

"Great Streets" is North Michigan Avenue that stands in the 7th District of Illinois which I currently represent. West Urbana, Illinois, also received the distinction of being a "Great Neighborhood."

As I close, I want to recognize APA as a non-profit public interest and research organization devoted to promoting quality planning. Since its founding in 1978, it has served more than 41,000 members. I honor the National Month of Community Planning and the efforts of planners to pioneer concepts that influence our communities both now and in the future.

HONORING THE VISITATION
SCHOOL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Visitation School has been a presence in the Kingsbridge community since its inception in 1932, and was approved by the Archdiocese of New York in 1928, under the direction of the first pastor, Monsignor Stafford.

Visitation School was initially staffed by the Sisters of Charity; their motherhouse was and remains today on the grounds of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, New York.

The first Principal of Visitation was Sister Mary Angelita Meiswinkle of the Sisters of Charity, who was principal from 1932 to 1949. She set the firm foundation for this Roman Catholic elementary school that continues to flourish as we celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary.

In 1980 the current principal, Sr. Rosemarie Connell, was appointed. She oversaw a time of sweeping change, with an emphasis on strong religious principles, discipline, and a commitment to academic excellence. In her long tenure, she has created and maintained a dedicated and experienced teaching staff made up of Catholic laypersons and religious sisters representing several communities, including the Sisters of Charity, Sparkill Dominican Sisters, and School Sisters of Notre Dame.

She established a full-time kindergarten; weekly computer classes for kindergarten through grade eight; high school advanced-placement programs for math and Spanish; science lab; a state-of-the-art computer lab; and the institution of an after school program.

In 1995, the New York City Council recognized her for her "continuing dedication and service to the education and improvement of the lives of Bronx children and their families." In the year 2000, she received the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award for her years of service to children in the Archdiocese of New York.

For 75 years, the Kingsbridge community has benefited from the presence of Visitation School as it continues its great legacy of faith and determination to deliver a quality Catholic education to children in the community. Visitation School remains a rare place where mind, heart, and spirit grow in grace and strive for excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PATRICIA
SHIMMENS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine who has spent her entire career serving her fellow citizens. Mrs. Patricia Shimmens, the Executive Director of the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission, is retiring after three decades of public service.

Patricia, or Pat, as her friends call her, has been a stalwart advocate for those in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties who most need help. As the Executive Director to the Housing Commission, she oversees the administration of 250 units of public housing and 50 housing choice vouchers. She also administers several other programs that assist the homeless in Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties.

Throughout her long and illustrious career, Pat has enjoyed many achievements and accomplishments. Under her watch, in 1996 and 1998, the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission built two new developments equaling 50 single family units. In 2001, Pat spearheaded the drive to find housing for the homeless in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties. In that capacity she coordinates services to the homeless, including shelter and opportunities for self-sufficiency to and through the Tri-County Safe Haven Emergency Shelter.

Pat has been a leader in the housing field, participating in organizations that advocate for affordable housing both nationally and in Michigan. For 23 years, she has been a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), the nation's leading housing and community development advocacy group. She has been a member of the Michigan Housing Director's Association for 15 years and Past President for 4 years.

Pat has been involved in numerous other organizations as well. She is a former President of her local Business and Professional Women's Organization. She recently sat on the Commission for Labor and Economic Growth in conjunction with the Local Work Force Development Board for the Tri-County area. She currently serves as the President of the Northern Transitions Inc. which provides services to the developmentally disabled.

Over the years, Pat has been recognized in many ways for her commitment to community. In 2005, she received the ATHENA award, which recognizes excellence and leadership in women who contribute time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community.

