

colleagues join me in congratulating all past and present members of the Morris Center YMCA on this special anniversary year.

IN RECOGNITION OF GIL IBERG,  
"BIG BAND MOUTH OF THE  
SOUTH"

**HON. JIM McCRERY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today my constituent, Gil Iberg, known by many as "Big Band Mouth of the South." Gil Iberg has distinguished himself as a true connoisseur of big band music and has amassed an extraordinary collection of roughly 1,000 cassettes and 100 albums, containing the music of over 200 big bands. To make sure he misses no opportunity to add to his collection, Gil keeps a radio/cassette recorder on his bedside table so he can tape big band broadcasts.

Gil learned to play the trumpet when he was young, following the footsteps of his father, who played a bass fiddle in a local band in his hometown of Highland, Illinois. Although he caught big band fever when he was young, he didn't start collecting records and tapes until the 1960s, when the popularity of the music began to wane. Afraid that he might lose access to the music he loved, Gil began to collect his own supply. Gil has also seen many big bands in person, including Glenn Miller's and Artie Shaw's ensembles.

In the words of Gil himself, "I could talk about big bands all day and all night. I live and breathe and eat big band music. I play big band music every day of the week, and I exchange tapes and letters with other big band buffs from all over the country."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Gil Iberg for following his dream and becoming an expert in his chosen hobby. In more of his own words, "Some men fish or hunt. Some men golf. My thing is big bands. For me, there's nothing like it."

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. HAGAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Robert Hagan, an exceptional father, a dedicated public servant, and a brilliant humorist.

Mr. Hagan grew up in Youngstown, OH, one of six children in his family. He served as a Marine Corps flight instructor during World War II. Following the war he worked for his father's steel-erecting business, where he patented a new steel-scaffolding process.

Always aspiring for something new and challenging, Mr. Hagan hosted his own TV variety show in Youngstown. He also appeared occasionally on the Mike Douglas syndicated television show when it was broadcast from Cleveland.

In 1956, Mr. Hagan embarked on his political career by running for Trumbull County commissioner. He lost that election, but ran

again in 1962 and won. He served eight years at that position, resigning in 1969 in protest of a local judge's disregard for the commissioners. As a politician Mr. Hagan was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and an ardent supporter of civil rights and labor unions.

In 1970, while making a bid for the presidency, George McGovern hired Mr. Hagan as a special assistant in charge of one-liners. This offered Mr. Hagan the chance to merge two things he loved and understood best, politics and humor. He explained why this combination worked so well when he said, "the very concept of humor, to me, is a very important one because it communicates ideas in a most pleasant way."

Mr. Hagan was elected to the Ohio State House in 1981, where he served with his son Robert Hagan. After he failed in his bid to win re-election in 1988, Mr. Hagan continued to perform stand-up comedy and contribute editorials and guest columns to area newspapers.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have known Robert Hagan. He set an example of how to do a job well, and have fun at it too. I will miss him.

Mr. Hagan was the father of 14 children. His commitment to them, as well as his contributions to politics and humor, will be greatly missed.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE  
ORGAN DONOR LEAVE ACT

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, during the last 20 years, important medical breakthroughs such as tissue typing and immunosuppressant drugs have allowed for a larger number of successful organ transplants and a longer survival rate for transplant recipients. Certain organs, such as a single kidney, a lobe of a lung, a segment of the liver or a portion of the pancreas, can be transplanted from living donors, making it possible for them to save the lives of family members, coworkers, and friends.

Currently, federal employees may use up to 7 days of leave in each calendar year to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor. Yet, experience has shown that an organ transplant operation and post-operative recovery for living donors may take as long as six to eight weeks. In order to address this disparity, I worked with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in drafting this legislation to increase the amount of leave that may be used for organ donation to 30 days. The amount of leave that may be used for bone marrow donation will remain at 7 days because that is generally adequate for recovery from bone marrow donations.

Under this legislation, donors will not have to be concerned with using their personal sick or annual leave for these vital medical procedures because the leave granted is in addition to what they routinely earn.

