

the Lions Club. Mr. Paul will continue many of his memberships and serve his community in numerous capacities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Dalton Paul for his noteworthy career and his impressive accomplishments at the Franklin County Career and Technology Center. His students, colleagues, and community will greatly miss his experience and leadership in the areas of vocational education. I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MS. AMANDA BENNETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ms. Amanda Bennett, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part as a volunteer for synergy services' S.T.O.P. (Synergy Teen Outreach Program) Group.

Amanda was one of the founding members of S.T.O.P. who eagerly volunteered to be a part of Synergy's Youth Development Leadership Program. As a part of this important program, Amanda and other high school students have learned about Synergy's Mission to stop domestic violence and abuse and to help those that are in shelters. Among her many activities with the organization, Amanda has organized cookie decorating nights for the Children's Center, free haircuts for teens at the emergency shelter, and taking small children from the shelter to toy stores and dinner. Her accomplishments have had a profound effect on those who are in great need.

Most recently, Amanda received the National Network Youth Leadership Award. As the only youth to receive this prestigious award at the National Symposium Conference, I would like to commend Amanda on her sincere dedication to Synergy Services'. She is an excellent example of someone who is using their passion, motivation and skills to make their community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ms. Amanda Bennett for her many important contributions to Synergy Services, her community and the 6th District of Missouri.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT**

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I submitted the Yosemite National Park Education Improvement Act in the House of Representatives. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Interior to make available supplemental funding to assist local school districts in providing educational services for students attending three schools located within Yosemite National Park.

Since the devastating 1997 Merced River flood, there has been a dramatic reduction in

the number of employees in Yosemite National Park, and thus fewer school children attending these schools. With fewer and fewer children attending these schools, state dollars are reduced. The result is that the Park is attracting less than qualified candidates to work in the Park because families are not provided with adequate schools.

Furthermore, other existing federal funding sources are inadequate to meet the needs of the schools. PILT, payment in lieu of taxes, is available in both Mariposa and Madera counties where these schools exist and Impact Aid is accessible in Madera County, but—pursuant to current law—very few dollars actually are used to fund the classroom needs.

The situation is so bad for the schools that both the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park and the President of the Park concessionaire have pulled their children from the schools.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think we should stand by and permit children of Park Service and concessionaire employees from being deprived of their education simply because their parents have been asked by our government to work in Yosemite National Park. Precedence for assistance to schools located in national parks does exist. Yellowstone National Park had such a program established in the 1940's to ensure children of Park employees receive a quality education.

In addition to the language for Yosemite schools, the bill includes a provision to authorize the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System, YARTS, facility outside of Yosemite National Park. This noncontroversial provision was added to the bill last Congress prior to passage in the in the Senate.

In closing, I believe the best long-term approach to the Yosemite schools' funding problems is the legislation I have proposed. The bill was approved by this body during the 107th Congress, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 108th Congress to once again approve the measure.

TRIBUTE TO GWENN KLINGLER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Representative Gwenn Klingler a resident of Springfield; she is married to Dr. Gerald Klingler and has two grown, married children and one grandson; she graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and later received a master's degree in biology from the University of Michigan; she went on to receive a law degree with honors from George Washington University.

Representative Klingler served as an alderman on the Springfield City Council from 1991 to 1995 where she was chairman of the Public Safety Committee; she was twice elected to the Springfield District 186 School Board where she served from 1987 to 1991; she served as Board President in 1988.

Since first being elected to the House of Representatives in 1994, Representative Klingler has been regarded as a child's advocate; in 1998, she received the Daycare Action Award; she helped to pass the Foster Parents Bill of Rights; she has served as the

Spokesperson for the Children and Youth Committee of the House of Representatives; she was chief sponsor of the Sex Offender Registration bill and Public Act 92-137 ("Heather's Law") as well as House Resolution 63, which created the Illinois After School Initiative; she donated legislative scholarships to DCFS for foster children who are wards of the court.

Representative Klingler worked hard for State employees; she cosponsored the Early Retirement Plan for State Employees, which enabled State employees to retire as early as 50 years old, saving jobs and State money.

