

In his 40 years of service, Mr. Stearn has served in many roles within the community. He was mayor of Sonora for three 2-year terms and has only missed 3 council meetings throughout his career. Ron is known as the Parking & Traffic expert, providing a wealth of knowledge and history about the infrastructure of the city of Sonora. He has always voted based on what he believes is best for the city and strives to accurately represent the people of Sonora.

Ron has committed himself to the city of Sonora and its organizations for numerous years. He remains open to new ideas while respecting and promoting the city's history and well-being. Mr. Stearn's dedication to the city has been an inspiration to his fellow council members as well as the public. In addition to being a council member Ron has been a lifetime member of the Independent Hose Company, a volunteer fire organization, since 1950. He also managed and worked for Mundorf's Hardware for 47 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Ronald E. Stearn on the occasion of his 40th anniversary on the city council of Sonora. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ron many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE DEDICATED AND SKILLED WORKERS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On April 17, 2004, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599 will recognize their members for 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized during a pin ceremony banquet held on Saturday at the Carpenters Union Hall in Hammond, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the exemplary American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenters Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. The carpenter who will be honored for 55 years of service is Wayne Verble. The member who will be honored for 50 years of service is Ronald Carlson. Those members being honored for 45 years of service include Ezequile (Jack) Lopez and Walter Wisinski. Those members being honored for 40 years of service include: Robert Farkas, Paul Hornak, Joseph Komoroski, Robert Lowry, Harold McMillion, Bernard Ritchey, Edward Scheeringa, Darrel Sills, and John Verbeek. Those members being honored for 35 years of service include: Greg Argentine, Charles Gibbs, Raymond Maida, Jr., Rudy Medellin, Jr., Michael Schaller, and William Underwood. Those members of Local 599 who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Daniel Brown, Timothy Foley, and John Perz. The carpenters who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Thomas Childers, David Jazyk, Fred Kuhn, Richard Meyers, Vic-

tor Michael, Brian Morton, Kenneth Pitts, and Fred Tomkutonin.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These workers are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have consistently performed at the highest level throughout their careers. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599, in addition to all the hardworking union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union workforce; I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. Their hard labor and resolute courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

EIGHTH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE DAY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 24th, marks the culmination of Youth Pride Week in Washington, DC with our Eighth Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people, which has brought over 13,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,500 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved into Youth Pride Week, which comprises over a dozen events ranging from a conference, dances, and poetry readings, to Youth Pride Day on Saturday.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight.

The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us that LGBT youth in our nation's Armed Forces, do so under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While they have sworn to defend the United States with their lives, they must suffer the hate, fear, isolation, and denial this demonstrably untenable policy engenders.

We, who live in our nation's capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that has been denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States Citizens enjoy. I remind the House that Washingtonians are taxed without representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

HONORING COMMANDER JOHN J. ROESNER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor an American hero, my constituent Commander John J. "Jack" Roesner for 22 years of faithful steadfast service to the United States Navy. His hard work, dedication and leadership to this Nation is without doubt commendable. On May 7, 2004, the U.S. Navy will join along with his family to honor him during a retirement ceremony to be held at his command, OPNAV—Naval Education and Training.

Commander (CDR) Roesner was born and raised in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. He attended Northern Michigan University, where he earned both his Bachelor and Masters Degrees. In February of 1982, CDR Roesner completed Navy Officer Candidate School and earned his commission. His first assignment as a Surface Warfare Officer was aboard the USS *Mahlon S. Tisdale* (FFG-27), where he served as the Commanding Ordnance Officer and subsequently as Damage Control Assistant and Combat Information Center Officer. During this tour CDR Roesner qualified as Surface Warfare Officer and Gas Turbine Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW). In November of 1985 he transferred to the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) located at the University of Mississippi as an Associate Professor and Instructor of Naval Science. In February of 1989, he graduated from the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Curriculum, after which he was assigned as the Combat Systems Officer of the USS *John Rodgers* (DD-983), and subsequently afloat as Combat Systems and Material Officer on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six. CDR Roesner in November of 1992 reported for duty in Washington, D.C. as Aide and Administrative Assistant to the Naval Inspector General, where he served until 1985. After his tour in Washington he returned to sea duty and was stationed aboard the USS *Scott* (DDG-995) as the Executive Officer, followed by subsequent afloat tour as Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Two. In 1998, he became the Executive Officer of the Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis, and on April 14, 2000 he assumed Command of the district. In November of 2001, CDR Roesner reported to OPNAV (N-79). During CDR Roesner's career he has deployed five times to the Mediterranean and/or Western Pacific, completed three North Red Sea surges in support of U.N. sanctioned Maritime Interception Operations, and two Counter-Narcotics Operation deployments. He completed JPME phase-1 training through the Air Force Command and Staff College. CDR Roesner was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal w/gold star, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/two gold stars, along with various unit and campaign awards. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a devoted husband to his wife Stephanie.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my constituent and one of the U.S. Navy's finest sailors Commander Roesner upon his retirement