

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIRTH PLUMBING AND HEATING COMPANY IN BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Hirth Plumbing and Heating Company in Belleville, Illinois.

Throughout 2004, Hirth Plumbing and Heating Company will celebrate its 100-year Anniversary. On January 15, 1904 George Hirth founded the company in Belleville, Illinois. Mr. Hirth owned and operated the company until his death in 1932.

The company then passed ownership and operation to George Hirth's daughter Mame "Hirth" Neuf and her husband Arthur Nuef Jr. until their retirement. The company was then owned and operated by Elizabeth Anne "Nuef" Terschluse and her husband Herbert E. Terschluse Jr.

Today, Hirth Plumbing and Heating is in its fourth generation of ownership and is operated by Stephen, David and James Terschluse. The company employs 40 people and operates as a plumbing, heating and air conditioning contractor serving the entire metro east with a customer base of over 9000. Hirth has offices in Alton, Collinsville, Columbia, Edwardsville, Freeburg, Granite City, Mascoutah, Jerseyville and New Athens, Illinois and they continue to maintain their home office operations in Belleville, Illinois.

Hirth Plumbing & Heating Company has been in continuous operation by the same family since 1904, providing prompt, professional and courteous service to their customers, family, friends and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Hirth Plumbing and Heating Company in Belleville, Illinois.

CELEBRATING DEARBORN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, honor and celebrate the City of Dearborn on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. Incorporated on January 9, 1929, Dearborn's roots as a community date to the mid-19th century. With a balanced mix of commercial, industrial and residential development sewn together by progressive city leaders, excellent schools and a unique sense of civic pride, Dearborn is the epitome of a successful American community.

Modern day Dearborn was created by the consolidation of Dearborn and Fordson cities and Dearborn Township. Henry Ford had a significant attachment or interests in all three jurisdictions and was an important advocate of the consolidation. The area that had served principally as the Detroit Arsenal between 1833-1875, was now poised to take on an identity all its own.

In the 1920 census, the villages of Dearborn and Springwells (renamed Fordson) had a combined population of less than 5,000 residents. It was between these two villages that Henry Ford built the Ford Rouge Complex, at which more than 85,000 men would one day work simultaneously. Such burgeoning manufacturing combined with the unheard of salary of \$5 per day attracted workers literally from throughout the world to the newly formed city of Dearborn.

Such cultural diversity, coupled with Ford's benevolence, helped shape the newly formed city of Dearborn into a model of prosperity, civic virtue and individual opportunity. Dearborn has always provided its citizens with exemplary public service. Dearborn's reputation for public safety and education is second to none. Its residents have transcended cultural, ethnic and religious customs to form strong neighborhood associations that further contribute to the quality and diversity of living in Dearborn.

Dearborn continues to thrive today as a result of such active involvement and partnership from its corporate and individual residents alike. Today, Dearborn is home to colleges and universities, hospital facilities, appealing and expansive shopping areas and business districts, the Henry Ford: America's Greatest History attraction, the Automotive Hall of Fame as well as countless restaurants and numerous specialty and boutique shops.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring Dearborn on its 75th Anniversary. The city of Dearborn is home to vibrant and stable neighborhoods, significant industrial production, cultural and artistic attractions and commercial business opportunities. Taken collectively, in celebrating Dearborn's 75th anniversary, we are really celebrating all the best that America represents.

HONORING RICK KNAPP,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Knapp, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement as District 1 Director of Transportation, California Department of Transportation.

Rick Knapp began his career with the California Department of Transportation in 1962. A graduate of the University of Nevada with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, Rick Knapp accepted a position with the Division of Highways, District 1, in Eureka, California.

In November 1966, he entered the United States Army and served in Vietnam where he designed bridges to replace those destroyed in combat. After two years in the Army, Rick Knapp returned to his engineering duties in Eureka. In 1972, he took a promotion as a Project Design Engineer in Los Angeles. In 1973, he joined the Division of Transportation Planning to help develop the first California Transportation Plan.

In 1979, Mr. Knapp returned to Eureka and in 1994 he became the Director of the 1st District, a region that includes the four northern counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and

Mendocino. Immediately after his appointment as District Director, he was faced with the biggest earthquake and the most severe winter storm damage in the District in 30 years. With 18 of 23 state highways closed one or more times during the winter, Knapp and his team faced the colossal challenge of restoring and improving the highway system. After directing the repair of 400 damaged locations during difficult winter conditions, Knapp undertook a new program to correct perennial winter road closure locations.

During his tenure as Director, Rick Knapp's accomplishments include the widening and realignment of a two-mile high collision segment of U.S. Route 101 at Gushing Creek through the Redwoods near Crescent City. By securing emergency funding, Knapp made it possible to proceed with the project to relocate Route 101 at the Confusion Hill landslide that will establish a safe and reliable highway at this critical location. As Chair of the Context Sensitive Solutions Steering Committee, he developed a policy for the State of California that promoted flexibility in design and led to new state guidelines on State Highway Main Streets. In May 2003, Rick Knapp received the Charles H. Purcell Award from the California Transportation Foundation for excellence in engineering management.

