

HONORING CHAIRMAN ARTHUR
LEVITT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the end of the Honorable Arthur Levitt's tenure as the longest-serving Chairman in the history of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Arthur has been a good friend of mine for quite some time. More importantly, over the past eight years, he has been a leader in preserving the integrity of our capital markets and protecting America's investors.

I have worked closely with Arthur during his entire tenure on a number of major initiatives, especially the past few years in my capacity as chairman of the former House Commerce Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials.

Chairman Levitt leaves the Commission with an enviable record of accomplishment. He worked tirelessly to achieve his top priority of protecting investors, conducting more than 40 investor town meetings across the country, listening and responding to their concerns.

He played an important role in the recent financial services debates. The financial modernization legislation—known as the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act—was enacted after decades of futility. It was, in part, the product of Chairman Levitt's hard work and support.

Persuading the nation's stock exchanges to convert to decimal pricing took some prodding from the Commission and Congress, but I am pleased to report that America's investors are already benefiting from the narrower spreads that I envisioned when I introduced the Common Cents Stock Pricing Act of 1997. Chairman Levitt deserves a great deal of credit for helping implement this historic reform.

He played an integral role in passage of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act, which modernized the relationship between state and federal securities regulators and eliminated costly and duplicative state regulation of national securities offerings. More recently, his work on the Commodity Futures Modernization Act, helped us pass historic legislation to provide legal certainty to the trillion-dollar derivatives industry.

Finally, the SEC, under Mr. Levitt's direction, has taken important steps in creating a regulatory framework that embraces new technology and promotes competition.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say that Arthur Levitt is a man of great integrity who has served his nation admirably. He is the quintessential public servant. The American people are better off for his tenure.

HONORING ISADORE TEMKIN ON
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I today join the many friends and family members of my dear friend, Isadore Temkin, in extending my warmest wishes as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Throughout

his life, he has been an outstanding leader in his community, always demonstrating a deep commitment to public service.

Issie, along with his wife Zena, has been actively involved in Connecticut's political arena for over forty-five years. Many of Connecticut's elected officials have benefitted from his support including former Governor Ella T. Grasso, former Senator Abraham Ribicoff, current Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD and myself. His invaluable friendship is a tremendous gift we have all cherished.

In the many years that I have known Is, I have continually been in awe of the incredible commitment he has to his hometown of Torrington, Connecticut. Though he has never held a public office, there are few that have had a greater impact on this community. For sixty years, he has been at the forefront of every major issue that has faced this eclectic New England city. With an enduring need to enrich this small community, Is was instrumental in the founding of two of the City's most famous treasures. Under the direction of former Parks and Recreation Supervisor Carl Bozenski and Is, the magical charm of Bozenski's Christmas Village came to life. A Christmas tradition for fifty years, this charming village is open only during the month of December offering children a chance to visit with Santa and explore his workshop, complete with elves and live reindeer. As one of the original founders of the Nutmeg Ballet, he helped to bring the love of arts to Litchfield County. Internationally recognized for dance training for twenty years, the Nutmeg also offers instruction in music and drama. Both Christmas Village and the Nutmeg Ballet have become Connecticut landmarks, much in part to Is Temkin's efforts.

Throughout his professional career, Is has practiced dentistry in the Torrington community and is continuing to do so today. Serving as a member of the Connecticut State Dental Commission, the regulatory board for dentistry, he ensured that residents received proper care from dentists practicing in Connecticut. Keeping true to his endless efforts to improve his community, he opened a clinic in memory of his brother and brother-in-law, both deceased dentists. For five years, the Dental Clinic at Brooker Memorial has ensured that hundreds of uninsured children are provided with the dental care they need. His unparalleled dedication and compassion is an inspiration to us all.

Through his innumerable good works, Is has left an indelible mark on the Torrington community and the State of Connecticut. I am honored to rise today and join his wife Zena, his children; Alan, Nan, and Bruce; family, friends, and colleagues in paying tribute to Isadore Temkin as he celebrates this wonderful occasion. My best wishes for many more years of health and happiness. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

ON BUFFALO, NEW YORK: THE
"CITY WITH HEART"

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues an article that appeared

yesterday in the national newspaper, USA TODAY. After conducting a nationwide search for a "City with Heart", they chose my hometown of Buffalo, New York. In this great, historic city you will find four enjoyable seasons, world-class educational institutions, expansive parklands, and the finest in art and architecture. For sheer quality of life, dollar-for-dollar my money is on Buffalo.

It is with a great deal of pride that I commend to you this article entitled "Lots and Lots of Heart in Buffalo."

[From USA Today, Feb. 13, 2001]

THE CITY WITH HEART

(By Cathy Lynn Grossman)

BUFFALO—We're snowed by Buffalo.

