

Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARQUETTE, MI AND YOKAICHI, JAPAN

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on August 13, 1979, the city of Marquette, MI, entered into a sister city relationship with Yokaichi, Shiga Prefecture, Japan. Since then, the relationship has flourished, and I would like to congratulate both cities on their upcoming 25th Anniversary of this sister-city bond.

In his September 12, 1992 remarks to the 102nd Congress, my predecessor, Congressman Robert Davis, praised these sister cities and included an extensive history of that relationship (E2819–2821). I would also like to highlight the history of the Marquette-Yokaichi sister-city program:

On September 12, 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower initiated the Sister City program to build close relationships and cultural understanding between people of different countries. President Eisenhower's theory: these new relationships could be a powerful force in promoting world peace and would help prevent misunderstandings between the governments of those countries.

On November 14, 1968, Michigan Governor George Romney and Shiga Prefecture's Gov. Kinichiro Nozaki initiated a Sister State relationship. This was followed by annual exchanges between these states and the encouragement to establish bonds between their cities.

When the cities of Marquette, Michigan and Yokaichi, Shiga, Japan signed their August 13, 1979 Sister City Agreement, its focus was directed to cultural exchanges with the intent of developing long-term friendships and understanding between the people of these two communities. Several actions have assisted its continued expansion and success:

Annual exchanges of formal delegations and several informal delegations have occurred since 1979.

Each delegate, visitor, student, teacher artist or other representative to his or her sister city is welcomed as a member of an extended family and stays with a host family that may include three generations in its household.

"Sister" agreements were signed between the Rotary Clubs in 1979 and the Chambers of Commerce in 1983 of the two cities.

The two cities have also had many exchanges through their education programs. Northern Michigan University has offered an academic year scholarship to a student from Yokaichi since 1980 and several have returned to receive degrees there. The Japan Center for Michigan Universities, located twenty miles from Yokaichi, has offered scholarships to three Northern Michigan University students each academic year since 1989.

Marquette and Yokaichi school students exchange letters and the schools in each city teach their pupils about their Sister City. Michigan and Shiga initiated annual teacher exchange and government worker exchange pro-

grams in the early 1980's. Michigan and Shiga initiated a summer high school student exchange program in the 1990's.

Finally, over 100 Marquette or Yokaichi casual visitors have been welcomed to their sister city. More than 2,500 delegates, host family members, students, teachers, government officials and informal visitors have participated directly in the Marquette-Yokaichi partnership. With each exchange has come the opportunity to plant new seeds of friendship and understanding, many of which have become self-sustaining gardens that are freely shared with others in the community. With each exchange has come the opportunity to become a member of an extended family. And for many, it has become a life-changing experience.

Mr. Speaker, again I applaud the cities of Marquette and Yokaichi for their great success in building this special relationship through their sister-city status. I congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and I wish them continued success for the next twenty-five years.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD J. MCELROY ON HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to congratulate a longtime champion of public schools, Mr. Edward J. McElroy, on his recent election to the position of President of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) second-largest teachers' union in the country. His longstanding commitment and leadership on education and the issues faced by working families will be of great value to AFT's 1.3 million members.

A former social studies and English teacher in my hometown of Warwick, R.I., Mr. McElroy earned his bachelor of arts degree from Providence College in Rhode Island. He has also done graduate work at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. His service in Rhode Island includes time spent as president of the Warwick Teachers Union, the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and the Rhode Island AFL–CIO. The heart of Mr. McElroy's service has always been fighting for a stronger education system for our children. He has recognized that the best way to give children a chance for a better future and to provide a strong workforce is to provide every child with a strong education.

As president of the Rhode Island Federation of teachers, Mr. McElroy worked with the Rhode Island state legislature on the Michelson Act, which created collective bargaining for teachers in the state. On a national front, he has led efforts to strengthen and uphold financial and accountability requirements at every level of the union. He has been at the forefront of the AFT's initiatives to harness technology to support, inform and mobilize union members. For decades, Ed McElroy has displayed unwavering leadership and commitment to the teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel, local, state and federal employees, higher education faculty and staff, nurses and healthcare professionals, and public schoolchildren of our Nation.

Personally, I have known Mr. McElroy for more than 20 years and have had the pleasure of working with him in his leadership positions, both in Rhode Island and more recently as the Secretary-Treasurer of the AFT. I am confident that he will bring tremendous dedication, professionalism and expertise to the position of President of the American Federation of Teachers.

HONORING WILLIAM POMEROY ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions William Pomeroy has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Will, a fellow Middle Tennessean, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

But Will must return to Knoxville for his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, where he is a member of the Young Democrats and the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

During his internship, Will won over the entire staff with his ever-present eagerness and genuine interest in public affairs. He has attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Will has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed his presence in the office. I wish him all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RODNEY DAVIDSON, JR.

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated volunteer fireman from La Junta, Colorado. Rodney Davidson Jr. is the recipient of the Volunteer Fireman of the Year award for his position as a role model for future firefighters. Rodney provides an invaluable service to his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Rodney has spent more than twenty years as a volunteer fireman with the John Fisher Hose Company. When he joined the company in 1984, he was following in the footsteps of his father who currently serves as fire chief and several other family members who served as volunteers. Rodney is the president of the company, an organization that is dedicated to recruiting volunteer fire fighters that dates back to 1883. He is also a certified pyrotechnician and helps with local fireworks displays every year.

Mr. Speaker, Rodney Davidson, Jr. is a dedicated volunteer that risks his own health and safety so that others may live. His work