The bill passed the House during the last Congress but the Senate failed to act on it before adjournment. I reintroduced this bill at the beginning of the 106th Congress in the hope that there will be ample time to win its enactment.

The Organ Donor Leave Act has the support of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), the largest professional transplant organization in the United States. In a letter expressing its support, the ASTP stated, ". . . a lack of leave time has served as a significant impediment and disincentive for individuals willing to share the gift-of-life."

Since the first kidney transplant in 1954, hundreds of patients have received successful transplants from living donors. Yet, each day, while 55 people receive an organ transplant, another 10 people on waiting lists die because not enough organs are available. A new name is added to a waiting list every 18 minutes in the United States. In 1997 only 15,000 people donated organs, leaving 35,000 people desperately in need. Currently, over 58,000 are waiting for a life saving organ transplant.

One lung can help another person breathe. One kidney can free someone from dialysis. A portion of a liver could save the life of a patient dying from disease. One's bone marrow could help repair another person's damaged joints.

This legislation will give federal employees who may consider becoming organ donors the assurance that they will be granted an adequate amount of time to recuperate from the life saving process that they voluntarily undertake. It will also serve as a guide and encouragement to other employers, public and private, to provide similar benefits to their employees. I urge all members to give it your support.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KAREN M.  
PHILLIPS

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Karen M. Phillips, a Peace Corps volunteer who was killed late last year near her home in Gabon, West Africa.

Karen Phillips dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Starting in June, 1998 when she was sworn in as a volunteer in Gabon, she worked to help local farmers market their products. She had also previously worked for five years for the international development organization CARE. According to her peers, she was a well-liked and dedicated volunteer.

In today's world, people often bemoan the lack of positive role models and heroes for our children and ourselves. Karen Phillips proved that this is not necessarily true. We would do very well to follow her example of selfless service.

SOUTH FLORIDA TEEN GIRLS  
RECEIVE POSITIVE ATTITUDE

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the accomplishments of a woman who has served as a wonderful example for teenage girls in the South Florida area

while at the same time rising to excellence within her chosen field as a TV anchor. Jennifer Valoppi conceived, created and founded "Women of Tomorrow" in 1997 and convinced her employer, NBC 6, to sponsor this very successful teen mentoring program.

"Women of Tomorrow" pairs professional women in the area with teenage girls of South Florida in order to improve their self-esteem as well as provide guidance and nurturing in their lives. The program is designed to show young women the endless possibilities ahead of them as they embark on the beginning of their adult lives.

Mentors meet with small groups, no larger than ten girls, to discuss their ambitions, motivations, positive attitudes and the achievement of their dreams in addition to sharing personal stories of triumph and temporary setbacks. Roads to success as well as potential roadblocks are also discussed.

In addition to launching this wonderful organization devoted to teenage girls, Jennifer is a multi-E Emmy award winning journalist who has twice been named "Best TV News Anchor."

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer has certainly made a mark on our community and I applaud her example to the community. She inspires all of us with her dedication and drive to improve the world around us.

#### SKOKIE, ONE OF THE BEST TOWNS AROUND

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Washington, DC, January 14, 1999.*

MAYOR JACQUELINE B. GORELL,  
*Village of Skokie, Skokie IL.*

DEAR MAYOR GORELL: What a wonderful job you have done in shaping Skokie into the remarkable place that it is! You should feel very proud and fulfilled as you leave elective office after 22 years of service, ten as Mayor. Now it is your turn to enjoy the wealth of opportunities that you have brought to Skokie.

You have more time to enjoy the world class library for which you were truly the driving force. You can walk the beautiful canal bank along with so many of your villagers who are appreciating the bike path, the sculpture park and the natural beauty which your vision and work made possible. You and Nate can attend even more excellent activities at the Performing Arts Center which is now your legacy. And you can rest assured at all times that you and yours are protected by a police and fire department that achieved a status that few other municipalities have reached while under your watch.

It is no wonder that Chicago Magazine rated Skokie as "one of the best towns around", and Worth Magazine said that "on Wall Street, it is a star." Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you and observing your leadership are not surprised by these accolades.

Mayor Gorell, thank you for all that you have done for the community. I wish you happiness in your retirement. If I can ever be

of help to you, I would be honored if you would call on me.

