

Jack was drafted as a professional football player after graduating from Fresno State University.

The late Rosa Kelley served the public as a Licensed Vocational Nurse and elementary school teacher. She was an active member in her church and many other civic activities in the community. She was known as a devoted wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose love, kindness, and encouragement touched the lives of many people throughout her life and allowed the Museum to be at the status it is today.

Mr. Kelley began his 12-year dream of creating an African American Historical museum of the pioneers of the San Joaquin Valley out of the trunk of his car. His perseverance to display the photos and artifacts from early African American pioneers to the public has led to his vision becoming a reality.

The African American Historical & Cultural Museum has promoted an understanding, appreciation, and awareness of African Americans historically and culturally throughout the San Joaquin Valley who have been pioneers and role models in their community. The Museum serves as a permanent home to remember the work of African Americans of the Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Jack and Rosa Kelley for their outreach in the community and their dedication to the African American Historical and Cultural Museum. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Kelley and the Museum many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE AND JIM
KEEGAN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Katie and Jim Keegan, Catholic Charities 2003 recipients of the Monsignor Thomas J. Reese award.

The award is named for the late Monsignor Thomas J. Reese, the long-time Director of Catholic Social Services (now Catholic Charities), for his commitment to serving those in need throughout our community. As a tribute to Monsignor Reese, each year an honoree is selected who is a leader in his/her field and in the community and who possesses outstanding integrity worth emulating. This year Catholic Charities has selected the Keegans in recognition of their service to others in the community both as individuals and together.

I rise today to praise Katie and Jim Keegan for their contributions to the State of Delaware and its citizens through years of helping the community and serving as advocates for community service in the State.

In addition to graduating from Chestnut Hill College and raising five children, Katie Keegan has been a tireless advocate for the young people and those less fortunate. Katie had demonstrated her faith by serving in various positions, including: Youth Encounter Leader, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) teacher and Board member of the Bayard House, a facility that assists single young women as they prepare for motherhood. Over the years, Katie Keegan has also served as a

committee member for the TEE-Off for Kids Golf Tournament benefiting Catholic Charities. She is in her own right a dedicated leader in the community, as she has touched the lives of so many in Delaware.

Jim Keegan is a graduate of Notre Dame. Following graduation, Jim spent two years in the U.S. Navy prior to joining the DuPont Company. In addition to his dedication at DuPont, Jim has been active and held leadership positions in a wide variety of church and educational efforts ranging from Chairman of the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal and membership on the leadership team for Bringing the Vision to Life Diocesan Campaign to various volunteer commitments in surrounding schools and parish councils.

On Thursday, February 20, 2003, at 6 p.m., Catholic Charities Inc. of the Diocese of Wilmington honored Katie and Jim Keegan at its Annual Tribute Dinner in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Katie and Jim Keegan for the time they spend giving back to the community in Delaware. They are fine examples of the generosity and compassion that is common in the Catholic faith and American spirit. Their selflessness, sacrifice of time and commitment to service, has already given them a permanent place in Delaware's history.

THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to correct an unfair restriction that is preventing some of our career military service members from using the Montgomery GI Bill.

Education assistance has been a cornerstone of military benefits for over 50 years. Congress recognized that military service often prevented young people from attending school and attaining higher levels of education. In 1944, Congress passed the original education bill for service members, the Serviceman's Readjustment Act. This World War II era legislation provided billions of dollars in education and training incentives for veterans and active duty personnel. The nation has reaped many times that amount in return investment from a well-trained work force and a more productive society.

Building on the success of the original GI Bill, Congress has passed several other pieces of legislation expanding veterans' educational benefits. The Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) was enacted in 1976 as a recruitment and retention tool for the post-Vietnam era. This was the first program requiring payment contributions from military personnel while they were on active duty and was available to people who entered active duty between December 31, 1976 and July 1, 1985.

In 1984, Congress passed the All volunteer Force Educational Assistance program; more commonly call the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). This expanded program provided better benefits that offered under VEAP and last year Congress passed legislation to boost MGIB by a record 46 percent over two years. With the

enactment of this legislation, an estimated 409,000 veterans and service members will receive assistance under MGIB for education and training in 2003.

