

the line to ensure the safety of their community and Connecticut is very fortunate to have Chief Varney as a member of its fire service.

After graduating from high school, Michael followed in his father's footsteps and began his career at the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department where he has now served for 23 years. He quickly moved up the ranks and became chief seven years ago. During that time, Michael has superbly led the 50-person department and has been instrumental in securing almost \$500,000 in federal grants to provide the critical life-saving equipment necessary to protect his community. He has led with dedication and poise under extreme circumstances and developed the respect of the region's premier firefighting personnel.

Michael has also contributed to the state and regional preparedness through his involvement with the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and the state's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. He is also a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs committee that has put together a national emergency response network of firefighters, hospital staff, and other emergency personnel. His full-time position with the Department of Information Technology has provided invaluable communication systems expertise not only to his department but also to regional and national organizations.

Chief Varney represents the changing role of our nation's first responders and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life of service and dedication to the protection of our communities.

COMMENDING JOHN GRAY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS DURING WORLD WAR II

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. John Gray of Mobile, Alabama, for his service to his country as a Marine during World War II. As a member of the 51st Defense Battalion, Mr. Gray served in one of only two black Marine units trained for combat.

After changing his age in an effort to get a job at a Mobile construction company, Mr. Gray was drafted into the military when he was just sixteen. Though he and his unit were trained for combat and sent to the South Pacific with training and experience in handling 90- and 150-millimeter machine guns, his white commanding officers relegated them to menial tasks such as unloading cargo and carrying ammunition.

Carrying his experiences from segregated Alabama into the Marines, Mr. Gray served patriotically despite discrimination. When Japanese propaganda encouraged him and other black soldiers to defect, Mr. Gray chose to fight for his country.

Returning from the war to a state still more rigidly segregated than the armed forces, Mr. Gray devoted his life to education. He is now retired after serving for 50 years in Mobile city schools as a teacher and assistant principal.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of John Gray in Ken Burns' documentary series "The

War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. John Gray and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Global Poverty Act and want to take a moment to explain the profound need for this important piece of legislation.

Nearly 2.7 billion people in the world live on less than \$2 a day. Close to a billion people live on less than \$1 a day. Vast numbers of people wake up every morning wondering whether they or their children will live to see the end of the day. Poverty leads to widespread disease and instability, and in a world with such vast resources, its existence is absolutely immoral. And yet, the United States has not stated that reducing global poverty and eliminating extreme global poverty are among the foremost goals of our foreign policy, nor have we implemented a comprehensive plan to reach these goals.

H.R. 1302 declares it official U.S. policy to promote the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of cutting extreme global poverty in half by 2015. This bill requires the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to carry out this policy. It includes guidelines for what the strategy should include from aid, trade, and debt relief to working with the international community, businesses, and NGOs to insuring environmental sustainability. The bill also requires the President's strategy include specific and measurable goals, efforts to be undertaken, benchmarks, and timetables. Lastly it requires that the President report back to Congress biannually on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.

To be clear, Americans are working to address global poverty. The President implemented the Millennium Challenge Account to make sure countries don't just get foreign aid but use it wisely. Other significant steps forward include funding the PEPFAR effort and AIDS treatment and prevention in Africa. The United Nations set out the Millennium Development Goals and the G-8 set global poverty as its priority a couple years ago. Groups like the Gates Foundation, RESULTS and Bread for the World and a large number of other organizations combat global poverty from every conceivable angle. The world is coming together as it never has before to combat this menace, but in the U.S. no overarching strategy guides the allocation of resources.

The United States of America should be not just a leader, but the leader in this effort. We are in a position, I believe, to consolidate those resources, to get the maximum return on our effort to relieve global poverty. This bill would bring much-needed strategic vision and accountability to our efforts to address what is

arguably the greatest challenge facing the world community today.

I want to thank a large number of people for bringing the Global Poverty Act to the floor. House Foreign Affairs Chairman TOM LANTOS (D-Calif.) has been a tremendous leader on these issues and has been very helpful in this particular piece of legislation, as has Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-Fla.) and the Republicans on the committee. This is a bipartisan effort. I especially want to thank Congressman SPENCER BACHUS (R-Ala.) who joined me as an original co-sponsor.

