It is also at Fort Irwin that our New Jersey National Guard units, as well as active duty Army battalions from all across the world, train to be soldiers, improving their fighting skills without actual loss of life or loss of equipment.

As fate would have it, I did meet with some members of the New Jersey National Guard’s 1st–114th Infantry Battalion as they got ready to fight in a mock battle with the regular stationed force. It was very cold out there and I even got caught in a blinding sandstorm as the temperatures dropped down below freezing.

About 5500 U.S. soldiers are deployed to the National Training Center to engage in a strenuous 28 day training event called a “rotation” twelve times a year—you really have to admire these young men and women.

From the sands of the Mojave and the arduous training at Ft. Irwin, I visited the Yuma Proving Grounds in Yuma, Arizona. At this facility, the Army tests weapons and munitions. Much of the technology tested at Yuma, near the Mexican border, is researched and developed in our own backyard at Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township.

I had the good fortune of witnessing a test of the Crusader’s long history that a Secretary of Defense takes. The Crusader is one of Picatinny’s major projects.

The Crusader is the Army’s future heavy artillery system and it will provide more reliable, more lethal firepower on the battlefield. The Crusader can fire faster, and more accurately than any existing tank or fighting vehicle in the Army’s inventory. During tests at Yuma, the Crusader showed its stuff by successfully firing a round on the battlefield.

I look forward to showing Defense Secretary William Cohen where Crusader research and development takes place when he visits Picatinny on May 26. I have pursued his visit for several years because I believe it is important for the Defense Secretary to see firsthand the amazing work being done by the talented men and women of Picatinny—work that is critical to America’s national security. I am glad Secretary Cohen has accepted my invitation to visit Picatinny; it’s the first time in Picatinny’s long history that a Secretary of Defense will have visited.

Finally, back in Washington, last week my committee, the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, gave its approval to our nation’s military and intelligence programs for fiscal year 2001, including those critical programs at Picatinny and New Jersey’s other military installations. You can be sure that I will continue working to strengthen our military.

Most especially, I will continue working to see that our young soldiers are properly paid, have decent housing, and child care, remembering that 65 percent of our all-volunteer force is married, many with children. After all, these young men and women and their sense of self-sacrifice and duty, continue to serve as an inspiration for all Americans.

BUILD IT RIGHT, AND THEY WILL COME

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we have often heard the phrase “if you build it, they will come” from the movie Field of Dreams. We have learned, however, that when it comes to baseball parks, we need to get it right—that delicate balance between the old and new. The new ballpark in the City of Detroit was a vision of the Ilitch Family and John McHale, the owners and president of the Detroit Tigers. It was specifically intended by them to get it right. From the statues of Tiger greats in the outfield to the tiger gargoylees on the outside, the new Comerica Park is a gem. Mr. Speaker, I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the dedication of the new park and was deeply touched by President McHale’s comments. I now sum up his remarks for the RECORD.

MCHALE REMARKS FOR APRIL 8, 2000 RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Reverend Clergy, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends of our City, Friends of the Detroit Tigers, Good Morning.

Today marks for me a little more than five years since I first came to you, unknown, uncredentialed, clad only in the good will of the Ilitch family and your own charity to ask for your help for the Detroit Tigers. Who knows what you must have thought and heard of many of my other projects that came to little but put to you before. I look back then on my own impotence with humility and the improbability of our success—and it seemed to me then that the success of this adventure was possible only if built upon the rock which is the spirit of the people of the City of Detroit. However naïvely or imperfectly I tried to express this, you already knew if better than I. (In my middle years, I came upon a wood. . . .) You welcomed us. You guided us. From validating our agreement and financial partnership with the City, to providing us with public fora, to assisting us in reaching the voters of the City and then Wayne County, this project was nurtured in the temples, mosques and churches of our community. And, as with a parent, you gently and firmly gave us to understand how we should do justice to the people of our community who helped us give life to this dream. I want to pause to remember my friend Morris Hood and others who helped us. The gratitude of the city and all Detroiters more than appropriately.