In 1996, Congress passed Public Law 104-275, allowing VEAP participants to transfer their education accounts to MGIB and 41,041 veterans and servicepersons took advantage of the opportunity. The opportunity to convert to MGIB is very important because the benefits available are much greater. Unfortunately, those individuals who were on active duty before 1985 and did not participate in VEAP were not eligible to sign-up for MGIB, leaving a gap in available coverage for certain career military personnel. Congress has voted several times in the last decade to allow VEAP participants opportunities to transfer to MGIB, but there has not been an opportunity for those who did not have VEAP accounts to sign up for the new program, excluding them from taking advantage of great educational benefits.

This unjust situation can easily be remedied. My legislation provides a one-year open enrollment period for individuals falling into the gap to attain the benefits that they deserve. This is a matter of equity. We cannot neglect our career military personnel; they have served bravely and honorably for decades and their experiences are crucial to the security of our nation. Now is the opportunity to ensure that they are provided for and have the same benefits that are available to other members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING THE NATIONAL BASS
GUIDE SERVICE AS THE MOUNT
VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE HOME-BASED BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR, 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate National Bass Guide Service on their recognition by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce as the Home-Based Business of 2002.

Founded by Steve Chaconas, National Bass Guide Service is a fishing charter operation on the Potomac River that specializes in largemouth bass. Since its foundation two years ago, National Bass Guide Service has tripled the number of fishing charters it provides. In addition, Mr. Chaconas has expanded into outdoor writing for four publications, giving more exposure to the sport of fishing.

In addition to the numerous services they provide along the Potomac River, National Bass Guide Service is dedicated to contributing to the community. Mr. Chaconas has served as chairman and Master of Ceremonies for the St. Jude Children's Hospital Annual Bass Fishing Tournament, raising nearly \$100,000 for the hospital. National Bass Guide Service has also donated fishing trips to the Hollin Hall Senior Center, the Recreation Boating and Fishing Foundation, as well as to churches and organizations for fundraising auctions.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is an honor to extend my warm congratulations to National

Bass Guide Service for all of their achievements. The recognition by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Bass Guide Service future success.

TRIBUTE TO THE 144TH MILITARY
POLICE COMPANY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Congressman DAVE CAMP and I rise today to honor the service of the men and women of the 144th Military Police Company from Owosso, MI, who spent the past year defending the Pentagon.

The 144th has a proud history of service in time of need. In 1990–91, the unit was activated and sent to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where it operated a holding camp for Iraqi prisoners of war. Numerous members of the unit have volunteered to serve at Michigan airports, border crossings, the Bioport facility in Lansing.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the effort of these soldiers has kept safe the command center for America's fighting men and women, and the heart of our national defense operations. These soldiers have sacrificed much for their country, putting their lives on hold to serve America.

Today, as our Nation engages in a war on terrorism, these men and women are role models for their fellow citizens as they stand in defense of our nation and the free world. Their devotion and commitment to their country and to the state of Michigan have earned them great respect.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in extending our gratitude to the fine men and women of the 144th Military Police Company. We are honored to recognize their service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE
HERITAGE ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act, legislation to celebrate one of the most inspiring periods in America's maritime history. This legislation would establish a comprehensive program to inventory, evaluate, document, and assist efforts to restore and preserve surviving historic lifesaving stations. I am pleased that my Jersey Shore colleague Representative FRANK LOBIONDO has joined me in this effort.

The history of lifesaving in the United States dates back to 1785, when the Massachusetts Humane Society began building huts along the Massachusetts coast to aid shipwreck victims. These huts were later fitted with surfboats, beach-carts, and other lifesaving equipment. Beginning in 1847, the Federal government

recognized the importance and necessity of lifesaving efforts when Congress provided a series of appropriations to establish lifesaving stations equipped to render assistance to shipwrecked mariners and their passengers. These stations were first established along the Atlantic coast with the assistance of Representative William Newell, who during the 31st and 39th Congresses represented some of the same areas of New Jersey that I represent today. Representative Newell's efforts contributed to the establishment of a network of lifesaving stations along the Jersey Shore from Sandy Hook to Cape May. In 1871, Congress approved the first appropriation for the Federal government to employ crews of lifesavers. On June 18, 1878, the "Act to Organize the Life-Saving Service" was enacted. In 1915 the Life-Saving Service merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard. At that time, there were over 275 lifesaving stations to aid shipwreck victims on the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Great Lakes coasts.

