

for his community of deep valleys and winding roads, it wasn't long before Tinker started his own taxi service company in 1947, serving Welch, Pineville and Oceana, West Virginia.

But Tinker was born of parents who were also deeply involved in community affairs, and he and his wife Elnora were always ready, willing and able when it came to serving on local political committees, and both were active in the Democratic party of McDowell County West Virginia. As Tinker will tell you, McDowell County went Democratic in 1934 when the first-ever Democrat was elected, and the county has remained a democratic stronghold, with Tinker's help, ever since.

Tinker was proud to be politically active, and he traveled around the county campaigning for Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Baines Johnson. He also traveled the county with the late Senator Jennings Randolph, with our senior Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, JAY ROCKEFELLER, and NICK J. RAHALL—and I can tell you that it was a great pleasure whenever I found myself at Elnora's table many, many times during my own campaigns for the House. Tinker recalls that when traveling the county with Ben Cartwright of Bonanza fame, he invited him and his associates back to his home for a home cooked meal—requiring his wife Elnora to have to scramble to fix the meal on a moment's notice—but she did it with great pleasure, for she was as committed as Tinker to helping out the folks running for the Presidency, including Hubert H. Humphrey during his West Virginia campaign.

Tinker gave up the taxi business to become the Deputy Sheriff and Court Bailiff in McDowell County, during which time he became a Member of the McDowell County Democratic Executive Committee, and was a delegate to the National Convention in the years 1952 to 1965. He then became a criminal investigator for the county's prosecuting attorney, and a justice of the peace. Finally, Arthur "Tinker" St. Clair was appointed to the position of County Clerk, and afterwards was reelected to a six year term with a majority vote of 89 percent. That wasn't machine politics folks, that was pure Tinker.

Actually, Tinker hadn't thought of retiring at the age of 63 as County Clerk in 1979, but his children had all moved up to the Washington, D.C. area, and his wife Elnora tired of traveling back and forth to see her grandchildren. So one day, Elnora told Tinker she was once again visiting her children, and he asked her when she would get back. She said she wasn't coming back. That's when Tinker retired from the County Clerk's position and followed his beloved wife of 56 years to Washington.

Now Elnora had her say in June of 1979, and so Tinker retired. But he wasn't happy not working. He just couldn't see himself retiring at age 63. So, Tinker called his old friend, U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, and asked him if there was anything he could do for him. Senator BYRD took him in hand, and within a month of his arrival in Washington, he began serving as Doorkeeper for the U.S. Senate, where he worked for another, memorable 21 years.

As noted above, Mr. Speaker, Arthur "Tinker" St. Clair was born to the work ethic, to family values, and to community service. He has worked ever since he graduated from high school in 1937. Without a college degree, Tinker rose from bus driver to County Clerk in his

native McDowell County, helping it to grow and to prosper in good times and bad; in a county who knew Tinker St. Clair for his ability to reach out to every person he met—and who always found a way to help whoever asked—whether it was a local resident and friend, a local official, or candidates for President—it didn't matter to Tinker. He was always sure he could make a difference—at home in McDowell County—and on the national level—and he and his late wife Elnora made that difference.

Since coming to Washington 21 years ago to serve as Doorkeeper, Tinker has maintained his cheerful countenance, shared the wisdom of his years, and found words of encouragement for everyone he met. Just like he did all those years of growing up and working to serve the free state of McDowell County, West Virginia.

I hope that when I reach the age of 63, that rather than retire, I will look for another way to serve my country for another 21 years—until I too have reached the age of 84, just like Tinker St. Clair. I will miss seeing Tinker when I have the chance to go over to the Senate side, where I always knew I would get a smile, a firm handshake, and news from down home.

IN HONOR OF THE FEDKIDS CHILD CARE CENTER AND ITS FOUNDER, SUSAN KOSSIN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fedkids Child Care Center of New York City and its founder, the late Susan Kossin. This is a special time for the Fedkids Center, which is one of the first childcare centers established for the children of federal employees, because it has recently added more than 1,500 square feet of additional space. This expansion more than doubles the capacity of the center and creates additional space that will be able to comfortably care for 83 children—twice the number of children the center could serve when it opened in 1988. This expansion was made possible by the generosity and vision of the founder of Fedkids, Susan Kossin, who unfortunately passed away earlier this year.

Ms. Kossin, who founded the Fedkids Center while employed by the federal government, created the Center, based in Lower Manhattan, because she recognized the lack of adequate childcare facilities in the mid-1980s. Ms. Kossin took on the arduous task of guiding the decisions on site selection, facilities, renovation, equipment, curriculum, licensing, finances, legal issues, contractual issues, affordability plans, and many other aspects of undertaking such an extraordinary challenge.

Ms. Kossin, a working mother herself, ardently supported the Fedkids Center from its conception up until the time of her death. The recent expansion was made possible through a grant that Ms. Kossin left to the Fedkids Center. Aside from the money that financed the expansion, Ms. Kossin's estate has also financed the establishment of a scholarship fund to assist in financing the tuition for children in the Fedkids program. The enthusiastic and nurturing spirit of Ms. Kossin will live on

through the Fedkids expansion as well as through her scholarship.

The organized leadership and guiding spirit of Ms. Kossin made it possible for many mothers and fathers employed by the federal government to feel confident that while they are at work, their children are safe, supervised, and cared for. For providing such an invaluable service, the work Ms. Kossin put toward the Fedkids Center will continually be appreciated in the Lower Manhattan area.

This month, the Fedkids Center will be opening its newly expanded facilities and naming the new center that Ms. Kossin's generosity and guidance created "Fedkids at the Susan Kossin Child Care Center." This new center will continue the mission that the Fedkids Child Care Center set out to accomplish—to provide loving and attentive care for the children of federal and non-federal workers in Lower Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that this mission, based on the unique and foresighted vision of Susan Kossin, will continue for many years to come. Today, I am proud to salute the Fedkids Child Care Center and the admirable generosity of a woman far ahead of her time, Susan Kossin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 522 of Wednesday, October 11, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes numbered 525 and 526, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes numbered 517, 514, 515, 516, and 518, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of the above.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEENSVIEW INC. OF QUEENS, NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Queensview