An avid cyclist, Rick Knapp helped form the Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Association. He was born and raised in Garberville, California. He is married to Jean Hawthorne and has two grown children, Angela and Randy Knapp.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Rick Knapp for his commitment and dedication to his profession and for his 35 years of service to the people of California. We wish him happiness and much deserved rest in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN KEVIN
SHAUGHNESSY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Kevin Shaughnessy, who is retiring from the Illinois State Police after 25 years of service.

Captain Shaughnessy entered the Illinois State Police Academy in June of 1978 and was assigned to the Division of Criminal Investigations, Financial Fraud, and Forgery Unit. In 1988, he was promoted to Master Sergeant and became the Squad Supervisor of the Financial Fraud and Forger Unit. From 1986 to 1993, Captain Shaughnessy achieved many successes in his career. He was responsible for coordination and supervision of a multi-agency Fugitive Investigation Strike Team consisting of personnel from the Cook County Sheriff's Police and United States Marshall's Service. The Captain was also responsible for the implementation and administration of a 600,000 grant to investigate welfare fraud in Illinois. Under his supervision, the ISP Firearms/Fugitive Task Force successfully executed ten major round-ups of firearm fugitives. In 1995, Kevin was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the District Chicago as Commander of the South Suburban Major Crimes

Task Force. In 1999, Kevin was promoted to Captain and named Commander of District 5 Joliet.

Captain Shaughnessy has received many decorations during his career including the Illinois State Police Director's Award of Honor and the Director's Award of Merit. In 2002, the Captain received the M.A.D.D. Officer of the year for Will County. During his career, Captain Shaughnessy has instructed over 3,000 Law Enforcement Officers on a variety of topics.

Captain Shaughnessy and his wife, Colleen are the proud parents of three children, Ryan, Kelly and Mary Beth. Friends of the Captain say he is an avid golfer and can often be found on his favorite golf course.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other persons in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF REV. LUTHER VIN-
CENT LAITE III

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Rev. Luther Vincent Laite III. Rev. Laite, a pastor and disabled American veteran of the United States Navy. Rev. Laite died on December 7, 2003, of complications from asbestosis, a disease contracted while serving his country in the U.S. Navy.

Rev. Laite honorably served his country for six years aboard the USS *Goldsborough*, and was honorably discharged in 1984.

Rev. Laite served as a pastor for 19 years in Brevard County, Florida. At the time of his death, Rev. Laite was the Senior Pastor of Christian Life Family Church of Brevard.

As a result of Luther's belief that churches must be involved in the life of the community, many women and children in need were helped. There was always room at the Laite family table or in the Laite house for those who had no other place to go.

Luther served on the board of the Protestant Ministries of Florida Institute of Technology and was National Director of Life Coalition International, an international pro-life ministry.

Luther is survived by his wife, Patti; seven children, Lydia Baker, Luther V. Laite IV, Audra Laite, Amanda Laite, Jesse Laite, Josiah Laite and Jonathan Laite; grandchildren, Zechariah Baker and Ethan Baker; his loving parents Luther and Peggy Laite and sister Vicky Stites, her children and grandchildren.

Several hundred people from all over the Nation attended the Luther Vincent Laite III memorial service that was held at Truth Revealed Ministries, Palm Bay, Florida, on December 13, 2003. Burial services were held at the Military Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida on December 15, 2003.

As quoted in Matthew 25:21, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness."

Indeed, Rev. Laite will be remembered by those who loved him as a faithful family man, devoted pastor and loyal friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. We will all miss him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUEEN
MARY II

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 26, 2004, the world's newest and grandest passenger cruise ship, the Queen Mary II, makes its first international port of call to one

of the world's premier cruise ports, Port Everglades located in beautiful Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Queen Mary II embarked on its two-week maiden voyage on Monday, January 12 following an extraordinary send-off amid fireworks and hundreds of well wishers from its home port of Southampton, England.

Named after her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mary II is a state-of-the-art, luxury passenger vessel. In fact, the Queen Mary II is 1,132 feet in length, 236 feet in height, top speed of approximately 30 knots, and includes a crew of 1,253 and maximum capacity of 2,620 passengers. An impressive list of vital statistics.

It is a great privilege to have the Queen Mary II and her crew visit Fort Lauderdale. Port Everglades remains one of the nation's busiest ports in both commercial and passenger traffic. Port Everglades has become a major embarkation point along the east coast. In 2003, Port Everglades experienced 3,072,343 passengers through its cruise ship terminal generating more than \$89 million in total annual operating revenue. The continued success of Port Everglades is a testament to the financial commitment of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the stewardship of Port Director Ken Krauter.

Port Everglades is the port of call for more than 5,400 ships. Port Everglades is home to a number of seasonal or year-round ships representing a wide array of cruise lines; including Carnival, Celebrity, Costa, Crystal, Cunard, Holland America, Imperial Majesty, Mediterranean Shipping, Orient, Princess, Radisson Seven Seas, Regal, Royal Caribbean International, Seabourn and Silversea.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Broward County, Port Everglades, and the residents of South Florida, I welcome the Queen Mary II, Captain Ron Warwick, and crew to Fort Lauderdale on the occasion of entering their first port of call, and wish her and her crew many years of calm and safe seas on the many journeys across the Atlantic.