

basis for its rehabilitation and wellness programs.

IROC's Mezzanine Level will contain a 4,200 square foot multi-purpose Lloyd Selby Community Room designed to accommodate meetings, dances, special events, educational programs and seminars, and other community-based activities.

The Mezzanine Level will also house an Educational/Technology Center equipped with state-of-the-art computers and other multimedia materials. Designed for such educational purposes as after-school tutoring, computer training, employment and training seminars, and other related activities, the programs in the Technology Center will focus on youth.

In addition, the Mezzanine Level will contain a Meeting Room that will be made available, as needed and as a public service, to area non-profit organizations in need of meeting space.

To date, the IROC Board of Directors has been able to secure and purchase a ten-acre parcel of land in Derby, Vermont, erect a 54,000 square foot steel building on the site, and initiate the interior build-out of the facility. All of this has been made possible through the generosity of local northeastern Vermonters, whose cash and in-kind contributions to date total over \$2.5 million, a remarkable achievement, given the region's poor economy.

As you all know, Vermont is a beautiful state, and the Northeast Kingdom represents one of its loveliest regions. All of the natural beauty in the area provides a wonderful place to live and a special place to spend a vacation. After our many summer visitors leave, however, and before the snow arrives, our year-round residents settle into their fall and winter routines. Off-season unemployment rebounds, and local residents look for activities to occupy the long cold nights and short days.

There is an international ice youth hockey program—Border Minor Hockey—and there is, of course, the usual array of school-based sports programs. But those programs reach only a small percentage of the population. Youth, working adults, and the community beyond school age are largely left out of the picture. The residents of the Northeast Kingdom have recognized this need; they have organized themselves; and they are supporting IROC to respond to the region's needs.

When the facility is opened later this year, IROC will deliver indoor recreation, educational opportunities, rehabilitation services, and many related community activities to the citizens of Vermont. When IROC is fully operational, over 30 full-time equivalent jobs will have been created in a region that is sorely in need of increased employment opportunities.

This has not happened overnight. In fact, it has taken nearly 16 years for IROC to get where it is today. I am pleased to report, however, that as we stand here today, the process that began in 1988 is nearly complete.

Funds are still being raised to finish the interior as originally designed, and program grant proposals are being written to fund the educational and community activities that will take place in the building. I am proud to say that my office has been able to secure almost \$340,000 in federal funding to support IROC through the Economic Development Initiative at the Department of Housing & Urban Development and the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Speaker, IROC is an organization that is having an immensely positive effect on this area of Vermont. Once this community center is built, it should serve as a national model for building indoor community recreation centers throughout Vermont and the rest of the country. To accomplish that goal, I have introduced H.R. 1022, the Urban and Rural Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Act. H.R. 1022 would provide \$100 million in federal funding for the construction of community centers in rural and urban areas to reduce obesity and prevent disease and currently has over 20 co-sponsors.

The residents of this most rural area of the state have shown true Vermont spirit by supporting this project through their financial and in-kind investments and through their extraordinary volunteer activities. The Vermont National Guard contributed over a week of in-kind labor (valued at \$200,000) to help with building construction. Local businesses have provided materials and labor as gifts. The community raised over \$226,000 in a three-week period in response to a challenge grant made in 2003 by a former area resident. And these are only a few examples of how the community has participated in building IROC!

The final fund raising efforts for the Aquatic Center and rehabilitation area are going forward. The facility will open in the fall, and memberships will soon be available. Built on a sound business model, IROC will be self-supporting, and this exemplary organization represents just one more example of the "we can grow our own" spirit of the hardy residents of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Colleagues, please join me as I commend and recognize the members of the Board of Directors, staff, and other citizens of Vermont who have made this project possible.

#### 2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Staff: James G. Davis (Lyndonville, Vermont), Executive Director; Patricia Chmielecki (Irasburg, Vermont), Administrative Assistant.

#### IN MEMORY OF GARY SAGE

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Sage, who recently passed away. His contributions to both the City of Carmel as

well as the international music community made him a truly commendable figure that will be greatly missed.

Born in Carmel, California, Gary was born into a musical family. His father, A. Lee Sage, and his mother, Emma Joanne Sage, played important roles in the founding of the Monterey Jazz Festival. The lineage of Gary's family can be traced back to Sir David of Wales, an ancient King who was purportedly the uncle of King Arthur. Gary is survived by his former wife Katherine Cameron Sage and his son Elijah Merlin David Sage who is continuing the musical legacy that his father left behind.

Gary proved his own musical genius as early as age fourteen, and is considered to be one of the best stride jazz pianists of the past few decades. He is also known as the pre-eminent piano restorer both in Carmel, and in the worldwide musical community.

Gary was approached throughout his life by such notable piano companies as Steinway and Sons for his expertise in piano restoration. He was of the few craftsmen who knew the intricacies of piano building and made the restoration and construction of pianos into an art form.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Gary Sage for the indelible impression he left in the music world. I join his community, friends and family in honoring Gary, and have no doubt that his contributions as a musician and as a craftsman will live on for future generations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member unavoidably was off the Hill and missed the final series of votes on H.R. 4766, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2005. If this Member had been present, he would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 366, the Baca amendment—"no"; rollcall No. 367, the Tancredo amendment—"aye"; rollcall No. 368, the Chabot amendment—"no"; rollcall No. 369, the Kaptur amendment—"yes"; and rollcall No. 370, final passage on H.R. 4766—"aye."

#### HONORING PETER J. HANLON

### HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday evening, July 3, 2004, Peter J. Hanlon died at the age of 98. A resident of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Hanlon was supervisor of North Carolina's national forests for 10 years before retiring from the U.S. Forest Service in 1970 after 36 years of distinguished service.

Hanlon's career with the Forest Service began in the 1930s on the Allegheny National Forest. His career was then briefly interrupted by service in the region's CCC camps. Prior to dissolution of these camps Hanlon was superintendent of CCC Camp Thornwood in Pocahontas County, WV. As World War II began,