Representative Klingler consistently worked to bring State money to the 100th district; she sponsored the Springfield Medical District bill, which established a commission to create a master plan to redevelop the medical district neighborhood and expand existing healthcare facilities as well as attract new facilities.

Representative Klingler was instrumental in securing funding for a new classroom at the University of Illinois at Springfield; she was a major supporter of the construction process of the new Lincoln Presidential Library.

Representative Klingler has received community honors in recognition of her work; she received the Charlotte Danstron Award from Women-In-Management for the Women of Achievement in Government Award in 1994, and in 1996 received the Distinguished Leadership Award from Leadership Springfield that is sponsored by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce; she received the 1999 Legislative Leadership Award from the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association; further, she received the 1999 Goodwill, SPARC, and National Association for the Mentally Ill Award, the 2001 Anti-Hunger Advocate Award, and the 2002 Illinois Women in Government Award.

Representative Klingler remains active in the community and serves on a number of Springfield area community committees; she is a member of the Human Values and Ethics Committee at Memorial Hospital, the Chancellor's Advisory Committee at the University of Illinois at Springfield, and the Central Illinois Blood Bank Board; she is a member of The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Women-In-Management, Springfield Rotary International, and the Sangamon County Medical Alliance.

We congratulate Representative Gwenn Klingler on a job well done and wish her and her family well in all of their future endeavors.

**IN HONOR OF BISHOP BERTHA
MABLE MASSEY**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bishop Bertha Mable Massey, resident Of Cleveland, on the joyous occasion of the celebration of her 106th birthday.

For over a century, Bishop Massey has devoted her life to her family, her faith, and her community. Well ahead of her time, Bishop Massey paved the way for women within the hierarchy of organized religion. She is the presiding Bishop of The House of God, and has jurisdiction over two states—Ohio and New Jersey.

While committing herself to helping others in rural and urban America, Bishop Massey also kept focused on her studies. At Trinity College in Springfield, IL, Bishop Massey earned her Doctorate degree. In 1976, Bishop Massey was appointed presiding Bishop over New Jersey and Ohio. Her passion for spirituality, faith, history and community has not faltered with the passing years. Rather, her devotion has grown stronger.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bishop Bertha Mable Massey—a remarkable woman, leader, and spiritual guide. Bishop Massey's work and service continues to give hope, faith, wisdom and comfort to countless individuals and families, and serves to uplift our entire Cleveland community. Together we wish Bishop Bertha Mable Massey a wonderful 106th Birthday, and many more to come.

HONORING MARY HARRIS FOR
HER THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mary Harris, who recently retired from Greater Boston Catholic Charities. In her 31 years of service Ms. Harris worked tirelessly to better the lives of those around her.

During her tenure at Catholic Charities, Ms. Harris worked with children in day care, foster care and adoption. She also worked with families wishing to adopt and families interested in foster care. For the past 12 years she served as the Director of the Eastern Middlesex County Foster Grandparent Program. This program has a multitude of benefits for both seniors and children. Seniors volunteer in schools and daycare centers, help with fundraisers, promote the Foster Grandparent Program, and learn about children from a variety of educators. Seniors also gain the knowledge that they are needed and can make a difference in the lives of children. The children get the privilege of having more people in their lives who care about them and are exposed to different perspectives and wisdom.

Ms. Harris has not only administered the program, but also shown the participants how much she values them. She makes sure that ill Foster Grandparents are taken care of, helping however she can. She often helps with shopping and getting medications.

Running the Foster Grandparent Program is not all Ms. Harris does for her community. She also manages the St. Gerard Thrift Store in Somerville and worked to make the holiday season more pleasant for families in need. She worked with the Christ Child Society to purchase over 100 jackets for children. She also helped to put together food baskets for needy families and distributed Christmas toys.

A lifelong resident of Cambridge and Somerville, Mary Harris is a true credit to her community and to the 8th District. Her work has improved the lives of both young and old. Her dedication is worthy of praise and her works of heartfelt appreciation. People like Ms. Harris are examples to others and proof that one

person can make a difference. I wish her a relaxing and fulfilling retirement.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BARBARA
BLACKFORD FOR HER DEDICATED
SERVICE TO CRAWFORD
COUNTY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding lady from Ohio. Barbara Blackford was born in Crawford County and has lived there all her life. She was raised on a farm in Liberty Township and graduated from Sulphur Springs High School.

