a cashier I truly enjoy gathering with my constituents at Brat Fest, serving up brats, and making sure no one leaves hungry.

This form of positive community building is commendable and deserves recognition. I look forward to future Memorial Day Brat Fests and the service that they provide for the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
PETER RODINO ON HIS BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor my predecessor and one of the most outstanding members ever to serve in this body, the Honorable Peter Rodino, as he celebrates his 94th birthday on June 7th.

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from the 93rd through the 100th Congress, former Representative Rodino set a standard for excellence which earned him a national reputation. While he is best known for presiding over the Watergate hearings with fairness, decorum, and a respect for history, he also had many other legislative accomplishments during his 40 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. He managed the historic 1966 Civil Rights Bill on the floor of the House. He was the author of the 1982 Voting Rights Act Extension and a leader in the successful effort to make Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday.

Chairman Rodino has been honored with numerous international, national and local awards, including Pope John Paul II's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award; the Democratic Council on Ethnic Americans' Democratic Ethnic Heritage Award for Leadership, and the Rutgers University Award. He has received honorary degrees from more than 15 colleges and universities, including Seton Hall, Princeton, Rutgers and Fairleigh Dickinson. He joined the Seton Hall Law School faculty in 1988.

Along with many others, as a youngster growing up and as a college student, I was inspired by Peter Rodino to enter public service. Many of us followed his work in Congress with great pride and admiration for his integrity and willingness to stand up for what was right. I was proud that he served as Chairman of a reception held in my honor during my reelection campaign for county office in 1976 at my alma mater, Seton Hall University.

It has been a privilege for me to serve in the Congressional seat once held by Representative Rodino. I am always aware that I have big shoes to fill in replacing such a legendary public servant.

I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in sending best wishes for continued health and happiness to Chairman Rodino on his birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE CARLIN

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Joanne Carlin, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, who died on May 14 after a courageous battle against cancer.

Joanne's giving spirit was shaped by her experiences growing up in Cleveland's Tremont area. A product of St. Augustine Catholic School, she eventually moved to Garfield Heights, where she graduated from high school.

Joanne owned and operated a beauty salon on Cleveland's west side. Her former customers praised her as a loyal and generous person.

She later sold her business and moved to Medina County to become a full-time homemaker. An excellent cook, Joanne enriched the lives of her family and friends as the consummate hostess during family gatherings and holidays.

Our hearts go out to her husband and best friend, James; her four stepchildren and three stepgrandchildren; and legions of family and friends who recall the memories of these gatherings and the tremendous influence Joanne had in their lives.

HONORING THE GREECE LITTLE
LEAGUE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the Greece Little League of Greece, New York, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Baseball has been America's pastime for over a century: a source of recreation and enjoyment for young and old alike.

Fifty years ago, the Greece Little League was created to serve young boys and girls in the Greece community. Today, the League serves 1,200 children and 1,000 families, and has extended its services to include softball and the Challenger Program, which allows physically and mentally challenged children to compete. The league provides a positive environment and a tremendous recreational opportunity for children of all ages and abilities.

Over the last half-century, America's pastime has been shared and enjoyed by many in the Town of Greece, thanks to the Greece Little League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting the Greece Little League as it marks its 50th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ERIE MAE BENDROSS:
THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Ms. Erie Mae Bendross, a compassionate, caring and tireless community activist who passed away last Saturday, May 31st.

Ms. Bendross was a native of Miami and long-time resident of the Liberty City and Wynwood neighborhoods. She attended Tuskegee University in Alabama and worked as a dietician in many area hospitals. She was also a devoted choir member at St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church. But it was in community action where her talents truly shown.

Erie Mae Bendross leaves behind a legacy of achievement and inspiration, for she is an example of what caring and commitment can accomplish. Only three years ago, Ms. Bendross joined the community-based organization LIFFT, Low Income Families Fighting Together, a grassroots organization of public housing residents, low-wage workers and welfare recipients. She quickly became a leader of the organization.