It is very important that we adopt this legislation and help the U.S. take this leadership role. I believe if we do so we'll be better able to combat global poverty and be better able to build alliances throughout the world. This new policy will let the world know that the United States wants to use its power for the betterment of the entire world and that we want to work with the international community to solve the greatest crisis facing our world today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF EUDORA, KANSAS, ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Eudora, Kansas, located in the Third Congressional District, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on October 5th and 6th of this year.

In 1856, three members of a German Immigrant Settlement Company [called Deutsche-Neusiedlungsverein] from Chicago sent out a location committee to choose a town site in the new Indian Territory, which had been opened up to settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, enacted in 1854. Both pro- and anti-slavery groups flocked to this territory.

The three Germans sent to the present site were H. Heimann, F. Barteldes and C. Scheifer. Favoring the Eudora area, they drew up contracts with Shawnee Chief Paschal Fish for 774½ acres, from the Kansas River to the south for about a mile [over 200 blocks total], with two public squares and a park. In February 1857, Chief Fish entered into contracts with the Trustees of the Chicago Verein for purchase of land "to secure a more perfect title" for a price of \$10,000. Chief Fish bought back on the same day the old numbered lots of at least three blocks between the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. The Shawnee Reservation had been opened up for settlement; Chief Fish was a cousin of Chief Tecumseh, a businessman and a Methodist minister who had been educated at a Mission School.

A map of Douglas County drawn up in early 1857, before Eudora was a town, shows only four townships in the county with Eudora included in the Wakarusa Township. A group of 16 men, four women and some children had come in the spring of 1857 to begin settling at the site. Peter Hartig, age 34, was the leader of this Chicago group, and was accompanied by his wife. The Society paid expenses for the settlers. Eight more men, who paid their own way, came later. The formal title, signed by an Indian Agent named Newsom, was drawn up on February 4, 1860.

The town's name was derived from the name of Chief Paschal Fish's 13-year-old daughter; it is a name of Greek derivation meaning "giving" or "generous." Chief Fish said that if they did this, a tornado would never touch down in Eudora. There has not been a tornado there to this day!

A circular saw and a corn cracker worth \$2,200 were soon purchased for the new town. The first house built by the settlers was a one-story log cabin, 18' x 20', which was shared by all of the inhabitants during the first summer, of 1857. The first sawmill was set up in the same year, and by fall, the first post office was operating and converted into a money order office the next year. The first hotel was probably The America House on Main Street, or near the 5th and 6th Street area.

The first baby born in the new town was a daughter, to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Epple, soon after their arrival; she was named Eudora. The first marriage occurred between Mrs. George Harboldt and Freid Deichmann in the spring of 1858. The first death was in the fall of 1857 when J. Loederlie died. The captain of the original Townsiders, Hartig, lived until 1902, when he was killed by a Santa Fe train; his wife had died the previous year.

The first public building was a frame town hall and school house built in 1860 and used as a polling place, dance hall and community room. It was sited at 6th and Main Streets and later moved to 7th and Main Streets. There was a jail under it in the mid-1860s; it was used as the city hall until 1955 and is now a private residence. In 1859, the town's first election selected Fred Faerber as mayor and councilmembers were also elected. In March of that year the council commissioned the Chicago Secretary of the Immigrant Company to furnish a city seal with a white man and an Indian shaking hands. In 1886, Eudora's first newspaper, The Eudora News, was published, and in 1894, Charles Pilla, who also served as mayor and postmaster, helped organize the Eudora State Bank.

Eudora's first picnic was recorded in 1901. In 1927, the Central Protective Association, also known as the Cattlemens Association, reorganized from its antihorse theft roots to become the City Picnic Association. The city's annual picnic traditionally held on the third weekend of July, features carnival rides, games, parades, dancing and food.

