Chepko, John Frazer, Michelle Hays, and sponsor, Jim Rexroad. They have made us all very proud!

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF J. BRUCE McKINNEY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT HERSHEY ENTERTAINMENT & RESORTS COMPANY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. J. Bruce McKinney on the announcement of his retirement as Chairman of the Board of Directors at Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Mr. McKinney, who turned 63 in February, held a wide variety of positions in his long and exemplary career. He attended Milton Hershey School, Dickinson College, Dickinson Law School, and the Pennsylvania State Executive Management Program. In 1966, Mr. McKinney began working as an executive staff assistant for Hershey Foods Corporation. Five years later, he joined the Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company team (HERCO) as the assistant general manager for HERSHEYPARK, only to become general manager a mere one year later. Throughout the seventies and eighties, Mr. McKinney went on to hold various challenging, exciting, and prestigious senior officer positions in the Hershey area. Some of the most notable positions include: group vice president of Sports and Entertainment in 1974, senior vice president of HERCO's Commercial Group in 1981, and corporate executive vice president in 1985. Throughout his tenure at HERCO, Mr. McKinney is remembered chiefly for leading the team that brought the corporation out of near financial ruin to an extremely high level of prosperity, saving the company from certain failure. Because of his honorable services, a year later, on March 1, 1986, Mr. McKinney became the chief operating officer at HERCO, later assuming the role as chief executive officer on August 10, 1987, and then taking the position of chairman of the board on October 24, 1989. Mr. McKinney remained at HERCO for another eleven years, eventually becoming chief executive officer and chairman of the board. On September 22, 1999, after seven consecutive record-breaking years from 1993–2000, Mr. McKinney decided to respectfully retire from HERCO. Assuming Mr. McKinney's responsibilities is Mr. Scott J. Newkam, who was named president and chief executive officer.

Following his retirement, Mr. McKinney will continue to serve on the board of directors of the Hershey Trust Company and the M.S. Hershey Foundation. He will also tend to his duties on the board of managers for the Milton Hershey School, and serve as a director on the Team Pennsylvania Board, where he is instrumental in the promotion of regional cooperation. Even in his retirement, Mr. McKinney will continue to serve the community through his tireless efforts in ensuring the future prosperity of Hershey.

Mr. McKinney will continue to reside in Hershey, Pennsylvania with his wife Sally, two daughters, Kelly McKinney-Brakewood and Kathleen McKinney-Gavazzi, and three grandchildren, Harrison, Eleanor, and Grace.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize Mr. McKinney for his tremendous career and life work in Hershey, and wish him the best of luck, in all his future endeavors.

HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 8677

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 40th anniversary of Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 8677 in Fairview Heights, Illinois. Started on March 5, 1960, Post 8677 continues to lead efforts to support veterans and their needs in their community.

While VFW Post 8677 celebrates its 40th anniversary, the VFW organization itself celebrates the 100th anniversary of its existence. In 1898, several veterans of the Spanish-American War gathered together to form the basis of the VFW. Since then, the VFW organization has proven to be a driving force for veterans and their issues.

The VFW is considered to be one of the most powerful and influential force in the halls of Congress. Their efforts resulted in the creation of the House Veterans' Committee, the WW I bonus, the Veterans Day holiday, various GI bills, creation of the cabinet position of Veterans' Affairs and support on many veteran's health issues, such as Agent Orange and Persian Gulf related illness.

The VFW is 2 million members strong and represents a great cross section of our society. They work to promote citizenship and provide information about our national flag. They are actively involved in disaster relief efforts raising over a million dollars in assistance. They are a leading force in the creation of a WW II memorial and support ongoing efforts of our troops abroad by providing our troops with phone cards, gift packages and coordinating USO shows.

I cannot mention the VFW and not speak of the ''Buddy Poppy'' program. Since 1922, the poppy program has raised millions of dollars annually to support national and local veteran's service programs. As a means of rehabilitation, the poppies themselves are assembled by patients in VA and State veterans homes.

VFW Post 8677 in Fairview Heights has been a leader in the local community by providing leadership on veterans issues in my congressional district. They, along with the other posts in the area, create a firm footing for veteran's assistance, advocacy and service. Post 8677 works with Pontiac and William Holiday schools for Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Day. They sponsor Khoury teams and Boy and Girl Scout troops. The post holds flag raising ceremonies on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Flag Day. Each month, members of the Post volunteer their time and the necessary items to veterans at the John Cochran VA Hospital and finally, every year both the Post and its auxiliary place flags on the grave sites of 3000 veterans at the Lakeview Memorial Cemetery.

Let us reflect with pride on our country and remember with gratitude the contributions of the many loyal and courageous veterans who have given so much of themselves both at home and around the world to protect our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 40 years of service of the VFW Post 8677 and to salute the members of the Post and Auxiliary both past and present for their service to the people of southwestern Illinois.

THE ''RE-ELECT AMERICA'' BUS TOUR BY BALINT VAZSONYI

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of the Center of the American Founding's ''Re-Elect America'' bus tour. The tour will make one of its first stops in Atlanta, Georgia this Friday, March 3, 2000.

The tour is being led by Balint Vazsonyi, a man who first came to America as a refugee from communism, and is now one of our foremost constitutional writers. Despite his arrival as an immigrant and the fact that he is a classical pianist by training, Balint has made enormous contributions to his adopted nation as a student and writer on constitutional history and principles.

Not content with writing a wildly popular book, ''America's Thirty Years War,'' and becoming a columnist for the Washington Times, Balint has now resolved to follow in the footsteps of Alexis de Tocqueville, and travel across our country to ignite a national discussion about those values that make America what it is—the beacon of freedom for the entire world.

As we continue an extended period of economic prosperity, our nation cannot afford to ignore very serious threats to our culture, society, and political systems. We have to keep people engaged in finding solutions to the problems facing our nation in the 21st century. The ''Re-Elect America'' bus tour aims to do exactly that, by reminding people about the great institutions of our history, government and society. Balint Vazsonyi knows that unless our citizens know, understand, and appreciate our nation's history and institutions, then when those institutions are under attack, people don't appreciate them enough to come to their defense.

Visiting all 50 state capitols in a few short months is something very few of us would attempt. However, I am confident that with Balint Vazsonyi at the helm, this tour will be a roaring success. I wish him all the best on his stop in Georgia, and look forward to following his progress from there, all across this great and glorious land.

MRS. MELISSA TREZISE, A PIONEER OF EDUCATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a woman that has