

Union and has served in that position for the past six years. During his term, he has created the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, which is designed to teach heritage to young American Jews. He has also improved the visibility of the Institute for Public Affairs, which incorporates programs to assist those interested in government careers or in community service.

The Orthodox Union was founded in New York State in 1898 to provide a strong base for Orthodox Jews and to stop the spread of assimilation during the turn of the century. Today it is the voice of 1,000 Synagogues and provides a number of outreach and service programs.

I first met Dr. Ganchrow during my first campaign for Congress in 1972. He raised the public's awareness in that campaign by forming the Hudson Valley Political Action Committee. He has since become a trusted and valued advisor on a significant number of issues. Dr. Ganchrow has served his country as a Viet Nam veteran. Because he is a veteran, he has become especially sensitive of the need of peace and security in the Middle East. Moreover, he was recognized by the Rockland Journal News as one of the ten most influential Rockland County Residents of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating Dr. Mandell Ganchrow on receiving the Kesser Shem Tov Award from the Orthodox Union and I am confident he will continue to be a strong voice for American Jewry.

HONORING THE OKAWVILLE ROCKETS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Okawville Rockets Girls basketball team who won the Class A state title. The Rockets were the number one ranked team this year. They finished the year with a 33-1 record and a 17-game winning streak.

The Rockets, who won their first state championship in 1994, became the first Southern Illinois Team to win a state title since Carlyle did it in 1997. Okawville is the sixth Class A team to win at least two state titles, joining Carlyle, Nokomis, Teutopolis, Carthage and Quincy Notre Dame.

In honor of a near-perfect season, I want to congratulate them and their head coach, Kathy Lanter on a job well done. We are all very proud of you.

The Lady Rockets are:

Head Coach—Kathy Lanter.

Assistant Coaches—Carrie Stallings and Vicki Loquasto.

Managers—Rachel Shubert, Shana Stricker and Erica Bergmann.

Players—Jamie Schrader, Kelsey Klingenberg, Kristen Lehde, Natalie Shubert, Kelly Hasheider, Joan Miller, Erica Geppert, Cheryl Borrenpohl, Jenny Heckert, Megan Brockmeier, Erica Barkau, Justine Krueger, Lauren Borrenpohl, and Katie Hasheider.

JOSEPH PATRICK MCKEOWN—
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Mr. Joseph P. McKeown of Beltsville, MD will retire after spending thirty years, well over half his life, in the role of public servant. Son of Joseph and Claire McKeown of Toms River, NJ, he served in the United States Navy from 1967-1971. A good deal of his Navy service was aboard ship in various locales throughout the world. After the conclusion of his service time and then his graduation from Stonehill College, Joe began a 26-year career with the United States Postal Service.

For the last two decades, Mr. McKeown has served as a Postal Inspector. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service very seldom gets the credit they deserve for the exceptional law enforcement duties they perform. Postal Inspectors have a well-deserved reputation for tough, relentless, professional investigation resulting in a 98 percent conviction rate. Seldom is there a major crime solved in this nation, at any governmental level, without the involvement of the Inspection Service at some level. Yet, you usually never see them "out front" at the successful conclusion of a case—thus their famous nickname—the "Silent Service." One of our Nation's oldest law enforcement agencies, there are now 2,200 Inspectors, 350 of whom are females.

Joe McKeown in the last 20 years has been both a model and extremely accomplished Postal Inspector. Especially knowledgeable, he has not been detailed to merely one specific investigative area. Inspector McKeown has been critical to investigations involving both external and internal crime, audits, and a variety of criminal frauds both domestic and international. For the better part of his career he has been detailed to the Newark, Baltimore, and Washington, DC regions.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day across this great country distinguished civil servants are retiring. This Congress, and the public as well, owe such exemplary citizens more than we readily recognize. I take this opportunity to publicly thank Joseph Patrick McKeown for three decades of exceptional devotion and service to our nation. May I wish Joe and his wife Ruth nothing but the best in the years ahead.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Hutchinson amendment to H.R. 3908, The Emergency Supplemental

Appropriations for FY 2000. This amendment represents a significant effort to combat the spread of methamphetamine production and trafficking across the nation.

Mr. Chairman, the timeliness of this bill cannot be overstated. The use of methamphetamines is on the rise across the nation. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, methamphetamine use remains high and there is "strong evidence to suggest this drug will continue to be a problem in west coast areas as well as other areas of the United States."

Methamphetamine, also known as crank, ice, crystal, and peanut butter, has been described as the "cocaine of the 90's" or the "poor man's cocaine." It is equivalent to heroin in the 70's or cocaine in the 80's. And its popularity is not without reason. The attractions of meth are many, including increased alertness, weight loss, a general sense of well-being, a cheap price tag, and a more intense and prolonged reaction than cocaine can offer. However, the long-term effects of the drug are equally devastating and can include severe depression, brain and liver damage, stroke, insomnia, behavior resembling paranoid schizophrenia, malnutrition, and hallucinations, among others. Crank and ice are both extremely addictive and have increasingly become the illegal drug of choice, especially for women, throughout the western United States.

Unfortunately, the dangers of meth extend far beyond those who consume the drug. As you may know, meth is made by a hazardous array of products, including ammonia gas and hydrochloric acid, which are both toxic and explosive when mixed. As a result, a meth lab can be a potential life threat to all who live near it. To make matters worse, anyone with access to the Internet can download a detailed, step-by-step meth recipe. All of the ingredients needed to make the drug are easily accessible and can be bought in the supermarket.

Although its roots are in the West coast, this epidemic has recently made its way to my home state of Texas. According to Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) statistics, there were 175 seizures of methamphetamine labs in Texas by federal, local and state authorities in 1999. This is almost three times the number of labs which were seized in 1998. The use and manufacturing of methamphetamines is becoming a serious epidemic in Texas and needs to be dealt with in a comprehensive and aggressive manner.

In order to actively address this problem, I support the Hutchinson amendment which would provide funding to assist state and local law enforcement agencies with the costs of methamphetamine lab clean-up. The DEA has been using FY 1998 and 1999 funds to assist with clandestine meth lab clean-up during this current fiscal year. However, these funds have been exhausted. The Hutchinson amendment uses \$15 million in unspent funds in the COPS program available for policing initiatives to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking. While I would prefer that the funds not be taken from the COPS program for this amendment, I am supportive of its purpose. It is time that we arm our law enforcement with funding to curb the manufacturing and trafficking of this highly destructive drug. Now is the time to aggressively attack this problem.