

or reward, have over the course of their lives strived to provide a safe and healthy and improving community for their three sons and many neighbors and friends. Truth be told, it is hard to distinguish where the efforts of one of these individuals ends and the other begins. They are emblematic of so many other Americans across this country.

August 9, 2003, will mark the occasion of the 60th birthday of Rick Merri. Rick and Paulette have done a remarkable job in successfully raising three sons, who now are each making their own way and mark on our country. It is fitting and appropriate that we wish Rick Merri the very best wishes on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Happy birthday, my friend.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN IN HAZEL PART, MICHIGAN

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen in Hazel Park, Michigan. The history of St. Mary Magdalen is one that reflects a deep dedication of the community at large and its parishioners. Volunteers worked for decades to create not only a place of worship, but an institution.

In 1928, the Catholic Church established a new parish in the growing community of Hazel Park. The first Mass of St. Mary Magdalen Church was held in the Odd Fellows Hall on Christmas Day of that year. Less than one year later, on Easter in 1929, St. Mary Magdalen Parish occupied their first new building.

In 1932, the Sisters of Christian Charity arrived from Wilmette, Illinois. They worked hard to ready themselves for the first school classes to start in September of that year. Their first school buildings were purchased from the Clawson Board of Education, dismantled and reassembled in Hazel Park by men from the community donating their time.

The Parish continued to grow, the first hall was built in 1933 using second-hand and recycled lumber. In 1958 the present church was completed, followed three years later by the convent. The next decades saw the establishment of a number of important traditions in the church. The first Fall Festival, now an annual event, was held in September 1971.

Surely, since its establishment 75 years ago, St. Mary Magdalen Parish has continued to grow, flourish and serve the community of Hazel Park. It is indeed my great honor today to recognize those who have made it all possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Michigan Agri-Business Asso-

ciation on the august occasion of its 100th year of service to agricultural producers in Michigan.

On June 25th, 1903, in the gymnasium of the Y.M.C.A. building in Battle Creek, Michigan, the Michigan grain dealers met to organize the Michigan Grain Dealers Association. This was the first step on the Association's journey to becoming the industry-wide Michigan Agri-Business Association which today is indispensable to Michigan agricultural businesses.

Along the way, as the Grain Dealers Association added to its membership, it changed its name to indicate that hay producers and dealers, animal feed manufacturers and dealers, and fertilizer, ammonia and seed businesses had all come on board. It became the Michigan Agri-Business Association on June 11, 1990.

Today, the Association provides educational programs and member services to its individual members. Its public relations and legislative efforts include a newsletter to all members, trade shows, educational programs and up-to-date information and advice on all state and federal legislation that affects agriculture in Michigan.

Agriculture is a multi-billion dollar business in Michigan. Agricultural producers and dealers in Michigan are some of the most advanced in the country, because they know that efficient and effective use of natural resources and technological tools are how to provide a better product and a better industry.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I invite you all to join me in applauding the Michigan Agri-Business Association and all its members in commemoration of the Association's 100th anniversary.

GIVE PARENTS SECURITY AND CHILDREN SAFETY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would help prevent needless death and injury of young children. My bill would require that infant and toddler products are tested before they reach the marketplace. This bill is long overdue.

Many consumers believe that, because a product is on a shelf, it is safe. This is not always true. In most cases, manufacturers are not even required to test the safety of children's products, including baby carriers and high chairs, before putting them on the market. As a consequence, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an average of 65 children under the age of five die each year in incidences associated with nursery products. Furthermore, an estimated 69,500 children under the age of five were treated in U.S. hospital rooms in 2001 for injuries associated with nursery products.

Unfortunately, issuing a voluntary recall once one or more children have been hurt often becomes the only way to know if a product is unsafe. This is unacceptable. Parents and caregivers must have assurance that when they buy a product, it will be safe. Therefore, this bill would not only require the

CPSC to issue mandatory safety standards for infant and toddler products, but it would require the testing and certification of these products by an independent third party.

