

of Mary Beth and Norma was crucial in this life treating situation.

On behalf of all the citizens of western Wisconsin I ask that the United States House of Representatives recognize Mary Beth Clark and Norma Stafne for their courage and thank them for being concerned and giving community citizens.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND VIRGINIA
GAFFNEY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend two of my constituents from Springfield, Illinois, John and Virginia Gaffney, for their tireless work on a volunteer mission with the International Executive Service Corps in Egypt.

Too often today, people become so engrossed in their busy lives that they forget others need their help. However, Mr. Gaffney found time to volunteer a month out of his life to teach flour milling technology at the Egyptian Milling Technology Center. While John and Virginia were "helping others help themselves", they were also representing our great nation. This kind of personalized foreign assistance is vital to accelerating the development of free enterprise and democracy around the globe.

Thank you John and Virginia for representing, not only America, but the great state of Illinois in your selfless endeavor.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF VA BE-
COMING A CABINET DEPART-
MENT

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, by 1988 the Veterans Administration had become the largest independent agency in the government. Only the Department of Defense had more employees. Making the VA a cabinet-level department was an idea whose time had come.

On March 15 of this year, the Department of Veterans Affairs celebrates its tenth anniversary.

I remember well both the formal creation of the new cabinet department on March 15, 1989, and the Ft. McNair ceremony the previous October 22 when President Reagan signed the bill into law. He paid tribute, and rightly so, to the two driving forces in Congress who gave veterans their seat at the President's Cabinet table.

President Reagan singled out an Army veteran, Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi, and a former Marine, Congressman Jerry Solomon of New York. At the time, they were, respectively, chairman and ranking minority member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. It was their persistence and legislative skill that brought the measure from its inception to its passage, and finally, to enactment. They also deserve our congratulations today.

Elevation to cabinet status has given the VA a greater opportunity to be heard at the highest level of government, and a greater voice in determining national policies in the areas of health care, education, housing and insurance. Veterans are concerned not only with issues unique to them, such as service-connected illnesses, but also with broader national issues such as homelessness, Alzheimer's and other health issues related specifically to aging.

Making the VA a cabinet department cost the American people nothing in this era of tight budgets, but it would have been justified at any price. Veterans have served their country at great personal sacrifice. More than a million of them made the ultimate sacrifice. It's the price paid for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all Members to join me in congratulating the VA for a decade of improved service to our veterans.

IMPORTANCE OF AFTER-SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to offer two amendments concerning after-school programs for children to H.R. 800, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act. After consultation with Chairman MIKE CASTLE, I have decided against offering the amendments and have agreed to work with the chairman to highlight the importance of after-school activities for schoolchildren and the need for a national discourse on this topic.

I believe we should do everything on the Federal level to promote quality, after-school care for students, and after-school educational activities for at-risk juveniles.

Every day at 3 p.m., the final school bell rings and hundreds of classrooms across America stand empty until the next day. Numerous studies have shown that between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. is when the majority of juvenile crimes occur.

It is also the same time period when moms and dads begin to anxiously watch the clock at work, worrying about their children being home alone.

Doesn't it make sense for schools to use this readily available space to provide after-school activities rather than send the school kids home alone to an empty house? After school programs will address the needs of working parents who want a safe haven for their children during non-school hours.

Quality, after-school care can also have tremendous academic benefits. It can overcome learning difficulties created by overcrowded classrooms and high teacher-student ratios which are common problems in America's public schools. After-school child care programs also provide the working parents of the five to twelve million latchkey children in the United States, with the peace of mind that their children are in a safe and supervised environment after school.

After-school educational programs for at-risk youth have been shown to reduce the incidence of crime on school campuses and enhance the academic achievements for at-risk juveniles.

We must encourage schools to provide quality, after-school activities as a way to complement other programs that are designed to promote academic achievement. Education does not end when the last school bell rings. Let's work together to help children reach their highest potential.

I would like to thank Chairman CASTLE for his leadership on after-school programs. It is a pleasure to collaborate with him on this important issue which has significant implications on our children's future.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California, Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER for her comments about the importance of after-school programs. I appreciate and applaud her dedication to this issue. In addition, I welcome this opportunity to work with her to bring this issue to the forefront of the ongoing discussion Congress is having on how best to educate our youth.

Indeed, evidence is continually emerging to prove what we have always intuitively known about the importance of out-of-school time for children, their health and well-being, and their academic growth. Roughly five million children are unsupervised after school, leaving them at risk of accidents and ripe for undesirable behaviors ranging from smoking and drinking to sexual activity and violent crime. For too many of our children, the hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are spent engaged in delinquent or unproductive behavior. Television happens to be the No. 1 substitute for good after-school programs. Millions of children come home and plop in front of the television set after school, and I venture to guess that many are not watching educational programming. In addition, juvenile crime rates go up 300 percent after 3 p.m. and over half of all juvenile crime occurs between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This is quite disturbing, given that we know that the hours after school have become absolutely critical in a child's life. After-school programs can be exceptionally beneficial for kids. Good programs can give kids the chance to interact with their peers and adults in a positive way, to gain or improve new skills, to master educational material, to develop strong bodies, or to foster creativity. In addition, studies have shown that students who attend productive after-school programs make significant academic gains, enjoy school more, feel more safe, and are less likely to participate in delinquent behaviors year round.

