IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES F. McCONNELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE FLUSHING SAVINGS BANK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of the State of New York and the staff of the Flushing Savings Bank as they honor James F. McConnell upon his retirement as the bank's president and CEO.

Mr. McConnell's background is both diverse and effective. Prior to his election as president of the Flushing Savings Bank he held prominent management positions with AMBAC Industries of Garden City, New York and the EDO Corporation of College Point. He joined the Flushing Savings Bank in 1974 as vice president and treasurer. Realizing his keen sense of leadership and a most effective approach to getting things done, the bank appointed him president in 1981, appointed him to its board of directors in 1983 and elected him chief executive officer in 1990.

Mr. McConnell's multiple leadership talents reach far beyond the Flushing Savings Bank. He has served on the board of directors of the community bankers association of New York state from 1987 to 1997 and served as the association's chairman from 1990-1991.

He was highly instrumental in negotiations which led to the successful merger of the savings banks of New York state with the New York League of Savings Institutions, thereby creating the Community Bankers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me and rise in honor of James F. McConnell, who has imparted a sense of professionalism, leadership and community responsibility. His record is one of dynamism and productivity which readily emerges as a yardstick by which all such future efforts are measured.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM GIUGNI

HON. STEPHEN HORN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Tom Giugni, who is retiring as executive director of the association of California school administrators. Dr. Giugni's retirement marks the end of a 40-year career of service in public education.

Public schools are filled with dedicated people whose main objective is to make life better for the students and the communities which they serve. But on occasion, there are those who outshine even the brightest educators. Dr. Giugni is such a person. Teachers, parents, administrators, and the business community have consistently looked to him for ideas, direction, and inspiration in serving students.

Dr. Giugni's career began humbly in 1956 as a substitute teacher in St. Helena, California. Five years later, he had worked his way up to the level of principal in the St. Helena unified school district, and he has never looked back. He has served six different California school districts, including four as superintendent. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Giugni when, during his tenure as superintendent of the Long Beach unified school district, he served on the education advisory committee of the school of education at California State University, Long Beach, where I was president.

He was a dynamic superintendent. Under his leadership, the Long Beach district became one of the most decentralized in the United States. He believed in cutting back. Creativity and innovation became the watchwords in the schools. Parent councils were created. Parents played an increasing role. Principals worked to encourage the best ideas and performance from their faculty.

For the first time in California the elementary and secondary schools were closely linked with a major university, California State University, Long Beach. Many post-secondary institutions have their education majors intern in the schools. But the CSULB Long Beach unified school district was a true partnership in which university students and faculty members as well as student organizations across the university involved themselves with the schools and their students.

Dr. Giugni has further served California through active participation in numerous civic and professional organizations, including as a member of area chambers of commerce and industry education councils, an advisor to California colleges and universities, and an advocate of events to fight cancer and drug abuse. His knowledge and expertise have been recognized by several respected educational journals who have published his articles, and he has received countless awards honoring his leadership.

Dr. Giugni committed his career to improving education. His genuine concern for students, his vision, and his ability to rally support for public schools will be greatly missed. All of us who know him wish him well and doubt that he will be inactive in retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. HARISH MALHOTRA OF JOHN T. MATHER HOSPITAL

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House of Representatives to join with the staff and patrons of John T. Mather hospital as they honor Dr. Harish Malhotra of Shoreham, Long Island, with the "Theodore Roosevelt Award" for his dedicated service to Mather Hospital and the Long Island community.

On Friday evening, October 23, hundreds of friends, volunteers and staff will gather for Mather hospital's 33rd annual "One Enchanted Evening" fundraising dinner. This year, in recognition of October as national breast cancer awareness month, the proceeds from Mather Hospital's annual benefit will go to the Fortunato Breast Health Center and breast cancer treatment.