As a resident of the Liberty Square public housing development, she first became active in the fight to ensure affordable and decent housing opportunities for all people, regardless of their incomes.

Ms. Bendross firmly believed in the power of organization. In 2001, Bendross played a key role in saving Liberty Square Homes, or the Pork and Beans, from demolition and the displacement of hundreds of families. Her organization also exposed the county's public housing vacancies crisis as well as improved the living conditions of elderly public housing developments. Most importantly, she played a key role in developing other leaders in the community to build the organization and continue the struggle against racism and poverty.

Ms. Bendross dedicated herself to the fight against poverty and discrimination locally, nationally and internationally. Through her work in LIFFT and in association with several other organizations, including the Community Coalition to Fix HOPE VI, including the ACLU of Miami, NAACP, African American Council of Christian Clergy, Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board and other civil rights organizations. As a LIFFT leader, she supported the work of the Haitian Women of Miami, Miami for Peace Coalition, Coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers, Brothers of the Same Mind, and countless other social justice movements in the county.

Nationally, Ms. Bendross worked with other low-income, community-based grassroots organizations and leaders in California and Washington, DC on issues of fair trade, jobs and income supports for low-wage workers, opposing the war, fighting budget cuts, and the unethical treatment of workers. Her work on low income housing was widely recognized. Internationally, in January, Ms. Bendross represented LIFFT as part of the United States delegation to World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Our community is better for the efforts of Erie Mae Bendross. She is survived by her mother, Martha Bendross, her brother, Willie

Bendross, and her son and daughter-in-law Eric and Angela Bendross. They have our deepest sympathy, and our hearts go out to them for their loss.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR.
VICTOR J. CONNORS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Dr. Victor J. Connors from Middleton, WI. On June 21, 2003, in San Diego, CA, optometrists from around the Nation will elect my constituent, Dr. Connors, as the 82nd president of the American Optometric Association. Dr. Connors' enthusiasm and contributions to his profession have earned him this prominent recognition.

Dr. Connors has an impressive record in his profession at the local, State and national level demonstrating his leadership in the field of optometry. He served as president of the Wisconsin Optometric Association in 1987 and was recognized as our State's Optometrist of the Year in 1990. Dr. Connors has also served as the president of the North Central States Optometric Council and was elected to the American Optometric Association's board of trustees in 1997.

In addition to his extraordinary leadership in his profession, Dr. Connors has been an energetic leader in many civic organizations. He has served as president of the Middleton Optimist Club, chairman of the Middleton Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission, chairman of the Middleton Police Commission, president of the Middleton Area Development Corporation, president of the Middleton Chamber of Commerce, president of the Middleton Good Neighbor Festival and president of the church council at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Middleton.

Dr. Victor J. Connors' vast achievements and commitment to public service have led him to develop a distinguished record of leadership in his profession and his community. It is evident that his dedication and motivation will allow him to have a successful term as president of the American Optometric Association. I join his many friends, colleagues and his wife, Becky, and children, Sara, Colleen and Colin in congratulating him and wishing well as the new president of the American Optometric Association.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2286, THE
WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT
ACT OF 2003

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tout "No Child Left Behind" when in actuality they deliberately choose to leave millions of children behind. Last week, President Bush signed a new law

that would provide tax cuts of \$93,500 to the 200,000 taxpayers making over \$1 million. Fifty three percent of all taxpayers would get less than \$100 under the GOP law. Here is another example of the Administration choosing the wealthiest over America's working families.

What is even more egregious is that the Administration chose not to provide or increase the child tax credit to working families making between \$10,500 to \$26,625 per year. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in the Senate dropped a provision, added by Senator LINCOLN, that would have helped nearly 12 million children and their families get a tax credit. Out of that 12 million, a staggering 8 million receive no child tax credit under the GOP law.

