who enjoy its unique service, celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

It was 1953 when seven civilians working on Mather Air Force Base recognized a need for better financial service on base. Each member contributed $5 to form what was then called Mather Civilian Credit Union. In 1962, the Credit Union merged with another military credit union to form Mather Federal Credit Union.

In an effort to increase membership the Credit Union added products and services such as mortgage loans, Priority Line Audio Response, and a Telephone Services Department. In 1992, the Credit Union merged with Electrical Workers #340 Credit Union to add 1600 new members. In a third effort to expand membership the Credit Union merged with Proctor & Gamble Employees Federal Credit Union, which added another 1600 new members.

On December 14, 1998, Mather Federal Credit Union members voted to convert to a State chartered community credit union. Membership eligibility was again broadened to include anyone living or working in Sacramento County and the name was changed to Heritage Community Credit Union.

It is no surprise that the Credit Union has received “Business of the Year,” “Federal Credit Union of the Year” and “The Best Small Business to Work for in the Sacramento Area.” The Credit Union has devoted countless hours and financial support to local charities and philanthropic causes. The Credit Union has used its rapid growth and increased recognition to serve not only its members but also the entire community.

Our community is indeed proud of Heritage Community Credit Union and its history. And I am proud to congratulate the members and staff as we celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF EMILY BEATRICE SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of our second grandchild, Emily Smith, born on March 9, 1989 to our son Brad and his wife Diane. The year of her birth was a time of change for America and the world. A new President, George Bush Sr., took office. More importantly it was the year that the world ushered in a new era of peace. On the second of May, Emily Smith was just a few months old, but her future would be changed forever. It was in 1989 that the Berlin Wall fell and forty-five years of conflict and fear were soon behind us. It was a new era of prosperity, potential, and peace.

As we stand here today decisive moments confront us, but we have the opportunity to seize the moment. As Emily and all our children and grandchildren, the peace that we knew in 1989. It is my hope that by our work and decisions today we can give them peace for tomorrow.

My wife Bonnie and I join Emily’s other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this wonderful person.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. GERARD E. WOOD AS HE TAKES THE HELM AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Dr. Gerald E. Wood. Tomorrow, Dr. Wood will be inaugurated as Defiance College’s 17th president. He has spent his entire life “writing, reading and doing” to have an opportunity like the one that has been placed before him. Dr. Wood would tell you that his involvement in higher education “is a calling, not just a job.”

Dr. Wood has spent the better part of his life focusing on the values that he holds the most dear. His core values are the liberating experience of learning and the importance of community. These principles will serve him and the Defiance College community very well as he officially takes the reigns from outgoing president, Dr. James Harris.

Dr. Wood is keenly aware of the good things that happen at Defiance College. Given his credentials for the position, I have no doubt that he will expand upon the successes at Defiance College, ultimately taking the institution to a new level.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wood was not looking for the opportunity to make a change in his career, rather this opportunity came to him. An official working with Defiance College matched his credentials with the college in terms of experience and commitment in general and, in