The volunteer and professional lifesaving personnel who staffed these stations risked their lives to prevent shipwreck casualties. Winslow Homer immortalized these great heroes of the American coast in his painting *The Life Line*. Walt Whitman celebrated their inspiring actions in the following excerpt of his poem *Patrolling Barnegat*:

Through cutting swirl and spray watchful
and firm advancing,

(That in the distance! Is that a wreck? Is the
red signal flaring?)

Slush and sand of the beach tireless till day-
light wending,

Steadily, slowly, through hoarse roar never
remitting,

Along the midnight edge by those milk-
white combs careering,

A group of dim, weird forms, struggling, the
night confronting,

That savage trinity warily watching.

An outstanding example of this period survives today in my district. The historic Monmouth Beach lifesaving station, established in 1895, is a Duluth style station designed by the architect George Tolman. On one occasion, every member of the station's crew was awarded a gold lifesaving medal for rescuing victims of two shipwrecks on the same evening. This historic structure had been slated for demolition to make way for a new parking lot for beachgoers. Fortunately, the entire community came together to save this important structure but work still needs to be done to preserve the station's history and the inspiring stories of those who served there.

It is not certain exactly how many stations like the one in Monmouth Beach remain. Many surviving historic lifesaving stations are of rare architectural significance, but harsh coastal environments threaten them, rapid economic development in the coastal zone, neglect, and lack of resources for their preservation. The heroic actions of America's lifesavers deserve greater recognition, and their contributions to America's maritime and architectural history should be celebrated.

That is why I have proposed the United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act. This legislation would provide the resources necessary to inventory, document, and evaluate surviving lifesaving stations. It would also provide grant funding to assist efforts to protect and preserve these maritime treasures.

The United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Act would authorize the National Park

Service, through its National Maritime Initiative, to inventory, document, and evaluate surviving historic lifesaving stations. These activities would be conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association, a Massachusetts based nonprofit educational organization that works to protect and preserve America's lifesaving heritage. This inventory, documentation, and evaluation would be similar in nature to a study completed by the Park Service in 1994, on historic light-houses. Under this legislation, the Park Service would serve as a clearinghouse of information on lifesaving station preservation efforts, which would greatly assist public and private efforts to protect these historic structures and the maritime heritage that they embody.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to celebrate one of the most heroic and inspiring periods in America's maritime history.

HONORING THE RESPONSIBLE SO-
CIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM
AT IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite the attention of my colleagues to a remarkable program at Iowa Wesleyan College, a 161-year-old, Methodist-affiliated liberal arts college in Mr. Pleasant, IA.

In conjunction with National Volunteer Month, this week the college is celebrating the achievement of 1 million hours of service to society by its graduates through participation in its Responsible Social Involvement (RSI) program.

In the 35 years since its inception, RSI—with its requirement of a minimum of 160 hours of work with a nonprofit organization, as well as the keeping of a journal, the writing of an essay and the making of an oral presentation—has become a national paradigm for public service.

More than simply a requirement that must be met for graduation, participation in RSI has proven a life-transforming experience for thousands of Iowa Wesleyan students.

In 1739, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, confided to his journal that "I look upon the world as my parish." The young men and women Iowa Wesleyan sends from its campus through RSI discover a world in which too often the so-called "me-generation" succumbs to the temptation to decouple freedom from responsibility.

Today it is tempting to seek freedom by abjuring personal responsibility for addressing the needs of those less well off in our communities. This renunciation of individual accountability is too easily justified by the assumption that the role of meeting societal needs is exclusively that of impersonal bureaucracies. Participants in RSI come to understand that a moral society demands that individuals not duck responsibility for improving the lot of others, that personal fulfillment comes through action rooted, not in "I," but "we."

The Responsible Social Involvement program at Iowa Wesleyan appropriately epitomizes John Wesley's Rule:

Do all the good you can,