Barbara worked in the accounting department of the Shelby Depot, at the Bucyrus Telegraph Forum, and at the Crawford County Board of Elections before becoming a county commissioner.

As a county commissioner, Barb served on the CCAO Legislation Committee and the Ag and Rural Affairs Committee. Locally, Barb represented the commissioners on the Regional Planning Commission, the Erie Basin Resources Conservation & Development Committee, the Community Improvement Corporation, was an alternate for issue 11, served on the Personnel Committee, the Microfilm Board, and was on the MARC Board of Governors.

Barbara did an outstanding job as a Crawford Community Commissioner. She has always enjoyed the small town atmosphere and has always respected and appreciated working with the people of Crawford County. Barbara practiced an open door policy and believed that local government should always be there to serve and to keep the best interests of its constituency in mind. Barbara Blackford did just that.

Barbara is a devoted mother of four children and the proud grandmother of six grandchildren. She and her husband, Lloyd, attend the St. Paul Lutheran Church in North Robinson, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Blackford will leave big shoes to fill as she leaves her post as Crawford County Commissioner. Her wisdom, honesty and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. She has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before one's own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Barbara Blackford. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Barbara, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Barbara, her husband, Lloyd, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our State's finest citizens.

TRIBUTE TO JOE WARNER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Joe Warner, who trag-

ically passed away in a plane crash shortly after takeoff from Central Illinois Regional Airport on July 22.

Many of our Nation's greatest servants have never been elected to public office. They silently and humbly transform communities out of the kindness of their hearts, selfless generosity, and a dedication to improving the welfare of loved ones and those whom he had never met. Joe Warner was one of these servants, and serves as an inspiration to us all.

Joe Warner was born on July 3, 1942, in DeKalb, IL, to Paul and Doris Walkey Warner. He attended Northern Illinois University, and then received his MBA from the University of Illinois. Mr. Warner went on to become president and chief executive officer of Heritage Enterprises, a long term care corporation, which is located in Bloomington, IL.

The frail elderly of Illinois have benefited greatly from the leadership and dedication of Joe Warner. Whether it was in his capacity as president and chief executive officer of Heritage Enterprises, or president of the Illinois Health Care Association, Mr. Warner tirelessly advocated on behalf of Illinois' seniors to ensure they were afforded the highest quality of care. He considered anything less as unacceptable, because his residents were our fathers, mothers, wives, and husbands.

Joe Warner's generosity was not limited to the elderly. Illinois' youth have also lost a friend. Prior to his passing, he had taken on the role of planner and fundraiser for the \$3 million Challenger Learning Center, which will be an educational site for children to learn more about math and science. Memorial contributions are being made to the learning center, to ensure that Mr. Warner's vision is realized.

The towns of Normal and Bloomington are better places to work and live because of Joe Warner. In 1987 he conducted a \$2 million renovation in Bloomington which served as a catalyst in the town's revitalization program. In addition, he served on Normal's 2025 Committee, which planned for the city's future, as well as its Downtown Advisory Commission.

Joe Warner was involved in scores of organizations, and knew the importance of investment in his community. Mr. Warner was the dedicated head of the McLean County GOP for ten years. He served his country in the army. He was on the legislative committee of the board of directors of the Illinois State University Foundation. He was the past-president of the Redbird Education and Scholarship Fund at Illinois State University, past-chairman of the McLean County American Heart Association, past-director of the Bloomington Occupational Development Center, past-director of the United Campus Christian Church Foundation; past ruling elder of the First United Presbyterian Church, past director of the Illinois Wesleyan University Association, and past director of the Illinois Restaurant Association.

Along with his cherished wife, Rose Stadel, Joe Warner was a loving and devoted father to his children Jeff, and Jennifer. His son is a pilot and introduced him to flying, which became his passion.

The memory of Joe Warner will continue through his numerous contributions to his community. On July 22, Illinois lost a respected and admired friend. He will be missed. On behalf of my colleagues, I salute the rich legacy and the spirit of Joe Warner.