With me, Morris was not so gentle but was extremely firm concerning his expectation that we love the Tigers and I hope he is proud of his city today. From planning and hosting outreach meetings to recruiting skilled tradesmen and tradewomen, to our attention new and established businesses, your communities of faith have helped us at every step.

Because our achievement has been so great, both symbolically and in terms of steel, bricks and concrete, it is tempting to consider today’s celebration a conclusion. That would be misleading. It is a point of passage, appropriate for brief rest, reflection and an occasion for celebration, but just a stop on the long journey for all of us toward our greater goals. It is not normally fashionable in the business of professional sports to concede, much less insist as we do today, that the partnerships of public and private interests that gave rise to such beautiful buildings as Comerica Park ought to serve greater goods than our success in the standings and on the balance sheet. But of course those partnerships have been joyfully embraced by the Ilitch family since the establishment of their entrepreneurial headquarters in this city in 1987 and the birth of the Detroit Tigers in 1931.

And, as surely as we have been guided and inspired by a determination to restore our city to the material greatness known by our parents and grandparents, so must we work to make it St. Matthew’s ‘city on a mountain’ as renowned for its economic justice as for the beauty of its buildings and the glory of its sports clubs. So do we work, with an eye and an ear toward the just fulfillment of our national mandate for health and education.

What do we wish men and women to say of our efforts a hundred years from today? I hope that they will see three things about the people who built this building.

First, that they loved their children. All ballparks are, by definition, places of communal recreation and celebration (subject to the occasional vagaries of on-field performance), Bart Giamatti told us.

And, as would a parent, you gently and firmly guided us. This engagement is what stamps in our mind the characteristics of human spirit revealed in the heat of competition by our baseball heroes like Woodie Held and Horton. The certainty that in these metaphors we can teach important lessons of life: the need for patience, the need to struggle, the need to bear defeat without conceding to it and the need to view victory as a transitory gift, is what led our parents and grandparents to bring us to Navin Field, Briggs Stadium and Tiger Stadium and is what will lead us to bring our children and grandchildren to Comerica Park. Never has there been a sporting field built to echo the joy of children in spring, and adults at play, the delight and affection. With me, Morris was not so gentle but was extremely firm concerning his expectation that we love the Tigers and I hope he is proud of his city.

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dred years of a part of Detroit’s history. In a third, its steel, concrete and bricks and its focus on the skyline will reinforce in young minds their parents’ lessons of economic opportunity, the appropriate role of professional sports in a larger civic context and the importance of our city to our region, state and country.

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And, as surely as we have been guided and inspired by a determination...
Ms. Hamlett is one of only ten individuals from around the country to be recognized as a Health Leader. Ms. Hamlett is the recipient of numerous academic merits and awards. In 1986, Silverado was granted its first Napa Distinguished Middle School award. In 1988, Silverado was selected as a Foundation School and as one of 100 network partnership schools by the California State Department of Education. Silverado later received a second Distinguished Middle School award by the California Department of Education in 1996.

As an individual Mr. Wildman has been recognized as an outstanding academic leader. In 1988, he was given a California Department of Education Commendation for middle school grade reform. In 1988, Mr. Wildman was also granted the Napa Valley Unified School District leadership award for distinguished management performance. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Leadership award from the California State Department of Education in 1991. And, in 1996, Mr. Wildman was awarded a California Distinguished Middle School Principal’s award.

Dave Wildman is a dedicated family man. He and his wife Nancy have three children: Christine, Jeremy and Sarah. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Dave Wildman has been an exemplary educator and leader in the Napa Valley. As Mr. Wildman’s Representative, I am both honored and pleased to know that there are dedicated people, such as he, who are leading our public schools. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons we honor Principal Dave Wildman for all of his achievements and his contribution to our community.