

CONGRATULATING CROATIAN  
SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 97th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 3, 2004.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees that have attained fifty years of membership include: Mary Badovinac, Betty Balanoff, Mary Lou Brown, Matthew Guglielmetti, George Kepcher, Margaret Knack, Anastasia Kresich, Charles Lacko, Beverly Perko, Mary Plesha, Theresa Anne Young, and Mary Ann Zorich.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 429 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 3:30 in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

RECOGNIZING FORD MOTOR  
COMPANY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the introduction of the 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid, expected to roll off the assembly lines at the Ford Claycomo Plant in Claycomo, Missouri, beginning in August.

The Escape Hybrid is the first vehicle of its kind to combine hybrid technology with SUV capability. The Escape Hybrid can be powered solely by the gasoline engine, solely by the electric motor, or by using both working together. The hybrid system automatically

switches between pure electric, pure gasoline, or combined operation to maximize fuel efficiency and performance, and the Escape Hybrid is projected to surpass 35 miles-per-gallon in city driving. Additionally, exhaust emissions will be lower than many vehicles currently on the market.

The technology that makes the Escape Hybrid possible is revolutionary, and the fact that Ford has produced a hybrid SUV demonstrates Ford's continued leadership in the automobile industry. I am proud that the Ford Claycomo Plant, located in Missouri's Sixth District, will assemble the Escape Hybrid. It is a testament to the employees at Claycomo, especially since the plant already produces Ford F-series models and the Escape and the Mazda Tribute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ford Motor Company and the Ford Claycomo Plant as they begin production of the Ford Escape Hybrid.

HONORING LOWELL C. KRUSE FOR  
HIS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS  
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HEART-  
LAND HEALTH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lowell C. Kruse, President and CEO of Heartland Health, an employer of 2,600 located in St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Kruse has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 20 year commitment to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

Mr. Kruse was born in Lake City, Iowa, just about four hours north of St. Joseph where he currently lives with his wife of 40 years, Leslie Marsden-Kruse. Together, Lowell and Leslie have three adult sons. Mr. Kruse began his career in 1967 as the Assistant Administrator of St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For the next ten years, Mr. Kruse held leadership positions in a variety of health facilities in the Minneapolis area, before moving to New York in 1977 to become President and CEO of Park Ridge Hospital and Nursing Home in Rochester. Two years later, he became President and CEO of Update Health System, Inc. in Rochester. In 1984, Mr. Kruse came to St. Joseph as President and CEO of Heartland Health, and he hasn't looked back since. During Mr. Kruse's tenure as President and CEO, Heartland has been the recipient of the Missouri Quality Award, the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, and in 2000 was named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country for orthopedics and cardiovascular care. Mr. Kruse has been the recipient of the Justin Ford Kimball Innovators Award from the American Hospital Association, and the Visionary Leadership Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Hospital Association. In addition to his work at Heartland, Mr. Kruse currently serves on the Boards of Directors for Premier, Inc., the Excellence in Missouri Foundation, and the Missouri State Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Lowell C. Kruse,

who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
ZACHARY VIRGIN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, an angel of light and love, whose brief journey here brought joy and love to his mother and father, Shane and Joseph, and to everyone who held him, loved him, and gazed upon him.

Forever perfect and innocent baby Zachary's message of giving and grace brought light and warmth into our world. He will live forever within the hearts and memories of his parents, and his song will be heard for all time.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, whose beautiful, brief life has become a miracle of life for others. We honor and recognize the love and courage of Shane and Joseph Virgin, loving parents of baby Zachary. We extend our condolences to you both, and to your extended family and friends, and we wish you strength and peace within your deep sorrow.

An angel of heaven, baby Zachary will forever soar with a song of life and message of hope for other babies: A baby breathes with his breath; a baby sees with his eyes; a baby lives with his life. Baby Zachary is their guardian angel, he lives on through all of them, and he will never be forgotten. May his life, love, and memory forever bring you strength, comfort and peace.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 60TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR.  
AND MRS. ALBERT JOHNSON, SR.

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr. on their 60th wedding anniversary. A celebration in their honor is being hosted by their children at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, New Jersey on Friday, August 27, 2004.

Albert Johnson, Sr. and the former Loretta Cobb were married in Newark, New Jersey on August 24, 1944. This blessed union produced six children, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. The Johnsons made their home in Newark before moving to Hillside, New Jersey in the late sixties. Mr. Johnson retired from the United States Post office after working there for many years. Mrs. Johnson was a homemaker and childcare provider. She delighted in providing a warm and nurturing environment for her young charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are deeply religious and they celebrate their faith at the Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Newark. Mr.

Johnson is a deacon there and Mrs. Johnson is a deaconess as well as a church mother. This couple embodies the spirit of matrimony and faith as they travel together to visit the sick. They also hold weekly prayer service at a facility for senior citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson inspire others with their words of encouragement and their harmonious demeanors.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in letting Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr.'s family, friends and congregation know that their 60th anniversary is indeed a cause for celebration.

---

HONORING ASIAN COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Asian Community Mental Health Services of Oakland, California for 30 years of invaluable service to the community.

Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS) was founded in 1974 with the objective of providing community based mental health services to the East Bay's Asian Pacific Islander Community. The services provided by ACMHS are unique in that they are designed not only to provide care that is comprehensive, but that is structured in accordance with the cultural background of the patients it serves. ACMHS services are available in twelve languages and dialects, and aim to serve Oakland's Asian Pacific children, adolescents, adults, and their families.

The role played by ACMHS in Oakland's Asian Pacific Islander community is truly vital due not only to the caliber of health service it provides, but also because of its continuous involvement in community life through the working relationships it has cultivated with virtually every major social service provider in the East Bay. ACMHS is able to maintain and broaden the scope of its services not only by coordinating with these organizations in order to deliver high quality health care to its patients, but also by sponsoring and participating in a variety of community-building programs and events such as the ACMHS Annual Multi-Ethnic Conference, and the recent establishment of the ACMHS Neighborhood Learning Center in Oakland.

On October 7, 2004, Asian Community Mental Health Services will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending this organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as a health service provider, but also as a leader in working to strengthen cultural and community ties among the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of health and multicultural awareness throughout its thirty years of service, ACMHS has contributed enormously not only to the East Bay's Asian Pacific Islander community, but also to the 9th Congressional District as a whole. I salute and congratulate Asian Community Mental Health Services for 30 remarkable years of service.

IN HONOR OF THE JEWISH HIGH  
HOLY DAYS

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in the Jewish community this time of year is marked by reflection thanksgiving, consecration, and celebration. It is a time to reflect on the events of the past year and be thankful for family and friends whose love and support guide and inspire us each day. And it is a time to rededicate ourselves to our commitment to tikkun olam, repairing our world, both at home and abroad.

It is also a time to remember our commitment to our democratic ally and friend, the state of Israel. Israel stands as a symbol of Jewish prosperity and survival that dates back more than 5,000 years. This strong tradition is why we must continue to work and pray for peace.

Over the past year we have again witnessed continued violence in the Middle East, but steps have also been taken to reinvigorate a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. We must continue to support these efforts and remain optimistic that they will result in a lasting peace for all in the region. It is time for all parties to the Roadmap to use the opportunities presented by the Sharon plan to bring an end to the violence and achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

As we begin the year 5765, we are also celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America and American Jewish History Month. Last year, the Congress recognized and marked this anniversary by passing a resolution noting the important contributions of the American Jewish community to our nation's civic, social, economic, and cultural life. Indeed, as my colleagues observed, the American Jewish community has "sought to actualize the broad principles of liberty and justice that are enshrined in the Constitution of the United States."

In Congress, my Democratic colleagues and I are fighting to bring prosperity, opportunity and security to every corner of America. We are committed to growing the economy; to expanding access to quality affordable health care; to keeping our promise to our children for safe schools with well-paid teachers; to honoring our historic commitment to seniors so they can retire with security and dignity; to sustaining a healthy environment; to upholding the separation of church and state; to protecting civil rights; and to fighting discrimination in all forms.

I pray that we all experience peace, prosperity, opportunity, and security in the New Year. L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.

---

HONORING POW/MIA RECOGNITION  
DAY

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is National POW/MIA recognition day. This annual day of recognition honors those brave soldiers

who served valiantly to protect our liberties but remain unaccounted for. America remains vigilant in its effort to see that each one of these nearly 93,000 brave soldiers are identified, accounted for, and returned to their families. Recently, I met with representatives from the Department of Defense Prisoner of War—Missing Personnel office and was pleased to learn of the Department's steadfast dedication to see to it that each one of these POW/MIA cases is resolved.

America owes an enormous debt of gratitude to those who have answered the call to defend our freedoms and there is no better way to honor that debt than to remain committed to bringing closure to the suffering for each of their families. We will never forget the sacrifices that thousands of American Soldiers have made throughout the world in the name of liberty and freedom, and we must do everything we can to help bring the POW/MIA soldiers home.

To date, the Department of Defense lists 1,854 Americans as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. There are 1,415 in Vietnam, 377 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC (People's Republic of China) territorial waters.

I display the POW/MIA flag outside my office as a constant reminder to those who visit, that there are heroes who have not yet made it home. I encourage my colleagues to join me tomorrow in honoring these brave soldiers by renewing our resolve to close these cases and end the suffering caused by the uncertainty of their fate.

---

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
SHERMAN HENDRICKS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Sherman Hendricks, United States veteran, beloved family member, friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Hendricks was committed to family, faith, community and country. He proudly and honorably served our country as a member of the United States Army, and was a veteran of the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge, Mr. Hendricks brought the integrity and strong work ethic that was reflected in his service to our country to his work and community service.

Back in Cleveland, Mr. Hendricks worked diligently at Anchor Industries and RBW Company. He loved his work and developed long-lasting friendships with colleagues. He was always known as a giving, caring person who would go the extra mile for anyone in need. His concern for others branched out into the community, where he was active in the Cuyahoga County Republican Party as a Precinct Committee Person, a position he held for nearly forty-two years. Additionally, Mr. Hendricks continually inspired others within his church community. He served as a Senior Trustee at the Antioch Chapel Baptist Church of Cleveland, and read Scripture every morning at 7:00 am without fail.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sherman Hendricks, an outstanding American citizen whose