USA Today launched a nationwide search for a "City with Heart"—one with the energy, excitement and community fellowship that make a one-stoplight town or a swarming metropolis a treasured hometown.

Readers responded to our call with notes, poems and a bit of professional public-relations puffery, singing the praises of more than 120 communities from Tacoma, Wash., to Miami, Fla., to Barnes, a cozy English town outside London.

Some listed their towns' tourist-brochure features. But most messages zeroed in on the great, unmappable qualities like generosity of spirit—the social capital that makes people rich in human connection, says political scientist Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Simon & Schuster, \$26).

Many Americans remember with longing those places and times where we felt those bonds, expressed in "neighborhood parties and get-togethers with friends, the unreflective kindness of strangers, the shared pursuit of the public good."

The people of Buffalo still know these well. And they stuffed the valentine ballot box with the most notes to tell the world the sunny truth about their oft-maligned, blizzard-thumped city.

They managed to be simultaneously proud and humble about their world-class art, architecture and grand urban parks; a great history including two U.S. presidents; and generations of immigrants and their descendants who turn every weekend from May to October into a street festival.

"Don't let the snow fool you," wrote Marge McMillen, listing, as many did, the city's renowned museums and music hall, schools and sports teams. "Buffalo is a warm-hearted lady."

So we winged into town for a day to see.

Eleven Buffalo buffs—eight of them born here—joined us for platters of chicken wings at the Anchor Bar, world famous for the spicy tidbits that legend says were invented here. Friendlier people would be hard to find.

"That's why we all come back here," says Dennis Warzel, one of five in the lunch group who tried living elsewhere and felt Buffalo call him home. He's now rooted here as securely as the lavish Buffalo Botanical Gardens, where he spends hours volunteering.

"That's why my parents, who retired to Florida, returned to be with their old friends," says Bonnie MacGregor, bass drummer in the Celtic Spirit Pipe Band. If Buffalo were a band, its tunes would be drawn from Irish, Scottish, Polish, Italian, German, Slavic, Jewish, Native American and a dozen other cultures.

"This lovable rust-belt city is full of blue-collar guys of every ethnic background who get together on Sunday to watch the Bills and remove their shirts in 35-degree weather. (We) support everything from tractor pulls to the philharmonic—and hardly any drive-by shootings," quips Jim Joslin.

Good neighbors keep this city's heart beating, all agree. Asked for signs of neighborliness in action, Sandra Cochran leapt to mention Friends of Night People. Lodged in a pink and white house on the edge of downtown, it's a 24-hour soup kitchen and shelter of last resort, established 32 years ago when the homeless didn't have the media attention they get today.

"Generosity here is above and beyond any place I've ever worked," says director Darren Strickland, watching volunteer Betty Dorio make bologna and cheese sandwiches. The shelter serves 72,000 meals a year and provides eye, foot and health care for 1,600 children, women and elderly annually.

MacGregor noted the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. It was the nation's first such center and one of the largest for research and treatment. Yet it is permeated by positive feelings, she says, "Everyone smiles."

Indeed, that very gray Monday, there was upbeat 17-year-old Dan Zak, a weekly volunteer from Canisius High School, playing the grand piano in the hotel-handsome atrium lobby.

"You can be a workaholic here, but it's optional," says Russell DeFazio, who hikes and plays tennis in Delaware Park. "It's still a laid-back place."

"We work hard, but we make time to enjoy ourselves," echoes Alan Klegler.

With family. With friends. With strangers. "I wake up on a snowy day and my neighbor has already cleared my driveway," says Linda Storz. "You have to catch someone in the act just to thank them."

Ah, snow. Talk turns to that inescapable word, and once again the Buffalonians puff with pride.

"I love the coldest, snowiest days here because everyone grows closer. People come out of their houses, smiling and greeting one another on the street. It feels as safe as Mayberry and as beautiful and sentimental as a holiday greeting card," wrote Sara Saldi.

"It's not how much snow we get. It's how we handle it. Our city never closes. We clean up and get going where others can't," says Philip Wiggle.

Of course, problem-solving is second nature here in the birthplace of "brainstorming," a creative thinking process developed by a local advertising executive, Alex Osborn, that soon spread worldwide. Buffalo nurtures the idea with an annual creativity conference, that has drawn hundreds of think-outside-the-box folks for 43 years.

One problem minimized: The tell-your-grandchildren-about-it-someday blizzard that dumped 25 inches of snow in a day last Nov. 20 and gave even indefatigable Buffalo pause.

