

Force. He is legal advisor to many non-profit volunteer and youth groups throughout the area.

District Justice Pierantoni is active in the community as well, having held a seat on the Pittston Chamber Board of Directors, and several cabinet posts in the Hughestown Lions organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Mother of Sorrows Church in Dupont. Justice Pierantoni is Parliamentarian of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Polish American Citizens Club, and St. John's Lodge. He lectures for Marywood College, Luzerne County Community College, and the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Pierantoni is a dedicated professional, committed to his community and the justice system in Luzerne County. I applaud the Italian-American Association's choice of this year's honoree and am pleased to join with them in honoring this fine Pennsylvanian. I extend my sincere best wishes to Justice Pierantoni as he accepts this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WILLIAM  
"CHUCK" EVERS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in memory of my friend, Mr. William "Chuck" Evers, who was born June 13, 1945 in Alton, Illinois, and died Sunday, September 12, 1999.

Chuck practiced law in Collinsville, Illinois for twenty years. He was active in our community and generous in sharing his knowledge of the law. Those who agreed and disagreed with him almost always re-evaluated their positions after speaking with him. This role was very healthy for all levels of government as it greatly enriched the public debate.

Chuck Evers touched many lives as an active citizen of Collinsville. He is survived by his wife, Lynda nee Vandewater, daughter, Caren Evers, son, W. Clark Evers, and mother, Dorothy Mae nee Gericke Evers.

Collinsville and I will remember Mr. Evers for his great contributions to the community. He will be forever cherished for his commitment; first to his family and faith, and then to his country and to his work.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOOD RIVER TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Wood River Township Hospital.

As we near the end of the millennium, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of the small towns and cities which have made a commitment to better health care in their own communities. This past sum-

mer my district celebrated the 50th anniversary of Wood River Township Hospital, with reflection on its vital role in our region.

The Wood River Township Hospital opened its doors to the public on August 1, 1949 with great fanfare. A referendum to build a public hospital had passed three years earlier in a landslide margin of 4,049 votes for to just 270 against. Once passed, plans for the community hospital quickly commenced with the architectural designs of Jamieson & Spearl, built in a year by Brunson Construction Co.

The town's enthusiasm for their new hospital was enhanced by the respect accorded to the patients of wood river township Hospital. The hospital staff today still proudly recall their first doctor, Harry S. Mendelsohn, M.D., first patient, Anna Westbrook, and first baby, Randall Charles Harmon. Today, more than 14,000 babies have been born there.

Remarkably, the Wood River Township Hospital, is well known throughout the state of Illinois for being the site of other significant "firsts" in the world of health care. It was the first hospital in the state of Illinois to be built under a 1945 state law, which authorized townships to levy taxes for the construction, operation and maintenance of hospitals. Additionally, it was the first hospital in Illinois to give chiropractic physicians privileges, as well as the first to have paramedic-staffed ambulances.

Every community is marked by the institutions that serve them, and Wood River is no different. The Wood River Township Hospital's devotion to patients and commitment to community allows us to see the town as a leader in progressive ideas built on a foundation of mutual respect.

As the 20th Century ends and the beginning of the new millennium approaches, Wood River Township Hospital reminds us of our nation's heritage. As they did, 50 years ago, Wood River officials plan to bury a time capsule to honor the community's values and achievements. In this they will show that while the advances in technology made each day continue to fortify our nation's capabilities, it is the principal of caring in which our future generations may find inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wood River Township Hospital in commemoration of its 50th Anniversary.

CARMEN COSENTINO WINS FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME AWARD

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker: Today I am proud to commend one of my constituents and a very good personal friend, Mr. Carmen Cosentino. Last week the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of outstanding individuals in the floral industry and gave its highest honor, induction into the Floriculture Hall of Fame, to Carm Cosentino.

The purpose of the Floriculture Hall of Fame is to honor men and women who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the advancement of floriculture as an integral part of the American way of life.

Carm, who owns Cosentino's Florist in Auburn, New York, is a well-known industry

spokesperson who has touched many in the floral industry through his talks, magazine articles and educational seminars. In his 43 years in the floral industry, Carm's passion has redefined how potent a grassroots effort can be. He has dedicated his life to teaching others in his industry about proper care and handling in order to prolong enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty of flowers.

Carm has spoken at hundreds of industry gatherings, instructed and acted as a spokesperson for major wire services, and has even translated his witty personal style onto paper as a contributor to many publications. His dedication to the floral industry is evidenced by his service as director of the SAF Board of Directors, vice president and president of the New York State Florists Association, and as director of the Seeley Conference.

It is a true accomplishment that Carm also owns and operates his own retail flower shop and wholesale business. Throughout his life in the floral industry, he has demonstrated the highest regard for improving the lives of everyone through flowers.

I am proud to call Carm Cosentino my good friend, and I join his lovely wife Anne Marie and his family today in recognizing this professional achievement.

PROTECTING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SPECTRUM

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 1999*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization bill contains a number of provisions critical to protecting military access to the radio spectrum. We all know how important spectrum is to information technologies, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), which are critical to a wide range of military and civilian applications.

The importance of ensuring the continuous availability of critical information was demonstrated recently, when the Air Force successfully managed the so-called roll-over of the GPS clock—an event similar to the Y2K transition that we have heard so much about.

By successfully managing the GPS roll-over, the Air Force has ensured the continued stable reception of GPS signals by tens of millions of global users who depend on GPS for everything from air navigation and farming to guiding the war fighter on the battlefield and managing the Internet.

The concerns leading up to the Y2K-like rollover of GPS highlighted the potential global impact from any disruption to GPS services. To its credit, the Air Force, in close cooperation with industry, engaged in rigorous testing and analysis to ensure GPS signals would continue to be received through last month's transition. This effort upheld national policy, as expressed in both Presidential directives and Congressional legislation, that GPS signals will be continuously available and receivable at all times, everywhere in the world.

I and many of my colleagues believe it is in our national interest for the government and industry to continue to cooperate in ensuring that GPS spectrum is protected from disruption and interference. The GPS spectrum band