Parents should not have to worry that the products they buy will threaten their children's health and safety. Nor should parents have to wait until they hear on the news that the carrier or crib or high chair that they use has been recalled before they become aware that their child could be in danger. Children's products were recalled, on average, nearly two times per week in 2002 and they accounted for over 11 million individual units. Instead of using recalls as the answer, we should require that the CPSC take steps to ensure that products do not present safety hazards to our children.

I would like to recognize and thank Kids In Danger, an organization in Chicago dedicated to protecting children, for their invaluable input and expertise on children's product safety. It is past due that we give parents the security they deserve and children the safety they need. This bill will accomplish those goals.

150TH CELEBRATION OF MITCHELL, INDIANA

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitchell, Indiana, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its founding. On September 29, 2003, the City of Mitchell will celebrate the establishment and naming of the town of Mitchell after Ormsby McKnight Mitchell.

The origins of Mitchell, Indiana dates back to the beginnings of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad. George Cochran, a merchant from Cincinnati, wanted a more direct route to ship his merchandise, having previously shipped goods via the Mississippi River. On September 29, 1853, Cochran purchased the land that would become Mitchell from local landowner, John Sheeks. Shortly thereafter, Cochran contracted Ormsby McKnight Mitchell to survey a new route for a railroad to run through the land. As a part of the deal, Mitchell requested the new town be named after him. The second "l" in Mitchell would be added later due to a typographical error.

Mitchell developed as a "railroad town." Mitchell remained mostly agricultural until the early 1900s. There were several small manufacturing enterprises in town, but in 1902 Lehigh Portland Cement Company opened its first plant, changing the town from agricultural to industrial. Lehigh Portland Cement Company remains one of the area's largest employers. Mitchell is also home to Dana Corporation as well as Regal Beloit who are major employers in the community today.

Mitchell is a place where a sense of small town charm can be felt through its historic buildings and shops in the downtown area. The town of Mitchell is known for its production of cement, which has been used to build the historic downtown buildings and sidewalks where residents gather to share persimmon pie and cobbler with family and friends at the annual Persimmon Festival. In the early 1990s, the downtown area of Mitchell was designated a Historic District.

Most notably, Mitchell was the hometown of U.S. Astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom. NASA selected Grissom as one of the original seven Mercury astronauts in 1959. Grissom was one of three astronauts who perished in a fire in the early days of the Apollo program. The citizens of Mitchell have dedicated a memorial to his memory.

I am pleased to join with the citizens of Mitchell in celebrating its 150th Anniversary. I am pleased to give special recognition to Jeff Routh and the members of the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce, as well as those others who made it possible for present and future generations to enjoy the history of Mitchell through their research.

ASHLEY RUCKERT

**HON. DAVID VITTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Ashley Ruckert. This week Ashley was unanimously selected as the Outstanding Player at the Louisiana High School All Star volleyball match in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She had 11 kills and eight digs to help the East team win the match.

Her volleyball career began at Sacred Heart Academy in New Orleans where she had four outstanding seasons on the Varsity team, all of which the Rosary took home the state title.

Ashley earned All-State, All-District, All-Metro and All-Orleans as a junior. She was named to the All-Tournament Team at the Louisiana State Championships twice and was a member of the Clarion Herald Elite Volleyball Team. A four-year letter winner and team captain, Ruckert was named Most Valuable Player at the recent State Championship.

Her athletic pursuits will continue at Elon University in North Carolina where she has received an athletic scholarship to play I-A volleyball for the Phoenix.

Ashley's athletic accomplishments are the result of her dedication, commitment and self discipline. Although known in the New Orleans area for her volleyball prowess—she is a very well rounded person. She balances well her extracurricular activities, academics and community service. Ashley is a wonderful example of the best and brightest in Louisiana. Her parents, John and Ellen Ruckert are to be commended.

Again, congratulations Ashley and best of luck in your future pursuits.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCOTT MAINE

SPEECH OF

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scott Maine of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for being named the South Florida Sun-Sentinel's Class 6A–5A–4A Player of the Year.

