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 an 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-rifle 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

and angry that their forced dues are being used to finance political campaigns they do not support.

It is sad that Washington's labor bosses care more about their own power then they do about the truth or the views of their members. They benefited enormously from the growing Federal Government under the old majority. And they are not about to sit idly by as the power that was once theirs is returned to its rightful owners, the people.

If we allow fear to triumph, we can just wave goodbye to a balanced budget, middle-class tax relief, and welfare reform, and say hello to higher taxes and more debt on the backs of our children.

It is up to the American people. Will it be snake oil and fear, or truth and courage?

RECOGNITION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC

HON. ANDREA H. SEASTRAND

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, San Luis Obispo County a few years ago launched a strategic plan to diversify its economic base. One of the key playes was Pacific Gas Electric Co. which with local leaders and stakeholders forged a long-term community economic development plan.

For its role, PG&E was recognized with the Edison Electric Institute's Common Goals Special Distinction Award for customer satisfaction. Tapan Monroe, PG&E's chief economist and manager of Community Economic Vitality Initiatives, came to Washington to receive the award from EEI President Thomas R. Kuhn in a Capitol Hill ceremony.

PG&E and other San Luis Obispo County businesses and interests staged an unprecedented regional conference that drew more than 400 attendees. One result was the establishment of the San Luis Obispo County Economic Vitality Corporation, a nonprofit unit taked with creating jobs and increasing investment in the county.

Dennis Hennessy, PG&E division manager, and his staff were involved in organizing the nonprofit corporation. PG&E continues to provide staff and consultant resources. PG&E employee Missie Hobson serves on the board and chairs the Community Preparedness Committee.

I commend all the partners and their good work in the San Luis Obispo County. Congratulations to PG&E on winning the EEI Common Goals Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF KIRBY WILSON, GOLD MEDALIST IN COURAGE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks in Atlanta, we have adorned many Americans with Olympic medals as a testament to their dedication and courage. Today, I rise to pay tribute to another true champion of courage, Kirby Wilson.

This special girl resides in Western Springs, IL. which is located in my congressional district. Kirby recently celebrated her 5th birthday with friends and family, where she received many gifts, such as a doll, bubbles, and kites. It would appear that Kirby enjoys a normal, healthy life, but unfortunately, she possesses a rare genetic disease. The illness, called Sanfilippo Syndrome, causes children to miss an essential enzyme that breaks down a complex body sugar. Consequently, the sugar slowly builds in the brain and stops normal development. Kirby's health will deteriorate as the disease produces hyperactivity, sleep disorders, loss of speech, mental retardation, dementia, and finally, death before she reaches age 15.

Unfortunately, there exists no cure for Sanfilippo Syndrome. Moreover, it is difficult to gather researchers and raise money for Sanfilippo Syndrome because it occurs in just 1 of every 24,000 births. Many lawmakers support funding more well-known diseases such as breast cancer and AIDS. These lawmakers feel that it is imperative to distribute funds that affect the most people. However, this should not diminish the severity of Kirby's heartbreaking situation. Thus, I have written a letter to Dr. Harold Varmus, Director of the National Institutes of Health, in support of funding research specifically for Sanfilippo Syndrome.

Meanwhile, Kirby's parents, Brad and Sue Wilson, have taken the initiative to form The Children's Medical Research Foundation. Kirby's parents have implemented hard work and sacrifice for the organization to engage in an active fundraising campaign. Brad and Sue Wilson planned the ''Sweetheart Dinner Dance,'' ''Kirby by Candlelight,'' and ''The Fore Kirby Golf Fun Raiser.'' With the help of Kirby's friends, school, church, and family, these events have raised more than $140,000 for the Children's Medical Research Foundation. This is a testament to the good that can result from people working together for a common cause.

Due to the success of its fundraising, the Foundation has awarded a $40,000 research grant to Dr. Margaret Jones at Michigan State University. Currently, the Foundation is planning to issue a $100,000 research grant to Dr. Chet Whitley at University of Minnesota. Dr. Whitley will collaborate with Dr. Elizabeth Neufeld, a UCLA researcher that recently won the National Medal of Science for her exemplary research on the Sanfilippo Syndrome. The work accomplished through his research will benefit not only Kirby Wilson, but future children that will be diagnosed with the disease.

Mr. Speaker, if courage was an Olympic sport, Kirby and her parents would earn a gold medal. I only hope that one day, researchers will develop a cure to save Kirby and others afflicted with Sanfilippo Syndrome.

THE ISSUES OF THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the issues of the Tongass National Forest have been before the Congress for some time. Many of us were here in 1990 for the Tongass Timber Reform Act, which set aside 1 million acres of wilderness and unilaterally modified the two long-term timber contracts. Some of us remember the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, which set aside about 5 million acres of Tongass wilderness. But no current member was here for the first act of Congress specific to the Tongass—the Tongass Timber Act of 1947, which authorized the sale of timber from the Tongass for the purpose of local employment. At a time when debate over the Tongass becomes every day more contentious and confused it may be worthwhile to look back to that act. This history is relevant because the problems the 1947 act worked to solve are being recreated today by a handful of extremists.

The 1947 act was the culmination of a quarter-century-long effort to develop a stable, year-round industry in southeast Alaska. Before Congress authorized the sale of timber, thereby inducing the pulp companies to invest in Alaska, there was not much of an economy in southeast. Fishing was poor, tourism was nonexistent and the gold mines had been closed during the war. The population was small and transient—it was a hard place to raise a family. Congress decided, and President Truman agreed, that the sale of timber through long-term contracts would improve the situation, stabilize the economy of southeast Alaska and serve the interests of Alaska and the United States.

The contracts were in the interest of Alaska because they fostered a prosperous and stable economy. They were in the interest of the United States because Tongass forest products helped supply the post-war housing boom in the United States and were instrumental in the reconstruction of Japan. The contracts were necessary for defense purposes as well—Alaska had proven vulnerable in World War II and needed a stable population to secure the territory. All of these benefits were recognized in the House report that accompanied the 1947 Tongass Timber Act:

> A large-scale development of the timber resources in southeastern Alaska, involving the establishment of important business enterprises and the employment of many persons for extensive operations on a year-round basis, is essential to the maintenance of a prosperous and stable economy in the Territory. Heretofore, Alaska has been handicapped by the seasonal nature of the principal industrial activities conducted within the area. A timber program of the sort mentioned by the Secretary of the Interior would be of great benefit in assisting the people of Alaska to progress from the present dependence upon seasonal business operations. Moreover, such a development within the Territory would be of great value to the Nation as a whole, both from the standpoint of making available to the National economy valuable and sorely needed products from the great forests in southeastern Alaska and from the standpoint of promoting national defense through increasing the population and industrial capacity of Alaska as our ''Northern Rampart.'' House Committee on Agriculture, Report No. 873, July 10, 1947.

The Tongass timber industry was essential to those ends in 1947 and it remains so today. We still need a year-round economy in southeast Alaska. We still need a domestic supply of forest products to meet national and international demand. We still need a stable population base in Alaska for our national security.