

1858 in Jonesboro at the Union County Fairgrounds, Abraham Lincoln stayed in a house on Main Street in Anna, Illinois.

In 1873, the Anna Mental Health Center opened providing employment for many residents throughout the region. The business section of Anna, which had been building up for two decades since the city's founding, suffered two major fires, one in 1876 and the other in 1879.

The Anna Fair was organized in December of 1879 and has come to be known as one of the top county fairs in Illinois. Held in August, the fair features horse racing, produce exhibits, livestock shows and other events.

Walter Willard and Rev. William Faris were responsible for opening the Union Academy, a private school, in 1883. For nearly 35 years the Union Academy served as an educational institution for many leaders in the area. In 1916, the Academy closed and the property came into the ownership of the high school.

Early Anna industries include Anna Pottery, known for its high quality work and the Flora Temple Mills, where flour was produced. Anna Pottery started operations in 1859 by C & W. W. Kirkpatrick, two Ohio brothers who migrated to the area. Clay found in area soils, together with the skill of the potters, brought fame and prestige to Anna Pottery. The brothers produced crocks, jugs and sewer tiles.

While the pottery facility closed in 1900, the one-of-a-kind items that were produced are considered folk art and fetch very high prices at auctions. Anna or Kirkpatrick Brothers pottery is one of the most sought after ceramics today.

Tobacco was processed in Anna from 1862 to 1870. Fruit and vegetables have also been important to the Anna economy since 1860. Apples and peaches are the chief commodities of the region and these fruits are marketed and sold to major metropolitan area markets. Anna was also home to a large Farmer's Market, built in 1934 to accommodate these products, the Anna City Hall now sits where the market once stood.

Anna is only a mile away from its sister city, Jonesboro, the seat of Union County, Illinois. Anna is a community rich in tradition and continues to serve as a major agricultural center for southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the founding of the community and the people of Anna, Illinois on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2004 I was not able to be here for three rollcall votes.

On rollcall No. 276 regarding H. Res. 591 expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and the sense of the House of Representatives that a month should be designated as "Community Banking Month," I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 277 regarding H.R. 4363, to facilitate self-help housing homeownership opportunities, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 278, regarding H. Res. 660, congratulating Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching a perfect game on May 18, 2004, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Friday, June 18th, and Monday, June 21st, due to an unavoidable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall vote 267, the Jackson-Lee amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 268, the DeLauro amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 269, the Roybal-Allard amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 270, the Tancredo amendment to H.R. 4567, "no";

On rollcall vote 271, the Maloney amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 272, the Sabo amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 274, the Velázquez amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 275, H.R. 4567, the FY05 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, "aye";

On rollcall vote 276, H. Res. 591, expressing the gratitude of the House for the contributions made by America's community banks, "aye";

On rollcall vote 277, H.R. 4363, the Helping Hands for Homeownership Act, "aye"; and

On rollcall vote 278, H. Res. 660, congratulating Randy Johnson, "aye."

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEFREY L. COOPER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey L. Cooper, the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, for his extraordinary leadership and bravery in action against enemy forces. He has shown strength and courage throughout his many years of heroic service with the United States Marine Corps.

A native of Aurora, Illinois, Lt. Col. Geoffrey L. Cooper is married to June Madsen, and is the father of three daughters, Jennifer, Jessica and Jacalyn. He graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in November, 1973 and has since had a long and successful military career. In 1980, Lt. Col. Cooper was commissioned as Second Lieutenant upon his graduation from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. In 1980, he was also assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and served as an infantry platoon commander. He was appointed to Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, and served as Assistant Officer in Charge from 1983-1986. In 1986, he was assigned as Commanding Officer of Company B, 3rd Light Armored Vehicle Battalion.

Lt. Col. Cooper proved to be a strong leader as the Operations Officer for Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment, Okinawa, Japan. After leaving active duty in 1992, he joined the Individual Mobilization Detachment, Tactical Training Evaluation Control Group (IMADET). He served as the head IMADET representative for more than 75 combined arms exercises. In 2003, he was again activated and assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines Regiment in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Camp Pendleton.

Lt. Col. Cooper, along with the entire 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, was activated on February 23, 2002 and was deployed in February 2003. Nine hundred members of this Marine Forces Reserve Unit, combined with the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), conducted the longest series of synchronized combined arms and overland attacks in the history of the Marine Corps. The 800 kilometer advance, which began at the border between Kuwait and Iraq, experienced heavy combat with continued hostilities to the North of Baghdad. The combined combat force successfully destroyed nine Iraqi Divisions.

The battlefield swiftness of the I MEF during its campaign was unmatched by any force to date. The success of the operation was due to valiant efforts of men and women such as Lt. Col. Cooper. Lt. Col. Cooper's many accomplishments are indicated by his many decorations, which include: Navy Marine Corps Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Combat Action Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in saluting Lt. Col. Cooper's exceptional leadership in the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment. Also, I ask you to join me in wishing future success to Lt. Col. Geoffrey L. Cooper at his new Command, the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2004 AS NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that will designate September 2004 as "National Life Insurance Awareness Month." I want to thank my friend PAUL KANJORSKI, the Ranking Member of the Financial Service Committee, for introducing this resolution with me and for his support on this important issue.

Today only four in ten adult Americans own an individual life insurance policy. And among those who do have life insurance, the amount often is too small to safeguard the financial future of their loved ones. As a result of insufficient coverage, family members often are forced to work extra jobs or longer hours, borrow money, or move to less desirable housing. These outcomes attest to the "crisis of underinsurance" that exists in our nation today.

Losing a family member is painful enough without it being compounded by financial difficulties. The goal of "Life Insurance Awareness Month" is to educate Americans about