A pitcher for the William T. Dwyer Community High School baseball team, Scott Maine

has proven himself to be a local athletic star while playing on the field. Having some of the best statistics in the county, Scott appropriately refers to himself as a "power pitcher." A credit to his hard work and dedication, Scott plays at an exceptional level. While some baseball players would be lucky to achieve an earned run average, or ERA, of as low as 2.00, Scott finished his senior season with an ERA of 0.10.

This past season, players on opposing teams were unable to produce much offense when facing the arm of Scott Maine. Having a repertoire of pitches, Scott's ratio for strikeouts to walks is 7.5:1. A ratio that places Scott far and above his fellow competitors.

Dwyer High School's baseball coach, Tony Gullo, considers Scott's arm to be one of his Godgiven tools. In fact, Scott's pitching is so valuable to the team that a pitch count was recorded during the 2003 high school season. For every game, Scott would throw up to sixty-five pitches, departing from games around the fourth or fifth innings.

This past spring, as the athletic season came to an end, and as the graduating seniors accepted their diplomas, Scott Maine departed Dwyer High School a legend. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an outstanding young man and extend my best wishes to Scott Maine as he begins a baseball career.

#### RECOGNIZING SKIPPACK TOWNSHIP'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Skippack Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 300th Anniversary.

What began as a Mennonite community organizing the Lower Skippack Mennonite Church in 1702 is now a beautiful, mostly residential community known for an exceptional quality of life. The township has a history that dates back to the earliest years of our nation and was a camp and resting place for George Washington and his troops on more than one occasion.

The township as we know it today was created in 1886 when Perkiomen and Skippack, established from Mathias Van Bebber's purchase of land from William Penn in 1702, was divided into two townships. Skippack was comprised of three villages: Creamery, Lucon and Skippack. The area was heavily agricultural and dominated by Mennonite owned lands. The principal community is Skippack village located at the junction of Routes 73 and 113.

Two land acquisition programs had a tremendous impact on the makeup of the township. The first was the establishment of the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Graterford in 1927. The second was the establishment of Evansburg State Park in 1970. These two sites occupy nearly half of the township's acreage, dedicating it to public use. In addition to Evansburg State Park, which lies along Skippack creek and provided countless recreational activities, there are two other parks. Privately owned Hallman's Grove pro-

vides a baseball field and pavilion to the community and a plot of land given to the township by J. Hansell French, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture from 1935–1939 is used by local scout groups.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Skippack Township for 300 years of history, heritage and service.

#### RECOGNIZING CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA, FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chesterfield County, Virginia for their continuing support of our men and women in uniform.

Chesterfield County rests between the James and Appomattox Rivers and is a total of 446 square miles. Its location offers a unique blend of suburbia and the options of driving to our nation's capital, Virginia's beautiful beaches or the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway.

The citizens of Chesterfield County not only share a beautiful community filled with spirit and values. They also share a sense of honor, duty and commitment through their support of Virginia's reservists.

It came to my attention in February 2003 that Chesterfield made a commitment to those working for the County—a promise to compensate those called up for duty as part of the Reserves. When a reservist is mobilized, and leaves his or her civilian job, their military salary is almost always much lower than their civilian salary.

Prior to the war in Iraq, there was an effort by military organizations to get the word out to their members that might be asked to serve in the war—that word was "save up now to help your family in the future." But, often, the small amount of time between hearing of a possible call-up of your unit, and preparing to leave is not enough to organize family finances. Families of those called to serve at a moment's notice often find themselves in a dire financial situation.

The citizens of Chesterfield wanted to take care of the 53 reservists and their families. Together, in a community-wide effort, the county decided to make up the difference in salary for the reservists who been asked to serve in support of Iraqi Freedom. I can't think of a better way to honor our men and women in uniform, who sacrifice so much in the name of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chesterfield County as they share in the duty of those serving our country. Most of us only speak of helping the troops fighting for freedom each day, the people of Chesterfield County translated those words into actions. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and as a citizen of this great nation, it is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Chesterfield County, true patriots of our country.