

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER BARBARA J. SIDARI

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Barbara J. Sidari, who is retiring from the San Lorenzo Unified School District Board. Mrs. Sidari has served the students, parents, teachers, and administrators in the school district of San Lorenzo, California since she was first elected in April 1979. She served until 1983 and was reelected in November 1988 and has served continuously since that time. Mrs. Sidari was elected by her fellow Board members to serve as president and vice president/clerk of the Board several times.

During her twenty years as a Board member, Mrs. Sidari represented the Board of Education on numerous committees and councils throughout the county. She is especially proud of her accomplishments as a member of the Eden Area Regional Occupational Center Council, a position she has held for nineteen years. She has also served as chair of the Council for several terms.

Mrs. Sidari has always been active in school affairs having held several positions from Historian to President of the local PTA. She is a former Cub Scout Den Mother and Brownie Leader and continues her active service in a number of educational and civic organizations.

Barbara J. Sidari exemplifies commitment and service. Her contributions to her community are noteworthy. As she ends her twenty-year tenure on the San Lorenzo School Board, I congratulate her and applaud all that she has done to make a difference in the lives of others. Mrs. Sidari will be honored at a reception on January 25, 2005. I join her colleagues, friends, and admirers in expressing good wishes and appreciation for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOHN BARICEVIC—CHAIRMAN OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and public service of John Baricevic.

For 25 years, John Baricevic has been an effective leader for St. Clair County, Illinois and the entire St. Louis metropolitan region. His regional approach to public policy issues has steered both St. Clair County and the region in a positive direction since the beginning of his term as St. Clair County Board Chairman fourteen years ago. John's vision is credited as the driving force behind numerous projects that continue to enhance not only St. Clair County, but our entire area.

John's persistent dedication and interest in regional projects has truly made a difference in how the St. Louis region has evolved. With the addition of MidAmerica Airport, John's vision provided a new reliever airport for the re-

gion and his strong support for MetroLink in Illinois has its proof in the miles of track which are laid, this year more of which are in Illinois than in Missouri where the system started.

His strong leadership in working to keep Scott Air Force Base open has continued to keep a major engine in our regional economy strong and healthy. Through his direct lobbying efforts, on behalf of the Leadership Council, Scott Air Force base has been kept open through four rounds of nationwide military base closures. Only one more round of closures is predicted. Scott is the largest employer south of Springfield, Illinois and is the 4th largest employer in the St. Louis area. Scott brings about \$2 billion annually to our economy and the men and women at the base are an integral part of our churches, schools, civic activities and communities. John continues to campaign and work with me to protect Scott from closure in this final round.

Working with the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce, John continues to spearhead the planning and development of a new Mississippi River Bridge, a project he sees as important to erasing the divide between Illinois and Missouri by creating a new Mississippi river crossing. Without a new Mississippi River Bridge our regional transportation system would come to nearly a standstill and the flow of commerce and goods would be drastically reduced. John works closely with my office to seek the funds and the support to make the bridge a reality.

John's interest in helping people started early in his life. After graduating from Assumption High School in East St. Louis, he headed to Atchison, Kansas for his B.S. in Business Administration and then to Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas, before heading back to Illinois to attend law school at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

He has held numerous temporary jobs during his lifetime, serving for a time with the Teamsters, the Machinists and Carpenters. He is a certified teacher and has been a head football coach, a substitute teacher and a college admissions director.

In the late 70's John's interest in law lead him to serve an internship with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's office, this lead to a full time position within the office and eventually he was elected as the St. Clair County's States Attorney in 1980. When John became elected as the County's Board Chairman in 1990, he became the Chief Executive Officer of the County, managing over 800 employees and a budget in excess of 50 million dollars. He became involved in several projects of regional significance and worked closely with my office to see these projects completed and through all of this time; he continued to privately practice law and to help people in need.

Throughout his busy life, John has been married to Marti Lee Chatham, and the father of four children: Charles J., 18; Chris, 17; Brianne, 16; and Brice, 11.

For more than 25 years, John Baricevic has served St. Clair County with integrity, vision and foresight, paving the way for people, on both sides of the river, to enjoy a better life. Recently, for his lifetime of service, FOCUS St. Louis honored John as their 2004 Leadership Award recipient. John continues to serve on regional boards and commissions and brings southern Illinois views and perceptions to regional business leaders.

John now leaves the service of St. Clair County and in early December is sworn in as

a Circuit Judge in the 20th Judicial Circuit in Illinois. He will now apply his knowledge and abilities, in helping people, to the courtroom where I am confident he will do an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of John Baricevic and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DAVISON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize a gentleman who has long been at the forefront of working to protect and defend the rights of America's labor workers. On December 1, in Bay City, Michigan, friends and family will join members of Utility Workers Union of America Local 144 to honor Mr. Jim Davison, as he celebrates his retirement after 34 years.

After honorably serving his country in Vietnam as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Jim Davison began his relationship with the UAW September 1, 1970, when he began work at Consumers Power. After four years, he was appointed as a union steward, as well as a delegate to the Bay County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council. In 1975, Jim was elected his Local's Sergeant-At-Arms, and became Second Vice-President in 1981. In 1987, Jim was elected President.

In 1981, Jim was chosen as Vice-President of the Bay County AFL-CIO Labor Council. Seven years later, he became the Council's President. Also in 1988, he was elected to serve as Vice-President of the Michigan State Utility Workers Council in Lansing. Jim served admirably in that position until 1995, when he then became Secretary/Treasurer of the State Council, a position he held until this year. Jim retired from Consumers Energy in September 2004.

In addition to his tremendous work on behalf of the UAW and the AFL-CIO, Jim has been a tireless advocate of the community. He has spent many years on boards for the United Way on the local and state levels, and has also provided key leadership for groups such as the Saginaw Valley Blood Bank, Bay County Economic Development Council, Michigan State Labor Education Program, and the Kawkawlin Fire Department, where he served as Assistant Fire Chief from 1996-2004. Jim has also been active in politics, which includes his recent election as a Trustee in Kawkawlin Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am exceptionally grateful for Jim Davison's dedication to his brothers and sisters in labor, and to the community. He is a shining example of the best our society has to offer, and a true role model for his peers as well as all those he comes into contact with. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to join me in congratulating Jim on his retirement, and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.