

Marsha Sharp will be among the fifth class of inductees into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The six individuals inducted in this class will bring the total number of individuals in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame to 73. Marsha Sharp is more than a coach; she is also a leader and role-model for many athletes and students not only at Texas Tech, but all across the country.

Her commitment to excellence has earned many successes for both her and the teams that she has led. Coach Sharp is in her 21st season as the head coach of the Lady Raider Basketball program and in that time has established a career record of 479–153. She guided the Lady Raiders to the NCAA National Championship in 1993 and has led Texas Tech to the NCAA Tournament 15 times, including 13 straight. She has taken her team to the Sweet 16 nine times and the Elite Eight three times. She has also led her teams to numerous conference titles.

The Women's Basketball News Service and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association named her coach of the year in 1993 and 1994, respectively. Marsha Sharp has not only led her teams to success on the court, but also in the classroom, as 99 percent of her student athletes have graduated during her tenure at Texas Tech.

It is with great pride that I commend Marsha Sharp for her active involvement and leadership both on and off the court, and I congratulate her on being inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

HONORING MORRIS S. HODKIN AND
JOSEPH HODKIN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the works of Morris S. Hodkin and Joseph Hodkin. These outstanding individuals from Long Island were honored last night at the B'Nai B'Rith Banking and Finance Distinguished Achievement Award Dinner.

Mr. Morris Hodkin and Mr. Joseph Hodkin of Daley-Hodkin Corporation have dedicated years of service to the corporate credit industry in New York. They are also to be commended for their continued activities in charitable endeavors.

IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE
ASSUMPTION CHURCH

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption Church. The church celebrated its anniversary on Saturday, November 2, 2002, which Bayonne Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., proclaimed as Our Lady of the Assumption Centennial Day.

In the early 1900s, a group of Italian-speaking immigrants decided that the Bayonne community needed a national parish that would truly serve the needs of the people. They peti-

tioned the Bishop of Newark to establish a parish that would use the Italian language at mass and other services, allowing for both native and non-native English speakers to benefit from the service. The parish was officially established in June of 1902, and Monsignor Michael Mercolino delivered the first mass in a small store on 21st Street on June 3, 1902. Monsignor Mercolino's participation with the Church did not end there; he dedicated and devoted his time to the parish until 1945.

Our Lady of the Assumption has grown over the past century from that first group of Italian immigrants to a multicultural congregation that celebrates mass and other services in three languages: English, Spanish, and Italian. Three church buildings have also been established: the first in 1902, the second in 1911, and the third in 1976. The City of Bayonne is a better place thanks to the inclusive and generous ways of the ever-growing Our Lady of Assumption Church.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Our Lady of the Assumption Church Centennial Day, a profound and monumental day in the history of the City of Bayonne.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SOFFREDINE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an individual, who in addition to a long and distinguished career in law enforcement and teaching, has dedicated many thousands of hours to community service in northern Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ralph Soffredine of Traverse City, Michigan.

Ralph Soffredine has dedicated his life to education, law enforcement, community service and teaching. His perseverance and accomplishments have been an inspiration to every one who has met Ralph.

Born in Detroit, Michigan on January 11, 1937, he graduated from Sandusky High School, in Sandusky, Michigan in 1959. Nearly thirty six years ago he married Pam on March 21, 1967 and the couple raised six children: Maureen, Pete, Patrick, Annie, Joseph, and Paula. Ralph and Pam also have nine grandchildren.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force from September 1954 until receiving an honorable discharge as an Airman First Class in March 1958, he continued his academic studies and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in science from Central Michigan University, in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, in June of 1966. While at Central he had a distinguished athletic career as a football player and was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame in October 2001.

A continuing quest for education led Ralph to earn a Masters of Arts degree in community administration from Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in 1970. In addition to his academic work towards two degrees, Ralph is a 1985 graduate of the "Police Staff and Command School" at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois and a 1991 graduate of the FBI National Academy, in Quantico, Virginia.

Ralph began his criminal justice career in 1966 as a police officer in the Flint Police De-

partment. He then moved to the Grand Blanc Township Police Department, where he attained the rank of captain. The Ishpeming Police Department recognized his talents and named Ralph chief in June of 1976. He later served as chief of the Menominee Police Department. He then moved downstate and took the position of director of law enforcement with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department.

Ralph left the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department to become chief of the Traverse City Police Department in 1981. Ten years later, Traverse City added the duties of fire chief to Ralph's responsibilities.

According to Ralph one of his major accomplishments as police chief was bringing community policing to Traverse City. I had the pleasure of working with Ralph in introducing the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to the Traverse City area.

Having an advanced degree, Ralph has taught criminal justice courses at many institutions of higher learning in the United States and abroad. In May of 1998 he spent five weeks in the Ukraine, working under the auspices of the Ukraine Militia, as an adjunct professor teaching and facilitating law enforcement classes to visiting U.S. students from the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice. Closer to home, Ralph has taught criminal justice courses at many colleges and universities including: Northern Michigan University; Northwestern Michigan College; Northwestern University; Michigan State University; and his alma maters, Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University.

Showing his dedication to law enforcement beyond his administrative positions, Ralph has been involved in many related issues such as county jail program development, police school liaison programs, drug enforcement, crime prevention, police/fire training, internal investigation, chief contract negotiation, grievance and discipline, unification and consolidation of police departments, central dispatch, and records. Having a wide range of life experiences beyond law enforcement, Ralph has advised local officials on grants, personnel, management reorganization, community organization, and city, township and county budgeting.

Ralph's community service goes beyond his law enforcement and teaching duties. He currently serves as chairman of the Grand Traverse County Family Independence Agency, the Camp Grayling Regional Training Facility, and The Pavilion's board. Showing his admirable community service, he serves on many other committees and boards including: the Police School Liaison Committee, Northflight Board of Directors, Munson Board of Directors, Women Resource Center Board of Directors, the Traverse City Planning Commission, and the Traverse City Area Public School Board of Education.

He has served as president of Grand Traverse Families in Action and as a member of the Michigan Justice Training Commission.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Soffredine's wide ranging law enforcement, teaching and community service activities are admirable and amazing. Ralph and Pam Soffredine have been great assets to their chosen careers, their fellow workers, and their community. I am proud to call Ralph and Pam Soffredine, friends of mine.