

Those who knew "Big Mike" often referred to him as the walking encyclopedia of the Baltimore waterfront—not only could he relate every facet about every ship that had ever been in the port of Baltimore, but he could provide one with all of his information, be it good or bad, about every person who worked on the waterfront, and all the politicians downtown, as well!

"Big Mike" will be remembered for his hard work, compassion, and sense of humor; for being a respected business leader; and for his contributions on behalf of the working men and women of the Port of Baltimore. The priest who presided at his funeral characterized Mike as a person who related to the little guy. His treated everyone with the same respect others showed him. Mike would help a needy person because he wanted that person to then be able to help others.

He and his lovely wife, Annie, were residents of Lutherville, Maryland and the Second Congressional District of Maryland for 38 years, and it has been my honor to represent them in Congress.

#### HONORING IRENE HANSON

##### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a woman, who, for nearly 40 years, has worked to improve the quality of life for our citizens. On Tuesday, October 12, members of Flint's International Institute will gather to present to Mrs. Irene Hanson, its prestigious Golden Door Award, given annually to an individual who has made a positive impact on the greater Flint community and the Institute itself.

Born in December of 1920, in Breslau, Germany, what is now Wroclaw, Poland, Irene spent her early years as an apprentice in a wholesale paper company, and upon completing her apprenticeship, remained with the company as its bookkeeper.

After the war, Irene and her family, including her mother and two daughters lived in Hanover, West Germany, until the Displaced Persons Act brought them to Flint in 1952, under the sponsorship of Calvary Lutheran Church. Soon after, a third child, a son, was born.

After settling in Flint, Irene sought out and forged a relationship with the International Institute, a relationship that has continued to this day. She has served a great number of roles, including teacher, presenter, activities chair, and board member. It is in each of these positions that she has excelled in her efforts to enhance the lives of those she comes into contact with. Other positions followed, such as in 1962, where she worked as a receptionist, bookkeeper, and fitter at Flint Limb and Brace Company. In 1964, Irene began teaching German for Mott Adult Education, which she still continued to do.

In addition to her work with the International Institute, Irene has also been involved and remains active with the German American National Congress, the American Association of Teachers of German, and the St. Cecilia Society. She has also been an avid supporter of the Flint Institute of Music, Flint Institute of Arts, and the Sloan Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I am always fascinated by stories such as Irene Hanson's. Through tremendous adversity, she was able to fulfill the true American Dream, and find success in her new homeland. She is truly an inspiration to all who come into contact with her. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me to congratulate and wish Irene the very best.

HONORING BISHOP VERNON RANDOLPH BYRD, 105TH BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

##### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the newly elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the Right Reverend Vernon Randolph Byrd. He joins Rev. Dr. W. Bartalette Finney, Sr., Presiding Elder, Rev. Ralph J. Crabbe, and leaders in our community who contribute to the spiritual needs of our greater metropolitan area.

Bishop Byrd's spiritual education began at the age of twelve when he received his call to preach. By the time he was a teenager, he was ordained to preach by the late Bishop Frank Madison Reed, Sr. Bishop Byrd was a success in school and graduated from the public schools of South Carolina, and earned degrees at Allen University, and Boston University.

Prior to his tenure at the Northwest Missouri Conference Fifth District AME Church in Kansas City, Bishop Byrd served as a Pastor and Presiding Elder at several churches. His ministry served congregations including the Macedonia AME Church in Delaware, the St. Paul AME Church in Bermuda, the Newark District-New Jersey Conference, the Macedonia AME Church in New Jersey, the Morris Brown AME Church in Pennsylvania, and the St. James AME Church in New Jersey.

In 1984, Bishop Byrd was elevated to the episcopacy at the seat of the Forty-Second Quadrennial Session of the General Conference. A recipient of numerous awards, he has been honored with the Trumizun Award for outstanding work with retarded children in Delaware. He was recognized as an Honorary Member of the British Empire Medal by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who bestowed the award to him for helping bring order to the Bermuda Isles during a period of civil unrest in 1964. Byrd was also named the 1966 Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce and given an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Payne Theological Seminary in 1994.

Always involved with his community, he is an active member of civil and fraternal organizations, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Royal Masonic Lodge of Scotland, and the NAACP. Bishop Byrd is married to retired school teacher, Theora Lindsey Byrd who serves the Church as the Women's Missionary Society Supervisor where they teach to others that "Unless Souls Are Saved \* \* \* Nothing Is Saved!" They are the parents of two daughters and two sons and grandparents to six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd as the 105th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RECOGNIZING RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise today to celebrate Riley Hospital for Children's 75th birthday.

Founded in 1924, Riley Hospital is named after the famous Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley. Upon his death in 1916, Mr. Riley's heartfelt love for children inspired his friends to decide that a children's hospital would be a perfect memorial for Mr. Riley. More than 40,000 Hoosiers gave over 1.2 million dollars to build the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for children.

As the New York Times observed on October 10, 1924, "Indiana has made her monument [to Riley] one of ministry rather than of mourning . . . The institution which bears his name will do much to make the children of Indiana what he imagined them to be. Indiana has made, as human monuments go, the perfect memorial to her poet."

Since opening its doors on October 7, 1924, Riley Hospital for Children has cared for thousands of children from the City of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and indeed across the country. Annually, there are more than 135,000 patient visits, including 7,100 admissions and more than 128,000 outpatient visits. Riley Hospital cares for children from each of Indiana's 92 counties. In 75 years, no Hoosier child has been turned away because of an inability to pay.

To continue to meet the needs of children and families, Riley Hospital has grown as it spanned the decades of the 20th century. Today, Riley Hospital is one of the ten largest children's hospitals in the nation, and is Indiana's only children's hospital located on a university campus. It is also one of the two most care-bedded children's hospitals in the United States.

As it has grown, Riley Hospital has endeavored to maintain a standard of excellence respecting patient care. In 1971, Indiana's only pediatric burn unit opened at Riley Hospital. In 1989, Riley Hospital performed Indiana's first newborn and infant heart transplants. Eighty to Ninety percent of Indiana's children with cancer are treated at Riley Hospital's—and Indiana's only—Children's Cancer Center. In addition, Riley Hospital houses the only pediatric dialysis center and pediatric stem cell transplant unit in the State of Indiana.

Though the medical technology at Riley Hospital is remarkable, it is the caring staff that the children and their families depend on to see them through difficult circumstances and turbulent times. Whether it be a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, teacher, administrative staff or maintenance worker, their professionalism is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, the children, families, and communities of Indiana have been enriched by the life-saving work of Riley Hospital for Children. As we approach the threshold of the