

a celebration to deter old-time Halloween pranks. The community planned a night parade that featured children in costume marching along with members of the fire department, Kiwanis Club, Commercial Club and the National Guard.

Anoka first called itself the "Halloween Capital of the World" in 1937, with a proclamation carried to Washington, D.C. by 12 year-old Anoka resident, Harold Blair. Since the first celebration, the festivities have expanded to include card parties, bingo, a 5K Grey Ghost Run and a parade that is the second largest in the state. This year's celebration marks the 81st annual festival and was bigger and better than ever.

I would like to congratulate and thank the city of Anoka, the more than 30 volunteers and all who work to make the Anoka Halloween celebration a yearly success and a family event for everyone to enjoy.

RON PICKERING: DEDICATED TO
THE CAUSE OF LABOR

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions of Ron Pickering, an individual of great importance to the working people of America, and particularly my state of Vermont. For the past ten years he served with distinction as the President of the Vermont AFL-CIO. Ron was a remarkably effective and dedicated leader of Vermont's most important labor council.

He has also served most capably as the international representative for PACE [the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union], in which capacity he serviced many contracts in New England.

I have known Ron for many years, both as a personal friend and as colleague in the struggle for workers' rights. It is with a sense of deep respect that I say that Ron Pickering reinvigorated the trade union movement in the state of Vermont and laid the groundwork for some of the most important labor victories in the state's history.

Ron has been one of the best and most influential advocates for working people the state of Vermont has ever seen. His effectiveness in the State House in Montpelier has meant that working men and woman have had a voice, and a most eloquent voice, in the deliberations of state government.

Together with his wife Gloria, who has time and again been at his side while he traveled throughout the state of Vermont, Ron Pickering has stood up for the labor movement, for the needs of working Americans, and for the rights of those who put in a hard day's work—every day—to see that America remains productive and strong.

TRIBUTE TO THE JAMES G.
SHAWGER SCHOOL NO. 4

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the James G. Shawger School No. 4 in Belleville, New Jersey, which celebrated its centennial on Sunday, November 2, 2003.

Over the past one hundred years, the James G. Shawger School has grown from a quaint four room school house into a modern twenty-five room school with well over 300 students. Built on the tradition of camaraderie, hard work, and dedication to quality education, the Shawger School has become a paradigm of learning, promoting personal integrity, excellence, and service in its students. It is thus only fitting that the James G. Shawger School No. 4 be honored, in this, the permanent RECORD of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Founded in 1903 in the Silver Lake District of Belleville, the James G. Shawger School was not unlike other turn-of-the-century schools. Brothers, sisters, and cousins attended classes that intermingled all of its students regardless of age and educational background. While at school, students were encouraged to better themselves through strict discipline and a commitment to learning the three R's (Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic). Early teachers and principals who set out with the goal of attaining the "betterment of all concerned," succeeded in creating a spirited school community of which all could be proud.

The emphasis that these "pioneer" teachers placed on fostering the academic, moral and social education of Belleville's young men and women was closely paralleled by the spirit of solidarity that permeated the early community in Belleville as a whole. This spirit was evident in the aftermath of the tragic fire that swept through the four-room school in the early 1900s. In the days following the fire, neighborhood fathers worked side by side with carpenters, volunteering their time to rebuild and renovate the school.

Over the years, parents gradually increased their role in the school community. The 1950's and 1960's saw parents begin to assume an integral role in their children's education with the formation of the Parent-Teacher Association and, later, the Home and School Association. Members of these organizations dedicated themselves to staying abreast of new legislation affecting education, preparing by-laws and coordinating activities for the students and their families. By the 1970's and 1980's, these activities broadened to encompass assembly programs, family events, and scholarship programs. The hard work, dedication, and countless fundraising activities on the part of the students and their parents through these organizations have made the Shawger School a model of excellence among its surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that the true goals of education should be to build character and intelligence. The dedicated teachers and principals of the James G. Shawger School who have left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of Belleville's young men and women are perhaps the great-

est testimony to this. Their commitment to inspiring leadership, education, and service in the children of Belleville has long been a beacon of excellence—one that will shine well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the residents of the Township of Belleville, and me in paying tribute to the James G. Shawger School as it celebrates one hundred years devoted to molding the children of Belleville, New Jersey, into the leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING ELIZABETH
SCHROEDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elizabeth Schroeder, the executive director of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce. In her seven years as executive director she has helped transform Mesquite into one of the premier resort and gaming communities in the United States. Her dedication to showcasing the community nationally, attracting new services, and creating a welcoming business climate will serve Mesquite well for decades to come. I want to thank Elizabeth Schroeder for everything she has done and wish her well in her future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN BILL
CRAMER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Congressman Bill Cramer, one of our former colleagues who recently passed away.

William Cramer, or Bill as he was known, lived a life of public service. He served 18 months as a Naval gunnery officer during World War II and was among the brave young men who invaded France and liberated Europe. He returned to the United States following the war, and after graduating from Harvard Law School, served as a city and county attorney in Pinellas County, Florida. He also actively involved himself with local volunteer and charitable organizations.

Bill Cramer was a revolutionary in Florida politics. He was, when he won his seat in 1954, the first Republican from Florida elected to Congress since the Civil War. Congressman Cramer opened the door, so to speak, for Republicans seeking office in the Sunshine State. Before his election, many used to joke that Republicans could not get elected to anything in Florida, let alone a congressional seat. Congressman Cramer changed that and quickly became our party's standard bearer in the state.

Congressman Cramer, in just his fifth term, became the ranking member on the House Public Works Committee. In 1964, he became Vice Chairman of the House Republican Conference, the second ranking House Republican behind Michigan Congressman and future President Gerald Ford. He vacated his