We, as leaders of this Nation, need to focus on improving the quality of children's out-of-school time. I do not necessarily believe we have to spend billions of dollars to accomplish this task, but we should invest ourselves and our time. Up to date information is desperately needed to understand the dynamics, intricacies, strengths, and weaknesses of existing after-school programs. The last major study of after-school programs was completed in 1993 by the National Institute of Out-Of-School Time. This lack of up to date information is what drove me to hold several round table discussions with my constituents last year and to

draft the "After-School Children's Education Act (ACE Act)" that will initiate a state-by-state study to help us understand what the current culture of after-school programs is, and where the gaps are in providing educationally enriching and personally fulfilling programs for kids. The ACE Act would not spend a lot of money, but it would set a ball in motion that can lead the Congress to better information and better decision making on how to proceed with meeting the needs of our children and families with after-school programs. I am thoroughly convinced that we must carefully focus our attention on children, especially in their earliest years. Children are eager and able to learn, but as they get older habits become ingrained and are harder and harder to break.

It is a pleasure to join Congresswoman TAUSCHER today in emphasizing the importance of after-school programs for the future of our Nation's children and, in return, our nation's future.

CONGRATULATING HERMAN
KLEINDIENST ON HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate one of my state's best known farmers, Herman Kleindienst of Stillwater, New Jersey, on his 100th birthday, March 16, 1999. Mr. Kleindienst is well known as a community leader in Sussex County, not only in agricultural circles but in the business community, with civic groups and with his church. His hard work and dedication have helped improve the lives of many other New Jerseyans in many ways. He is a standard bearer for us all.

Mr. Kleindienst has been recognized for more than half a century as a "New Jersey Conservation Pioneer" for his work in soil conservation—the agricultural practice of maintaining farmland to prevent erosion and exhaustion of the soil's nutritional content.

A long-time dairy farmer, Mr. Kleindienst began practicing soil conservation on his family's farm in Stillwater during the 1940s, a period when the technique was developed in response to the Dust Bowl agricultural losses of the 1930s. His role as a leader in the soil and water conservation movement began in the late 1950s with his appointment as a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Sussex County Soil and Water Conservation District. During the 1960s and 1970s, Mr. Kleindienst became known as a dedicated leader of the conservation movement at the local, state and national levels. He was among the pioneers who played an active role in the formulation and implementation of conservation and land use policies regarding "wise use" and protection of soil and water both on and off the farm. Mr. Kleindienst is a former member of the board of the National Association of Conservation Districts and a former president of the New Jersey Association of Natural Resource Districts.

Mr. Kleindienst has also been active in a variety of other agricultural organizations. He is a former trustee of the United Milk Producers Association, a former member of the New Jersey Dairyman's Council, a former member of

the Northeast Breeder's Association and a former member of the New Jersey Cooperative Livestock Auction Market.

In addition, he has been a member of the Newton Rotary Club since 1969 and is a former president of the club. He helped found Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newton and is also a member of Midland Park Lutheran Church in Bergen County.

Indeed, Mr. Kleindienst is one of the outstanding citizens who has made Sussex County one of the best places in our great nation to live, work and raise a family. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Kleindienst and wishing him all of God's richest blessings.

HONORING MICHAEL STEWART

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a local hero from western Wisconsin. I want to honor Michael Stewart who took courageous action to aid another citizen.

For the past three years the Eau Claire Fire Fighters Local Union 487, in conjunction with the Eau Claire Fire Department, have recognized area residents who acted bravely in emergency situations. The recipients of the Citizen Community Involvement Awards are citizens who put the safety and well being of their neighbors ahead of other concerns in a time of need.

Michael Stewart is one of those extraordinary citizens. On June 21, 1997 at approximately 6:30 a.m. Michael was driving down the 200 block of Platt street in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Directly in front of Michael a 20 foot long, 15 foot wide sink hole appeared and trapped the car of another driver. The driver was able to climb out of the car and stand on top of it in an attempt to escape, while water was quickly filling up the sink hole. Stewart was driving behind the driver and rushed to his assistance. He risked his own life by hanging over the blacktop ledge, with no support, and reached down to lift the driver out of the hole. The stranded driver stated that the rescuers must have been God's Angels in saving his life.

On behalf of all the citizens of western Wisconsin I ask that the United States House of Representatives recognize Michael Stewart for his courage and thank him for being a concerned and giving community citizen.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—CLINTON COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished fellow Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others. Today, I want to mention a true gentleday from Clinton County, Indiana who I had the privilege of meeting recently.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana has not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes."

I met a genuine Hoosier Hero in Clinton County, Indiana recently. She is Donna Guynon. She started to help people at an early age and never stopped. Donna was a New York high school student during WWII. To help that great cause, she served on the junior Red Cross and volunteered as a air raid supporter in New York. Donna never gave up the idea of helping others when she moved to Indiana. She has tended to the ill by working as a Gold and Pink lady for 38 years in local hospitals. She still works with the Red Cross and is active in the Meals and Wheels project bringing food and companionship to our seniors. Donna's work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope.

She doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; she does it for the smiles and laughter. She is a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Donna deserves the gratitude of her county, state, and nation and I thank her here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

INS HOME-FREE STRATEGY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed by recent reports in the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times detailing a new strategy by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that essentially ends enforcement of our immigration laws at job sites across the country. According to both these reports, the INS is ceasing to conduct raids on places of employment suspected of hiring illegal aliens.

The new INS strategy demonstrates a fundamental shift in the way we enforce our immigration laws. By ending workplace raids, the strategy strips away any deterrent to hiring illegal immigrants and virtually ensures we will never find and deport those that successfully make it across the border illegally. Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should title the new INS plan the "Home Free Strategy." As one INS field manager recently put it, illegal aliens know that "if you get through the border, you're home free. Everybody recognizes that, and the aliens know that by now."

Officials at the INS claim that they are re-directing efforts—due to limited funding—toward apprehending criminal aliens, alien-smuggling rings and document fraud. While I support a new, focused effort to address these problems, I do not endorse the false and misguided strategy of abandoning one effort for another.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues that the Border Patrol has nearly doubled in size over the last five years and that