A native of India, where he earned distinction as a "Gold Medal" doctor at the University of New Delhi for his work in surgery, Dr. Malhotra has achieved great success as a surgeon because he remains an avid student of his craft. A voracious reader, Dr. Malhotra is dedicated to the continual development of his talent for healing the sick and injured. "If you don't read a lot and keep constant," Dr. Malhotra said, "you can't take very good care of your patients." Because of his lifelong pursuit of knowledge and inner desire to make the absolute most of his skills, Dr. Malhotra is able to take very good care of his patients.

It was while researching innovative surgical technologies that Dr. Malhotra learned of the bold new bone marrow and organ transplant projects. Moved by the positive results of these surgical techniques, Dr. Malhotra founded the first bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell transplantation program in Suffolk County, one of the most successful programs of its kind in the United States.

When he is not working with his patients or reading up on the latest surgical techniques, Dr. Malhotra is usually found on the golf course, or spending time with his wife Maureen and six-year-old son Kiran.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join the entire John T. Mather Hospital community as we honor Dr. Harish Malhotra, a now deserving recipient of the "Theodore Roosevelt Award" for his dedicated service to the hospital and our entire Long Island community.

CITIZENS' VOICE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJ ORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. KANJ ORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Citizens' Voice newspaper of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary on October 9, 1998. Despite tremendous obstacles, the Citizens' Voice has survived and thrived as a daily newspaper in a competitive market.

In the fall of 1978, 205 employees of the Wilkes-Barre publishing company who were on strike decided to create their own paper. That decision led to the publishing of the first edition of the Citizens' Voice. Since then, the paper has grown to a circulation of approximately 38,000. During that time, the Voice has received numerous awards from local and state professional organizations.

The Voice's first "home" was a building scheduled for demolition by the redevelopment authority on North Main Street in Wilkes-Barre. In early 1979, the Voice moved to the mezzanine of the hotel Sterling in the heart of downtown Wilkes-Barre. In June of 1984, the Voice moved to its present headquarters on North Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Speaker, not too many cities the size of Wilkes-Barre have two daily newspapers anymore, but I think the presence of both papers has been an important and invaluable source of coverage provided to area residents. I applaud the Citizens' Voice for its twenty years of excellence and wish the paper future success.
CONGRATULATIONS TO POLISH AMERICAN VETERANS’ CLUB OF WILBRAHAM, MA ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to today congratulate the Polish American Veterans; (PAV) Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts on its 50th anniversary. The PAV in Wilbraham has for half a century played a vital role in its community. In celebration of this noteworthy occasion, I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations to each and every member of the Club, and to enter the complete history of the Polish American Veterans’ Club of Wilbraham, Massachusetts into today’s CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The History

The hostilities of World War II had come to a close and the veterans were returning to their homes where their families were anxiously awaiting their return. Some local organizations and merchants also combined their efforts to extend their greetings throughout our Home Town. In most foreign countries men and women who were being honored at these events formed a new segment in our community, “Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.” The loose social association of these men held in the months following their return coupled with their similarity of interests, ambitions and background inspired the idea for the formation of an organizational entity.

Uniting any group into a functioning organization required the leadership of a person who is familiar with the aspirations and the problems of the group, along with a deep interest in their progress. The Veterans of the Tri-Town area were fortunate in having a man who qualified in every respect as an organizer. His interest in the welfare of this body must have had a great influence on leading them into organization. The man, Father A. M. Kiecik of the curate of the Immaculate Conception Parish. His uniting efforts during these important organizational meetings resulted in the formation of a strong “Polish American Veterans Club.”

Father called the first meeting on February 23, 1947, where various types of Veteran’s groups were discussed. A committee, headed by Edward Halesch, was called to research into an organization that would function best in this area. The new club was to be founded by the Veterans of Polish extraction from the Indian Orchard, Ludlow and Wilbraham area to encourage social acquaintances among members for the advancement of social, educational and economic interests, ambitions and background inspired the idea for the formation of an organizational entity.

