

Schmitter, Sister Joanne Chiaverini, and the St. Francis Prayer Center. Just as I consider it an honor and a pleasure to serve here as a Member of Congress, they also understand the joy of serving. I am pleased to ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating them on 25 wonderful years, and wish them success toward the next 25.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VERSAILLES CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD RECIPIENTS NONA AND
BILL CAINE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I was recently informed that the Versailles Chamber of Commerce will present Nona and Bill Caine with the Lifetime Achievement Award on May 26, 2000, in a ceremony at the Morgan County Historical Society Heritage Garden in Versailles, Missouri.

Bill owned and operated Versailles Furniture for over 30 years. In addition to running his business, he served as the First Sergeant of the Army Reserve Unit and as the Mayor of the City of Versailles for six years. During his term in office, he oversaw installation of the airport, construction of the water tower and sewer for the southwestern part of the city and development of the parks system. Bill is also responsible for reviving the Versailles Chamber of Commerce and served as both Chamber President and Board Member. He shared responsibility, along with Rufus Harms, for organizing the Versailles Industrial Trust. Additionally, Bill served as President of the Versailles Lions Club and was twice the Fair Board Chairman for the Morgan County Fair.

Bill led three major community fund drives for the Brown Shoe Company, the Sheltered Workshop and the railroad spur. He was involved in the acquisition of Brown Shoe Company, Dixon Ticonderoga Pencil Company and Gates Rubber Company in Versailles. He presently serves on the Versailles Cemetery Board, Good Shepherd Nursing Home District Board and Bank of Versailles Board of Directors.

Nona worked for ten years at Wini's Fashions. She was a charter member of the Junior Sorosis, the WIN Investment Club and is a member of the Versailles Women's Civic Club. Nona was very active in organizations that benefit the children of Versailles. She was involved in Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities, was a member of the Parent Teacher Association and participated in numerous door-to-door solicitations for community fund drives.

Nona and Bill are both members of the Morgan County Historical Society and the Versailles United Methodist Church, where Nona has served as a Sunday School teacher and President and member of the Young Mother's Circle. They also are Charter Members of the Rolling Hills Country Club and have served several years on the Long Range Planning Committee. Nona served as President and Board Member, President and Golf Chair of the Ladies' Rolling Hills Organization and is Treasurer of the Fifty Plus Women's Golf Association of Central Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Nona and Bill have set an example in the Versailles community for all Missourians to follow. I know that my colleagues in the House will be pleased to join me in congratulating them for their outstanding work.

FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DE-
FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Whitfield/Strickland amendment. Workers in the nuclear weapons complex serve in our nation's defense, and it is time to make amends to those who have fallen ill in the line of duty.

In the 1940s, the City of Lorain, Ohio in my district was home to a beryllium plant that produced nuclear weapons components. Exposure to beryllium dust can cause chronic beryllium disease, which is incurable and results in a lingering death.

Although the Lorain plant burned down in 1948, the effects of beryllium have not been forgotten, and I continue to hear many tragic stories of the deaths of loved ones from beryllium disease. A few former workers are fighting for their lives even today.

Non-workers in Lorain also fell ill. The Ohio health department identified 16 cases of beryllium disease in people who did not work in the plant, but lived across the street or washed their husbands' dusty clothes. These individuals or their survivors should also be eligible for compensation.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support this amendment. I also urge prompt hearings and committee action on H.R. 2398, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness and Compensation Act.

CONGRATULATING JEFFERSON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jefferson Elementary School in Bergenfield, New Jersey, on the dedication of its new Garden of Love, Hope and Friendship. This peaceful, serene garden has been created as a place of meditation and reflection intended to help prevent a repeat of the horrible tragedies of gun violence that have plagued our nation's schools in recent years.

The focal point of the 30-by-70-foot garden is three dogwood trees, one each to symbolize the themes of love, hope and friendship. Azaleas ring the perimeter of the garden to rep-

resent each of the students killed in school shootings, while six rose bushes have been planted in memory of school faculty members who have died. Each Jefferson student will be involved by planting impatiens around the dogwoods. Plaques will be placed in memory of victims of the shootings. Gravel paths and wooden benches complete the setting.

The garden could not have been created without the help of the community. The project was headed by a 19-member committee of parents and other supporters, some of them former students at Jefferson. Grimm Landscaping and Standish and Sons Landscaping Inc. both contributed material and labor.

The garden is typical of Jefferson Elementary, an innovative and progressive school led by Principal Joseph Miceli. A cooperative effort between students, parents, faculty and administration focuses on connecting learning to life through activities such as Family Fun Night, Community Education Day, Author's Day, Celebrity Reader Day or Volunteer Appreciation Day. The school's mission is "to promote a lifelong love of learning."

We face a terrible problem in our communities—the alarming number of children dying from gun violence. Jonesboro. Springfield. Columbine. These cities and schools have become symbolic of troubled children bringing guns to school and killing other children or teachers. Firearm deaths among children under age 15 are 12 times higher in the United States than the 25 other industrialized nations combined. Our schools face enough problems today without becoming a combat zone.

We in Congress have come forth with many proposals for fighting school violence. I support closing the gunshow loophole, trigger locks, smart guns when the technology becomes available, mental health screening for youthful offenders and other steps. But legislation alone is not enough. We need more of these community-based activities, where teachers and other role models work with young people to change attitudes about violence and provide alternatives for troubled youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the students, parents, faculty and staff of Jefferson Elementary School on this exemplary project. If it is successful in keeping only one young boy or girl from going astray, it will have been well worth the effort.

SUPPORT OF THE SAFE PIPELINES
ACT OF 2000

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I joined Representative METCALF in support of H.R. 3558, the Safe Pipelines Act of 2000, to improve safety and provide states greater discretion to review and inspect interstate liquid pipelines. This vital legislation requires pipeline companies to inspect the pipelines both internally and with hydrostatic tests. To improve access to information, this legislation requires the U.S. Department of Transportation to post the location of all pipelines on the Internet and inform the public of accidents, leaks, and spills.