Sincerely,

JAN SCHAKOWSKY,  
*Member of Congress.*

#### TRIBUTE TO FLORA WALKER

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in rising today to recognize Flora Walker, past President of AFSCME Council 25, who retired on November 16, 1998. Her friends and colleagues will honor her with a reception on January 29, 1999.

Through the years, Flora Walker has been a fighter. Her tireless efforts have improved the lives of the working families throughout Southeastern Michigan. Flora is a woman who has dedicated her life to securing dignity and respect for all people. She has been a champion of civil rights and civil liberties, and has helped create a stronger, more united community. Her strong leadership and vision were recognized by her colleagues and she was chosen to serve in a distinguished list of elected positions.

Flora Walker began her career with the AFSCME Council 25 Executive Board that continued for twenty-four years. Her first elected position was as a representative. She went on to serve as delegate to one special and two regular Council 25 Conventions. Her tenure as president began in 1992 during a time of crisis for the Council. Under her guidance, it has become a strong, united, statewide council continuing the work begun by the Founding Convention in 1978.

During her six years as President, many new innovative programs were implemented. Flora was instrumental in overhauling the entire Council 25 legal operation, providing union members with an unprecedented level of service. The arbitration department was streamlined, initiating a process of audits and increasing the number of advocates. She has also served as an AFSCME International Vice President from Michigan. Flora had a demanding schedule, but she would never hesitate to go to the bargaining table with her members if needed.

Flora is not only an active union leader, but a community leader as well. She has received both the Champion of Hope Award from the National Kidney Foundation and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. She was recognized by the University of Michigan during a Black Labor History Celebration. She has been honored for her active involvement in the community, in the political arena, and in service and charitable projects.

Few people have given to their community with the vision and commitment that Flora Walker has given to hers. She is a person who has inspired the admiration of many. I am sure her colleagues will miss the famous Walker hug. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Flora on her very distinguished career and I wish her and her family all of the best.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE VERNON IRONS, SR.

### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to eulogize and celebrate the life of Dr. George Vernon Irons, Sr., distinguished professor of history and political science at Samford University for 43 years, who passed away July 21, 1998. Dr. Irons taught 17 university presidents—more than any other known educator.

Dr. Irons was also a colonel in the United States Army for 33 years, active and reserve, and received full military honors. Dr. Irons was a member of the prestigious Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for 22 years—its oldest member. He was the only distance star ever inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and a true great in Alabama's rich athletic history. As captain of the University of Alabama distance team, he broke the record for the Birmingham Road Race in 1923. His record was never broken or equaled. Dr. Irons also broke the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, now the Southeastern Conference, record for two, three and three and one-half mile races.

Dr. Irons was listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in American Education and Directory of American Scholars. Dr. Irons was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal from Freedom's Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in 1962.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that articles from the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and Bama Magazine be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to share the achievements of this great Alabamian who served Samford University as distinguished educator 43 years, his country as colonel in the U.S. Army 33 years and his alma mater, the University of Alabama, as a record-breaking champion athlete and Phi Beta Kappa honor student.

[From the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame]  
IRONS ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING FINISH LINE FIRST

(By Kyle Mooty)

While football was far from its 'king' stages the University of Alabama would enjoy in the future, Crimson Tide track star George Irons was keeping the athletic flame burning at the Capstone as its 'Knight of the Cinderpath.'

Former Alabama Sen. John Sparkman was a classmate of Irons at Alabama and later served in the Army together. And according to Sparkman, if it hadn't been for Irons, athletics would have been pretty boring during that time period at Alabama.

"George Irons was all we had to cheer about," said Sparkman.

Today, Dr. George Vernon Irons is catching another milestone, as he'll turn 91 on Aug. 7.

With the discipline, desire and skill he possessed, Irons would have probably been a standout distance runner anyway. But there were other reasons for perfecting the art of running.

"For the fear of being paddled," Irons said. "When I was a freshman at Alabama the sophomores were always getting after the freshmen. If they caught you, you could do one of two things . . . you could lie or you could run. Don't press me too much on which I did because I did both of them."