

the United States. The very first parade on September 5, 1882, created the momentum that followed that event to the enactment of federal legislation establishing a national holiday for the recognition of labor.

Union Square has also played an important role in the historic development of New York City. It was initially settled as a square surrounded by beautiful residences, and later, in the 1850's, the area around the Square became New York City's first theatrical district.

Also during the 19th century, Union Square became a major nexus for transportation, ultimately to become a hub in New York City's subway system. The easy access to Union Square helped to bring people in the 1920's and 1930's to Union Square Park for political rallies and labor demonstrations.

In recent years, Union Square Park has been rehabilitated and has become known for its open spaces and green-grocer markets. It retains its importance in New York City through this, its transportation crossroads, and its proximity to the historic and refurbished Ladies' Mile. Its historic importance will only be augmented by its designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to bring to your attention this important dedication. Of the 2,250 sites granted this status, fewer than 25 are related to labor. The inclusion of Union Square as a National Historic Landmark will guarantee that it will continue to be a magnet for working people and free political expression.

COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION MAKES POSITIVE REFORMS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to hear from the Colorado Child Care Association regarding the challenges they are facing during this time of significant change to the industry. Increased demand, new research about the importance of childhood learning, changing expectations toward the industry, and contradictions in government policy are impacting child care businesses and the families they serve.

Recent scientific findings suggest what many of us who are involved in education policy have known for some time—early childhood learning is critical to intellectual and emotional development. There are learning "windows" of time for cognitive development and if these "windows" are missed, learning will occur more slowly and with difficulty. This research is changing consumers expectations of early child care. People are demanding greater quality and the industry is responding by providing just that. The industry is moving from custodial care to an active, educational approach to child care.

Unfortunately, several obstacles remain which prevent the industry from competitively raising their standards to the level which is deemed necessary. Educational care is more expensive than custodial care because qualified teachers are needed and they must be compensated for their skills. There is a direct correlation between cost and quality which consumers must bear in mind when they shop for this service.

While the public is responding to these changes, public policy is slow to keep up. The government's approach to child care is undermining efforts to increase quality and availability. Public programs are highly fragmented, imposing different standards and different funding streams. Bias against taxable entities results in the exclusion of quality businesses from providing education to disadvantaged and at-risk children. The segregation of disadvantaged children from their community peers prevents positive interaction.

Moreover, competition from public entities undermines the viability of the private sector. Most child care providers operate with profit margins of under four percent. Heavy labor costs for small children are offset by the smaller cost of caring for older children. When public programs take older children from the private sector, they force private businesses to increase the cost of infant and toddler care or to go out of business. While private child care is more than adequate to provide for the needs of welfare-to-work consumers, liberal policymakers continue to push for more public facilities. Low reimbursement rates are the only disincentive to providers. Space is available.

Lastly, cognitive gains from public and private early childhood learning programs are not maintained in the public schools. By the third grade, preschool and Headstart learners have lost their advantage. Parents who were once encouraged to be active in their child's education through Headstart and other programs, are discouraged from participation. High academic standards are reduced.

Mr. Speaker, the Colorado Child Care Association is dedicated to making the positive reforms during this time of changing needs and expectations. Congress needs to take up its share by eliminating obstacles which are holding back these institutions.

Additionally, I would like to thank Andre Ransom, Sharon Archer, Marilyn Rhodes, Carrier Rivera, Lee and Joan Fetters, Sandy Bright, and Larry and Ruth Neal for the time they have spent with me and my staff and for their commitment to improving child care in the Fourth District of Colorado.

78 YEARS OF SERVICE: THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the contributions, hard work and dedication of a fine, outstanding and caring group of individuals in my home State of Delaware: The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA). On the behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to thank them for their vital and dynamic service to our community.

This weekend, in Dover, volunteer firefighters from Delaware will gather to recognize and celebrate their seventy-eight years unselfish service and notable leadership to our state. This type of dedication and commitment to serving the public is very rare among individuals. For many years, dedicated and caring men and women have been trained to help

prevent or battle fires and perform countless hours of emergency medical services for our citizens. For these reasons and many more, I believe Delaware's volunteer fire and emergency medical personnel are the best in the country.

Mr. Speaker, during the last year, Donald W. Knight has served as president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. Like those who have preceded him in this capacity he has provided leadership and vision to the Delaware volunteer fire and emergency medical service community. Under his tenure, President Knight successfully led the DVFA efforts to establish improved training standards for Emergency Medical Service Volunteers. Additionally, he advocated statewide training for emergency responders on potential incidents of terrorism and improved services to the sixty member companies of the DVFA. Upon completion of his term this weekend, President Knight assumes his new role as Delaware State Fire Prevention Commissioner. I have every confidence that he will provide the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission with the same diligent and hands on leadership that benefitted the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association so well over the past year.

As the gavel falls to open the 78th annual DVFA Conference celebration, I extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation not only as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, but as a former Governor who values the leadership, teamwork and dedication the DVFA has given to the people of the First State. I hope you all realize how deeply your efforts are appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRANTS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, with honor and appreciation, I commend the seven special women who have dedicated loving service to the people of Guam and the Northern Marianas for the past fifty years. This year, Sisters Mary David Richard, RSM; Mary Celeste Fejarang, RSM; Mary Angelica Perez, RSM; Evelyn Muña, RSM; Joseph Marie Perez, RSM; Mary Callista Camacho, RSM; and Marie Pierre Martinez, RSM, celebrate Golden Jubilees as a Sister of Mercy. In honor of the occasion, I would like to share with my colleagues significant events and the achievements of these remarkable women.

Sister Mary David Richard was born Josephine Marie Richard in Buffalo, New York, on March 29, 1929. She never thought of leaving Buffalo until she entered the community in Belmont, North Carolina on September 15, 1947. At her reception on August 14, 1948, she took on her new identity as "Sister Mary David." She first came to Guam in 1953 and returned to the States in 1960. In 1975, she returned to Guam to teach math at the junior high level. She currently assists the administrators of Saint Anthony School as the computer operator for basic student data. Sister Mary David treasures her return to the island, meeting up with former students, the love and generosity of the Sisters on Guam, and the