

weekend this August 2–4, 1996. One of the key events slated is the burying of a time capsule on the campus to be opened 50 years from now.

Besides a fine academic and cultural center, Lake Superior State University is a division I, NCAA hockey powerhouse. Even though it is the smallest division I school, college's hockey champions reside in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Speaker, Lake Superior State University has a proud history. On behalf of the State of Michigan and the entire Nation, I would like to congratulate Lake Superior State University on 50 years of quality education.

THANK YOU, CHRISTY STRAWMAN,
FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Christy Strawman, my senior telecommunications policy advisor—for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the 5 years that she has worked in my office.

Christy came to work in my office in 1991 as a legislative assistant. In that position, she handled a wide variety of issues—briefing me on legislation and responding to constituent inquiries on issues for which she was responsible.

Two years later, when my legislative director left my office, I asked Christy to head up my legislative staff. As my legislative director, Christy managed the other members of my legislative staff and coordinated my overall legislative agenda. She also worked with the legislative counsel in drafting legislation. In particular, she advised me on telecommunications and securities matters, health care, trade, environmental and transportation issues.

In January 1995, when the Republican takeover of Congress allowed me to assume the chairmanship of the House Telecommunications and Finance Committee, I asked Christy to devote her entire focus to working with me, subcommittee staff, and subcommittee members to help hammer out comprehensive telecommunications reform legislation—legislation that had proved elusive in the 103d Congress. But Christy knew the issues, knew the personalities, and knew my priorities for telecommunications reform legislation. As the process dragged on, the hours were long, and the negotiations were often frustrating. But 3 years after we first began the effort, Republicans and Democrats, House Members and Senators, and congressional leaders and administration officials finally reached an agreement that we could all support. In February, President Clinton signed the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 into law. Much of

the credit for making the goal of reforming the Nation's telecommunications laws a reality belongs to Christy. Without the dedication and hard work she demonstrated throughout the arduous process, I question whether this legislation would have been enacted into law. Christy has also had the opportunity to help enact into law securities litigation reform and capital markets deregulation legislation. She has worked tirelessly for many years to help me achieve my legislative priorities, and I deeply appreciate her efforts.

Christy Strawman is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with her.

Christy has yet to make a definite decision about what she wants to do in the years ahead. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities she has demonstrated in the past will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Christy Strawman for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District, and to this great institution.

IN HONOR OF MR. KENNETH R.
PLUM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth R. Plum who has served the Fairfax County Public School system for the past 28 years as the director of adult and community education. August 1, 1996 marks the retirement of this exceptional member of our local community, who has dedicated years of services to Northern Virginia.

As the adult and community education director from 1967–1996, Mr. Plum increased participation in the program from a modest few thousand to over 80,000 participants. He made numerous contributions to adult and community education including the establishment of an apprenticeship program, adult career training and certification, enrichment classes for adults, special program for displaced homemakers and teen mothers, a wide range of English as a second language classes for adults, three high school completion programs, an expansive volunteer tutoring program, GED classes in the adult detention center, alternative schools for juvenile court youth, a comprehensive parenting education center, and the Learning in Retirement Institute for senior adults. His work earned him the 1985 Secretary of Education Award for Excellence in Education, an honor given to the ten best education programs in the nation. Then in 1986, Mr. Plum earned the Virginia Tech Excellence in Education Award.

In addition, Mr. Plum has served the Fairfax County community as the 36th District Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, a position he held from 1978–80, and from 1982 to the present. In this role, he received many

other awards for his community contributions. He was named Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Founders for 2 years in a row, 1994 Legislator Advocate of the Year by Virginia Interfaith for Public Policy, and 1995–96 Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in applauding Mr. Kenneth Plum for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen and improve the education of our citizens. We wish him great success in his future endeavors.

CONGRESS AND MEDICARE

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, there is an old trick to hawking snake oil. First raise the fear. Then sell to it. That is exactly what the big-union, Washington-based labor bosses are trying to do with their latest advertising campaign of fear and blatant disinformation.

You have possibly seen some of these ads on television. The latest is a real whopper, claiming that Congress is out to kill Medicare. Of course, exactly the opposite is true.

In fact, Congress is trying to save Medicare from impending bankruptcy by increasing spending at a slower rate than before. This is also what the President has proposed. So instead of Medicare spending going up 10 percent a year, the President and Congress propose that it go up about 7.5 percent.

So how can the Washington-based labor bosses get away with this blatantly false advertising? Well, they can not everywhere. Stations around the country, including some in Cleveland, have refused to run these Medicare ads because they are factually incorrect and misleading. In one on-air story, a TV station in Maine called this latest ad by the Washington labor bosses, "a callous and flagrant attempt to play upon the fears of senior Americans." Closer to home, a recent attack ad paid for by AFL–CIO members' dues was so bad that even Cleveland AFL–CIO general secretary Dick Acton admitted that it, "technically might be in error."

That the Washington labor bosses are flat-out lying about the issues is bad enough. What makes it even more about the issues is bad enough. What makes it even more outrageous is that they are using the forced dues of their hard-working members to pay for it. Washington's labor bosses have pledged to spend \$500,000 this specifically to defeat me. That effort is being financed by a 36 percent hike in members' political dues. Yet on the vast majority of issues rank-and-file members do not agree with the positions of their out-of-touch bosses in Washington.

The union men and women I speak with overwhelming support time limits and work requirements for welfare recipients and tax relief for working families. They want term limits and a balanced budget. The Washington labor bosses oppose every one of those positions.

Perhaps even more telling is that 44 percent of union members consider themselves to be conservative, yet almost 100 percent of their involuntary political contributions go to Democrats. As a result you can understand why so many union members are rightly embarrassed