In 1949, the Club Members remodeled the old dairy building on 4½ Avenue Street as their temporary home and for ten years it served as an informal meeting place for members. A building committee was appointed and in January 1959 at a specially called meeting, the plans for the new building were accepted by a vote of the body. The dedication of the “Polish American Veterans Club” was held on January 30, 1960.

The membership broadened its scope in community service and expanded our sports program to include the youth in the area by sponsoring baseball, girls’ softball, hockey, soccer and basketball. We also sponsored a visit of the West Point Glee Club for a performance at the Springfield Auditorium. Many Club Members and their families had the pleasure of meeting the cadets personally by sharing their homes for an evening stay. The Polish American Veterans were instrumental in the renovation of the Kosciuszko Chapter of the Academy. The Sunshine Village and many charitable organizations receive annual donations. The Ludlow Hospital office was given a sizable donation for their fund drive. The cost of a classroom was given to Christ the King Social Club. A new Church Altar was presented to the Immaculate Conception Church. The Fire and Police Departments in the Tri-Town area received life-saving and communication equipment. The area Libraries are given hard cover books periodically. The annual United Polish Clubs Scholarship Dinner-Dance is held in the Veterans Ballroom. Biannual bus trips to the Holyoke Soldiers Home-Dance is held in the Veterans Ballroom. The American Field Day has been held at the Hotel Inn, Home, Auxiliary, Polish pierogies, rye bread, horse-radish, kielbasa and home baked pastries plus prize winning money for Bingo Games which is shared with the resident patient veterans. The Post also adopted a wing at the Holyoke Soldiers Home for which we funded interior decorations and supplies.

The greatest highlight of the Club history was the founding of the “Polish American Auxiliary.” The women organized in 1962 under the same policy and the same aims as the Veterans, but has been indispensable in providing assistance to the Club. They have been a mainspring in devising fund raising methods. Our major fund raiser is the raffle for the Veterans’ Day Picnic and the Auxiliary. The Labor Day Weekend Picnic and the Annual Breakfast-Brunch. In June 1962, the Wilbraham Post became affiliated with the Polish American Veterans of Massachusetts. Our Post hosted State Conventions in 1964, 1970, 1976 and 1984. The most outstanding was the 100th Anniversary Convention and Parade complete with 15 State Posts and their Marching Bands. The march was led by our own “Minute Men” dressed in Revolutionary War Uniforms. One of our contributions to the year-long celebrations of the United States 200th Birthday Party. Many of our Club Veterans and Auxiliary Members served as officers in the State Department of the Polish American Veterans of Massachusetts. To this day, 6 Club Veterans have been elected State Commanders and 2 Auxiliary Members were elected State Presidents.

The Town of Wilbraham generously dedicated to the Polish American Veterans surplus Pine School land along with a parcel which was taken from the Polish American Veterans by eminent domain for School purposes. This enabled the Club to construct additional paved off-aces parking, an outdoor pavilion and open land for recreational activity.

Socially we continue to celebrate the annual Dinner-Dance; the joint installation of Officers; a Spring-Fling, a Steak Barbecue; a Hawaiian Night; the Membership Jamboree and also the Annual United Polish Clubs Scholarship Dinners.

There is a more serious side to this organization. Annually, the Members and the Auxiliary gather in their Parade Dress for a march to church to pray for the souls of the deceased Members and Comrades who perished in battle. The Gold Star Mothers were always revered at the ceremonies.

Many of our Members serve or have served the Community and State in various capacities as Trustees, Town Councils, County Councils, Senior Citizens, elected Political Offices and other service areas. The Polish American Veterans have established outstanding lands and are a guiding influence in our community.

CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUTTS COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN JACKSON, GEORGIA

HON. MAC COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Butts County Courthouse in Jackson, Georgia. The anniversary celebration is being held tomorrow, and I wish to submit the remarks I prepared for the occasion for the Congressional Record.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the citizens of Butts County for inviting me to be a part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration for our county courthouse. During the long and rich history of our county, this beautiful building has endured the test of time. It has long