Pat first brought her talents and tireless energy to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission on November 1, 1982. But, even before joining the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission, Pat was dedicated to strengthening the eastern U.P. Prior to her time with the Housing Commission, she was employed for 8 years with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Employment and Training Consortium. Throughout the years Pat has developed a reputation as a passionate advocate for housing and homelessness issues. When a new rule, regulation or law affecting public housing authori-

ties would come down, Pat was known for being quite vocal at public housing authority conferences. Those who know her say that when she was arguing forcefully for or against something, it was best to stay out of her way and let her say her piece. In one instance, she gave a lengthy, impassioned and forceful argument regarding rules affecting the ownership of pets in public housing authorities.

After she completed her argument, the conference leaders asked, "Do you feel better now?"

In a manner typical of Pat's straightforward demeanor, she replied, "Yes, thank you, damn it!"

While her tenure at the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission has been marked by many financial and administrative successes, what Pat says she will miss most are the people with whom she has developed relationships.

As Pat recently put it in her own words, "Many children have passed through our doors and I would like to think their life was just a little bit better having a nice home to live in that was also affordable."

Madam Speaker, over the last 30 years, countless families in Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties have relied upon the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission. All of them can thank Mrs. Patricia Shimmens for her hard work, passionate advocacy and tireless dedication to helping make life just a little better. As Mrs. Shimmens celebrates retirement, I wish her the best of luck as she has more time to spend with her husband, Bob and more time to garden, and enjoy the outdoors. Given her tireless spirit, I also expect that she will continue her volunteer work throughout the eastern U.P. community.

Today, I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Patricia Shimmens for 30 years of public service and congratulating her on a well deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH RICCA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joseph Ricca of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Ricca has worked tirelessly for our community and because of that work has been selected to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

A product of the Shrewsbury public school system, Mr. Ricca still resides in town with his wife, Mary Ann and 8-year-old son, Joseph Peter. He graduated with a B.A. in State and Local Government from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and later went on to receive his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Anna Maria College. After school, he joined the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office serving numerous positions until being named Chief of Staff in 1987.

In 1988, Mr. Ricca began work for the Dukakis for President Committee. During the campaign, Joe was responsible for campaign activities in Iowa, New York, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. He later used this experience to

work as Senior Staff Director for the Gore and Kerry Presidential Campaigns. In addition to these national campaigns, Joe also has been elected delegate to numerous Democratic State and National Conventions.

Mr. Ricca has had great success in the private sector as well. After starting his own firm, Ricca and Associates, he joined the Dewey Square Group, which is considered by many to be one of the leading communication/consulting firms in the country.

I commend my friend, Joe Ricca who has dedicated his life for the betterment of his community and our country. His commitment to public service helps all of us. In tribute to his tireless work and dedication, I congratulate Mr. Joseph Ricca on receiving this award. I know all of my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

HONORING MARVIN CARUTHERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions that Dr. Marvin Caruthers has made to the advancement of science. I would like to thank him on behalf of all Coloradans for the gifts he has made in this field.

Dr. Caruthers' impressive career began when he received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Iowa State University. He went on to earn a doctorate in biochemistry from Northwestern University and complete his post-doctoral studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After becoming a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin and MIT he decided to settle in Colorado.

In the 1980s, Dr. Caruthers' laboratory developed methods to speed up the chemical synthesis of DNA. This advancement led to the sequencing of the human genome, which allows us to study diseases, solve criminal cases more efficiently and will lead to better medical treatments.

Dr. Caruthers' contributions have extended far beyond his lab. He helped found the biotechnology company, Applied Molecular Genetics (AMG). AMG has since become the largest biotechnology company in the world. AMG introduced two of the first biologically derived human therapeutics, which helps better the lives of patients suffering from chronic kidney disease and cancer. The company has gone on to make advancements in treating anemia, rheumatoid arthritis and many other diseases. Dr. Caruthers also co-founded another impressive organization, Applied Biosystems, which has revolutionized research in the pharmaceutical industry.

I want to acknowledge Dr. Caruthers for his generous gift to support the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology Program at the University of Colorado. Dr. Caruthers has taught chemistry and biochemistry at the University for the past 34 years. He wants to ensure that biomedical students will continue to do groundbreaking work. His recent financial contribution is the largest gift ever contributed by a University of Colorado faculty member and will undoubtedly lead to significant advancements.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Dr.