Mr. Speaker, their plan in no way, shape or form protects the children that need it the most. Instead, their plan deliberately excludes these children. In actuality, the Republican plan should be called the "Plan to Leave Children Behind."

This is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2286, the Rangel-Davis-DeLauro bill. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill. This is a great start to repairing the damage inflicted by the Administration's reckless and negligent tax package. H.R. 2286 would restore the child tax credit to families making minimum wage by providing greater tax relief to working families. Nineteen million children and their families will benefit from this bill. In fact, over 2 million children in my home state of Texas would benefit under Rangel plan.

In addition to the child tax credit, H.R. 2286 would create more jobs. The provisions in this bill are key elements of the House Jobs and Economic Growth package and will create more than 1 million jobs without adding one penny to the deficit. Lastly, this bill has key elements that would ensure our brave men and women in uniform are not denied tax relief just because they are on active duty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2286—this tax plan is fair—it helps: America's economy, America's men and women in uniform and America's working families. Most importantly, this child tax credit helps America's children by leaving no child behind.

THE INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today I am reintroducing the Inclusive Home Design Act. I want to thank my colleagues BARBARA LEE and LOUISE SLAUGHTER for joining me today as original cosponsors of this legislation. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us. I also want to thank my friend Marca Bristow of Access Living for her dedication and outstanding leadership. Finally, I want to offer my gratitude to all of the architects and community leaders who worked with me to craft this legislation. The Inclusive Home Design Act will greatly increase the number of homes that are accessible to people with dis-

abilities. It is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America and countless other national and local disabilities rights organizations.

The Inclusive Home Design Act requires all newly-built single family homes receiving federal funds to meet three specific standards: an accessible route, or "zero step," into the home, "32" clearance doorways on the main level, and one wheel chair accessible bathroom. These nationally mandated standards for homes built with federal dollars will close a major loophole in our current housing laws.

Under current law, 95 percent of federally supported homes do not have to meet any accessibility standard. This creates unnecessary barriers for disabled veterans and other people with mobility impairments. It defies logic to build new homes that block people out when it's so easy and cheap to build new homes that let people in. Many states and localities have already incorporated visitability standards. This list includes Naperville, Bollingbrook, and Champagne, Illinois, Atlanta, Vermont, Texas, Kansas, Arizona and others. Also the United Kingdom passed a law in March 1998 mandating that every new home become accessible. A federal law will build on the momentum that has already been created here and abroad.

The proposed legislation is based on the concept of Visitability, an affordable, sustainable and inclusive design approach for integrating basic accessibility features into all newly built homes and housing. Architects and builders will have latitude in how they comply with the act. For example, the zero step entrance can be placed at the front, side, or back of the home. The accessible route can even go through an attached garage.

When homes are accessible, it benefits not only today's disability community, but also all of us who are friends and family members of people with disabilities. Often, the prohibitive cost of making an existing home accessible deprives seniors of their independence and pushes them into nursing homes. It generally costs thousands of dollars for a homeowner to retrofit their home. However, on average experts estimate that it only costs \$300 to \$400 to add visitability features into a new home. In addition, the zero step entrance requirements can be waived if the terrain makes compliance impractical.

By making new homes accessible, we guarantee that many seniors can age at home instead of moving into expensive assisted living facilities. This will save taxpayer money and it will help improve the quality of life of our senior citizens. As the population becomes older, this will become more important. Fifty-eight percent of people over eighty years old suffer from physical impairments. In 2000, there were 30.5 million people between 65–84 years old. This number will grow to 47 million by 2020. Today, over 4.3 million individuals are over 85. By 2020, this number is projected to grow to 6.8 million. There is no question that the Inclusive Home Design Act will enable many of our seniors to remain at home.

Homes that meet visitability standards are essential for people with disabilities and sensible because 3 out of 10 people will face a disability before they are 67, practical, and cost effective. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation, the Inclusive Home Design Act, into law.