

as the town of Philipsburg by petition on November 29, 1864.

Although the face of Philipsburg has changed in its evolution, its most basic tenets have not. Since its formation, Philipsburg has been a growth-oriented community well-known for its residents' strong work ethic and sense of family values. Residents truly appreciate the value of an honest day's work and take great pride in their efforts. These characteristics make the town and the Moshannon Valley as a whole very attractive to business and industry. Indeed, the success and expansion of several local businesses offers testimony to the caliber of the work force. The fact that several national corporations have chosen Philipsburg as home also reflects their overall confidence in the region.

Nevertheless, there is more to a community than its history and development. For some, the most important component of a community is its character, especially for those individuals seeking an exception quality of life. True to form, Philipsburg does not disappoint in this category either. The beauty and serenity of the surrounding hills truly make it an ideal place to live. Each season distinctly enhances the town's natural beauty, whether it be the colorful fall foliage of the peaceful blanket of winter's snow. Recreation and other activities abound within the area. Festivals, parades, church suppers, and youth sports are embraced by the community as a whole and evoke a sense of hometown atmosphere to native residents and newcomers alike. Visitors are not viewed as strangers as is so often the case today, but treated as family.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed privileged to serve such an idyllic and distinguished community. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing the citizens of Philipsburg a very happy 200th anniversary with positive outlook for another 200 years of continued growth and prosperity.

AMITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATES ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the Amity Presbyterian Church's 200th anniversary. It has served the spiritual needs of the people of the Warwick township in Orange County, NY for 200 years, and God willing, it will serve the people for many more years to come.

The Amity Presbyterian Church has grown as America has grown. It was organized when our Nation was just 21 years old under the name of the Presbyterian Society of Amity. At the time of the organization, John Adams was President, and our Nation was in its first year without the father of our country, George Washington. As our Nation grew so has the church. The Amity Presbyterian Church has been there during our Nation's moments of triumph, and during our darkest times. For 200 years, the Amity church has heard the prayers, and problems of Americans. It still stands, much like our Nation, strong, proud, and glorious.

The Amity church moved into its present building just after the conclusion of the War

Between the States, and was remodeled in 1931. The church is presently undergoing a renovation, which started in 1994, which will hopefully restore it to its former glory.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in extending our congratulations to the congregants of the Amity Presbyterian Church as they celebrate this significant milestone.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT (BUTCH)
BEMMES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge to many outstanding contributions of a good friend and constituent, Robert (Butch) Bemmes, who is retiring as a member of the city council of Reading, OH, on July 15, 1997.

A lifelong resident of Reading, Butch Bemmes has spent years giving back to his community. He is a carpenter by trade and owned the Butch Bemmes and Sons Construction Co. He volunteered for years with the Valley Youth Organization, coaching Little League baseball. For 30 years, he volunteered by carrying down markers at Reading High School football games. This year, he personally collected donations to purchase a wheelchair lift for Veterans Stadium in Reading to allow the disabled to enjoy the Friday night football action. He also served as president of the Reading athletic boosters during the 1970's.

Butch has also been active in public service. He served two teams on the Reading city council, where he served as chairman of the recreation committee; chairman of the zoning, planning and environment committee; and a member of the laws and contracts committee. He also served as Reading's city representative to the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, city representative for the Mill Creek Watershed committee and liaison for council and the school board committee.

Even with all these accomplishments, his first love has always been his family. Butch and his wife, Paula, raised nine children to whom they are devoted. And their family now includes 26 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Butch Bemmes has worked to make his city and his country a better place to live. I salute his many contributions and wish him well.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1119) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, for military activities of the Department of

Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I rise alongside my colleagues from the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee in strong support of the amendment to H.R. 1119 offered by my good friend, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. Chairman, the Delaware Bay, which stretches across the width of the second district, is a high-traffic area for tankers transiting to and from Philadelphia. From Cape May Point, watching the tankers on the horizon, I am reminded that a disaster like the *Exxon Valdez* spill could happen again at any time—so I am thankful for the much-needed safeguards put in motion by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 [OPA 90]

The double hull provisions in OPA 90 were created expressly for the purpose of preventing another disaster like the *Valdez spill*. Anyone who doubts the wisdom of these requirements should visit the bayside communities in the second district. It would be plain to see the amount of wildlife and coastal vegetation that would be affected by a spill is too staggering to comprehend. Commercial and recreational fishermen who rely on the Delaware Bay would face certain losses as well.

That is why I strongly object to shippers attempting to remeasure or reduce their vessels' gross tonnage in order to evade the double hull requirements. Each year that owners or operators extend the life of older vessels only increases the chance of a disastrous hull breach. Mr. Chairman, we can close this loophole in OPA 90 now, or agonize over why we did not after the next spill occurs.

While I am a strong supporter of American cabotage, and believe that international shipping is vital to the commerce of the United States, we cannot have shippers abusing the law. Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN'S amendment is a commonsense improvement, and I urge its support to all my colleagues.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, east Texans are overburdened by taxes. They work hard and take home too little of their paycheck. I understand that the deficits of the 1980's have limited the amount of tax relief we can offer to the people, but I feel strongly that we must offer what we can. Families need help covering the expenses of raising their children. They need help paying for the expenses of higher education. They need to be able to keep more of the money they earn from their long term investments. And they need to be able to pass family farm or a family business to their children without having to sell it to pay taxes when they pass away.

East Texans need tax relief, and that is why I voted for H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act.