This tradition of community celebration continues on October 5th of this year, when the city will have a genuine cake and ice cream birthday party. Eudora High School culinary arts students will be showing their talents in a cake decorating contest. Guests will have an opportunity to sample buffalo burgers. A recognition ceremony will feature community volunteer organizations. On the following day, Eudora Fest will feature arts, crafts, and food booths, along with a kid's homegrown carnival, contests, music and entertainment. The main event, however, will be the unveiling of the Eudora Statue—a historic statue of Chief Paschal Fish and his daughter, Eudora. The statue, sculpted by internationally known local sculptor Jim Brothers, will be placed in the city's historic downtown park with a historic kiosk.

Madam Speaker, I know that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring the city of Eudora on its 150th anniversary, as we commemorate its rich his-

tory and outstanding way of life for all Eudorans. I am proud to represent this community and its people within the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on several measures that came before the House on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 because of illness.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 677, a resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008; "no" on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 678, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2693) to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl; "aye" on a motion to recommit H.J. Res. 52, a resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, to committee; "aye" on final passage of H.J. Res. 52, a motion making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008; "aye" on an amendment by Mr. WILSON of South Carolina to H.R. 2693, the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act; and "no" on final passage of H.R. 2693, the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SAINT'S MONICA AND LUKE PARISH

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm and sincerity that I take this time to recognize a milestone that will be taking place in the city of Gary, IN, on Sunday, September 30, 2007. This date will mark the 25th anniversary of Saints Monica and Luke Parish, and also will mark the 90th anniversary of Saint Luke Parish and the 80th anniversary of Saint Monica Parish. This celebration, honoring the people and the history of these parishes, will take place at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary.

The official dedication of Saint Luke Parish, by then-Bishop Aldering, took place on September 30, 1917, the year my father arrived in Gary. The previous July, Saint Luke's first pastor, Father Frank Gribba was appointed, and it was through his leadership that the first auditorium, or chapel, was constructed. This modest structure was the beginning of what would eventually become Saints Monica and Luke Parish. It housed seating for 550 people, as well as four classrooms, which formed the original Saint Luke's school. An important part of the history of Saint Luke is that the school was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame from 1917–1969. During this time, under the leadership of Father Wilfred P. Mannion, the church's current building was constructed. The new location officially opened on October 16, 1955.

Saint Monica Parish, established in Gary in 1927, was the result of the efforts of four African American Catholic women: Lillian Bolden, Louise Agnes Smith, Josefa Streeter, and Eugenia Williams. Because African Americans were not welcome in the existing Catholic churches in Gary at the time, these inspirational leaders and beacons of change petitioned then-Bishop John Francis Noll to establish a church for them. This request was granted, and Saint Monica Parish was born. In 1928, Father H. James Conway became Saint Monica's first pastor. Father Conway would serve the Catholic community in Gary for many years, eventually being named pastor at Saint Luke in 1959. During his tenure, in 1945, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament began instructing students at Saint Monica School, which focused on academic excellence and Christian service, and would become one of the premier educational facilities in the City of Gary. Another leader of Saint Monica's was Father Joseph M. Barry, an oblate from Boston who was very close to our family, as was another of the congregation's leaders, Myrtle King. Father William Martin, an assistant to Father Conway, took over as pastor at Saint Monica in 1968 and would eventually become the first pastor at Saints Monica and Luke Parish upon the parishes' merger in 1982.

Throughout the years, the parishioners of both Saint Luke and Saint Monica were a magnificent example of the Christian community in northwest Indiana. When the two churches merged in 1982 to become what is now Saints Monica and Luke Parish, their outstanding service to the community continued. Through the diligent efforts of its members, service to those in need has become one of the parish's identifying trademarks. Saints Monica and Luke operates a food pantry that serves families once a month, as well as the Saints Monica and Luke Soup Kitchen, which opened its doors in April 1993 and has served a hot meal to those in need every Friday since.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the church's current and dedicated Pastor, Father Pat Gaza, and the entire congregation at Saints Monica and Luke Parish on their 25th anniversary, as well as the preceding parishes. Throughout the years, the clergy and members of Saints Monica and Luke have dedicated themselves to providing spiritual guidance through their faith, as well as unconditional service to their community. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of our deepest admiration.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEAN O'CONNOR-SNYDER

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to the memory of Jean O'Connor-Snyder.

A long-time resident of Tuscaloosa, Jean devoted much of her business and civic career to her beloved alma mater, which honored her