Most people would be calling the moving vans if they spent seven hours of a snowstorm trapped in a subway station like Monica Huxley. But Huxley, who hadn't lived in Buffalo yet a year, wrote to USA TODAY that the helpful camaraderie among strangers led her to love her new hometown.

MacGregor was among 200 who huddled in the Christmas wonderland of the tree-decorated Hyatt hotel lobby. She recalls:

"About 11:30 p.m., ladies from the hotel's housekeeping brought around lots of blankets and told us that we should each find a Christmas tree to sleep near. They then kept the tree lights on and turned the hall lights off. We slept like little kids in a big 'sleepover' underneath the trees."

Warzel was trapped on downtown streets for nearly 20 hours, including a stretch where a "lady went car to car passing out Ho-Hos." Nancy Lynch was assured that her son, trapped at school, was housed for the night by the welcoming parents of the school neighborhood; Ellen Kern, caught for "just

4½ hours on Maple Road in my car," marveled as strangers offered coffee and brushed snow from the windshields.

"For a big city, it's very small," says Kern.

Adds Nancy Lynch: "When people do small nice things for one another, they tend to want to reciprocate. When the cycle is repeated over and over again over the years, you end up with a City with Heart."

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, as the new chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, I am pleased to introduce legislation to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988.

Prior to the passage of this landmark conservation law, the population of African elephants plummeted from 1.3 million animals to less than 600,000. The primary causes of this catastrophic decline were the illegal poaching of elephants and the insatiable international demand for elephant ivory. Without immediate action, it was clear that this flagship species of the African continent would continue its march toward extinction.

In response to this crisis, the Congress passed the African Elephant Conservation Act. In addition, President George H. Bush used the authority of this law to prohibit the importation of all carved ivory into the United States and to persuade the convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora [CITES] to place the African elephant on its Appendix I list. Through this listing, a worldwide commercial ban on all products derived from the species was established in January of 1990. Due to these actions, the price of ivory, the trade in ivory, and the poaching of elephants all decreased almost immediately.

A key component of this law was the establishment of the African Elephant Conservation Fund. Under the terms of the fund, the Secretary of the Interior is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving meritorious conservation projects. To date, 113 conservation projects that affect elephant population in 22 separate countries have been funded. In total, \$11.9 million in federal money has been obligated for these projects, matched by \$51.7 million in non-federal funds.

In recent years, money has been spent to aerial monitor elephants in Kenya; assess the impact of elephants on plant and habitat biodiversity in South Africa; control elephant crop damages in Ghana; financially assist the African elephant specialist group; study forest elephants in the Central African Republic; supplement anti-poaching activities in Zimbabwe; and track the origin of African elephant ivory.

While the population of African elephants is no longer declining, and, in fact, is growing in Southern Africa, the job of conserving this magnificent species is far from over. The number of worthwhile unfunded projects far exceeds those receiving aid and the African Elephant Conservation Fund remains the only

dedicated source of funding for this species in the world. The authorization of appropriations for the act expires on September 30, 2002 and the goal of my legislation is to extend the highly effective conservation law for an additional 5 years.

It is essential that we not allow this irreplaceable species to disappear from this planet. During the last reauthorization process, the administration testified that "The principles embodied in this act are sound. They provide a catalyst for cooperative efforts among the governments of the world, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together for a common goal—the conservation and continued healthy existence of populations of African elephants. This is not a hand out, but a helping hand".

I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, I introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. I took that action because I was startled to learn that there were less than 40,000 Asian elephants living in the wild. Furthermore, nearly 50 percent of those elephants living in various national parks in India, while the remaining animals were scattered in fragmented populations throughout 12 other countries in South and Southeast Asia.

The primary reason for this serious decline in population was the loss of essential habitat. It is no secret that elephants and man are in direct competition for the same resources. In most cases, it was the elephants who lost in those confrontations.

In addition, Asian elephants are poached for their bones, hide, meat, and teeth; they are still captured for domestication; and conflicts between elephants and people are escalating at an alarming rate. Furthermore, it was clear that millions of people were not aware of the plight of Asian elephants and that range countries lack the financial resources to help conserve this flagship species. Without an international effort, the future of the Asian elephant was in serious jeopardy.

In response to this problem, I, along with a number of other Members, proposed the establishment of an Asian elephant conservation fund. This concept was modeled after the highly successful African elephant conservation fund, and the fundamental goal of my legislation was to obtain a small amount of Federal assistance for on-the-ground conservation projects.

In testimony before my subcommittee, eight witnesses indicated strong support for my bill and their belief that it would be an effective way to assist Asian elephants. One of those witnesses, Dr. Terry Maple, the president of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, stated that,

This bill will provide competitive financing where it is needed most—in the wild to support protection, conservation, and management of threatened Asian elephants.