Marvin Caruthers for his dedication to the advancement of biotechnology. I wish him success in all his future endeavors.

TEXAS BLACK GOLD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 77 years ago, during the month of October, the biggest known oil field in the world was discovered in east Texas by Alabama wildcatter C.M. "Dad" Joiner. The nearby towns of Kilgore and Gladewater became bustling boom towns practically over night as thousands of people moved in trying to get their share. By the next year, the wells in the field were producing over 900,000 barrels of oil a day. When all was said and done, the oil field spanned over 40 miles and contained more than 30,000 wells in all. The discovery of oil in the State attracted hundreds of independent oil companies to the area, pushing Texas into the industrial world for the first time.

Oil is still an important part of the Texas economy, but times have changed. Now the largest oil fields are in the Middle East, which means America is dependent on foreign countries for its oil. The increased tension and turmoil in that region only reinforces the importance of decreasing our dependency on foreign countries for a resource that in the year 2007 we can't live without.

We need to continue to look at alternative and renewable energy sources to decrease our reliance on oil. We need to continue to search for oil in our own backyard to reduce our need to work with countries that don't have our best interest in mind. We need to protect our oil companies at home. We need to do these things so that our future generations aren't living the consequences of our inactions.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL FITZGERALD, BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 134

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good husband, a good father, a good friend, a good son, and a good man; who devoted his life to his family, to his union and to his work on behalf of the working people throughout the world. Madam Speaker, Michael Fitzgerald was a third-generation electrician who joined Local 134 in December of 1974. He was appointed special assistant to the business manager in 1991 prior to being elected as business manager in 1995, where he served until 2006. He served on the executive board of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and as its second vice-president. He also served as vice president of the Chicago Cook County Building Trades Coun-

cil, and served as chairman and as president of the Illinois State Conference of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Under Michael's leadership, Local 134 continued the tradition of strong and aggressive growth and has become one of the largest and most influential Electricians locals in North America, with over 17,000 members.

At the 36th Convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Michael Fitzgerald served as Secretary to the Law Committee at the 37th Convention. In addition, Michael Fitzgerald was active in many other civic and community endeavors. He served on the Mayor's Zoning Reform Commission from 2000 to 2004, and on the Illinois Medical Center Commission from 1998 until his death. He was president of the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center for abused children from 1999 to 2005, and on the executive committee of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, which governs the activities at Navy Pier and the McCormick Place complex from 2001 through 2005. Michael was also an attorney and member of the American Bar Association and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association.

Michael Fitzgerald gained recognition for his outstanding work and commitment to humankind. He was named Man of the Year by several organizations including, The Coalition for United Community Action, 1996; Irish American Alliance, 1997; Maritime Trades and The Greater Chicago and Vicinity Port Council, 1998; Hispanic Electricians Alliance, 1999; Italian American Labor Council, 2001; and The Anti-Defamation League, 2001. He also received the Rerun Novarum Award for Labor from the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1999. He served as a member of the board of directors of Amalgamated Bank of Chicago and was appointed to the Catholic Charities Advisory Board. He has been recognized for his commitment to St. Xavier University in 2007; Mayor Richard M. Daley presented Mr. Fitzgerald with the John E. Rooney Corporate Hero Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the city of Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and their two children, Marty and Sarah.

Madam Speaker, the steps of a good man are ordered and directed by the Lord.

Michael Fitzgerald was a good man; may his soul rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO CHEBOYGAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an important institution in my district that serves the health care needs of the people of northern Michigan. Next week, Cheboygan Memorial Hospital (CMH) will celebrate 65 years of service to northern Michigan residents.

Cheboygan Memorial Hospital traces its history back to 1929, when a group of local citizens united in an effort to build the first community hospital in Cheboygan. This small, but committed, group of volunteers collaborated to raise funding for a hospital in Cheboygan.