

their own homes and community with the following services examples of that success:

(1) 374,538 recipients of access services, including 235,148 Information and Assistance Services clients and 68,493 recipients of Case Management Services;

(2) 53,450 recipients of in-home services, including 6,460,533 home-delivered meals to 41,305 elders;

(3) 185,520 recipients of community services, including 3,636,855 meals to 79,012 congregate meal participants at 647 nutrition sites and services delivered from 170 Senior Centers;

(4) 760 recipients of employment services, including 760 senior community service employment program participants; and

(5) 98,600 recipients of nursing home ombudsman services; and

Whereas, The organizations serving older persons employ professionals dedicated to offering the highest level of service and caring workers who every day provide in-home care, rides, educational and social activities, shopping assistance, advice, and hope to those in greatest isolation and need; and

Whereas, The organizations serving older persons involve a multi-generational corps of volunteers who contribute the governance, planning, and delivery of services to older persons in their own communities through participation on boards and advisory councils and in the provision of clerical support, programming, and direct delivery of service to seniors; and

Whereas, The Older Americans Act programs in Illinois leverage local funding for aging services and encourage contributions from older persons; and

Whereas, The Older Americans Act programs are the foundation for the Illinois Community Care Program which reaches out to those with the lowest incomes and the greatest frailty to provide alternatives to long-term care, and the Illinois Elder Abuse and Neglect Interventions Program which assists families in the most difficult of domestic situations with investigation and practical interventions; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States has not reauthorized the Older Americans Act since 1985 and only extends the program each year through level appropriations; and

Whereas, Expansion of the Older Americans Act is proposed in reauthorization legislation this year to offer family caregiver support, increased numbers of home-delivered meals, improved promotion of elder rights, consolidation of several programs and subtitles of the law; therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the House of Representatives concurring herein, That we urge the Congress of the United States of America to reauthorize the Older Americans Act this year; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

Adopted by the Senate, May 26, 1999.

Concurred in by the House of Representatives, May 27, 1999.

HONORING JOHN MEISE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsor the Voice of Democracy audio-essay scholarship competition. The program is now in its 52nd year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a three-to-five minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. This year's theme is "My Service to America", and over 80,000 students participate in the program nationwide.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that John Meise, a senior at Mount St. Joseph High School in Maryland's 7th Congressional District, has been named a National winner in the 1999 Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the \$1,000 Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarship Award. He plans a career in medicine. John was sponsored by VFW Post 6484 in Woodlawn Maryland.

Following is Mr. Meise's submission.

Ever since July 4, 1776, the citizens of the United States of America has served their country in a myriad of ways. Such service, is what preserves the ideals for which we stand in the United States: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." These three are the most elemental principles on which our great country rests. Through service to America and our fellow citizens, we can guard those ideals from which our forefathers set forth in the declaration of independence.

The right, that we treasure most, is life. Human life is to be held in the highest regard because we believe that everyone is equal. Color, religion, and social standing do not provide a basis on which a person is to be judged. Since we are all citizens of the United States we are equal. Community service can help us to realize this fully.

During my sophomore and junior years of high school, I volunteered at the University of Maryland Hospital's Shock Trauma Center. I completed approximately two hundred hours of service there and I enjoyed every minute of it. Through the hospital I was able to help people that were in terrible predicaments. I offered by services to people on all rungs of the social ladder and through that I made an important personal discovery. I observed that social class did not pre-determine a person's disposition. Some the the poorest patients I met were probably the most kind-hearted. Whether I was running a patient's blood to the lab for tests or feeding a paraplegic man his dinner, I knew I was helping someone important. I also knew that I was offering such service without expecting anything in return. I believe the satisfaction I received in my efforts at the hospital illustrates what the American character is all about. Through cooperation and helping others we actually provide a service to America itself in what we promote the basis morals and values which our society cannot progress.

As Americans, we hold liberty to be one of the most important aspects of our lives. We have the freedom to choose what we want to do. We may take this liberty for granted, but many people live in countries where they are not granted the freedoms that we use everyday. I feel that this freedom must be pro-

tected if we are to continue to live our lives the way we have always lived them.

Our armed forces are one of the instruments, which serve to protect this most precious liberty. I believe the best way for me to serve my country and protect such an ideal is by serving in the armed forces. Presently, I am applying to both the Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Military Academy at West Point in the hope that I may be granted an appointment to one of these institutions, so I might be allowed the opportunity to serve my country this way. I have aspired to serve in the military my entire life and I have been inspired by the many people who have served and by the many who have sacrificed their lives in their country's service.

A few years ago, I was an instructor at a Red Cross program for kids who did not know how to swim. We taught them the rudiments of water activity. I got a thrill seeing children, who had been previously afraid of the water, now able to swim and play in the water and enjoy it. This reminds me that the "pursuit of happiness" in this situation would be quite impossible without the help of the volunteers.

We willingly committed ourselves to helping the children pursue happiness. Once again, this shows how service is one of the underlying factors in the American character.

While many different people give service in many different ways, these citizens ultimately provide a solid core around on which our country can rest. Everyone's individual service to others eventually unfolds to a single service to America: its preservation. Through volunteering our time, we maintain the very ideals for which the thirteen original colonies broke away from England. In service we continue and protect our freedom, our life, and our pursuit of happiness."

IN HONOR OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Memorial Day, on May 29, 1999, I had the honor of delivering the keynote address at the rededication and 50th anniversary celebration of the Lilly-Washington War Memorial in Lilly, Pennsylvania, a town of fewer than 2,000 people.

As part of the ceremony, we made special recognition of two individuals who made sacrifices in their own right in serving our country.

With my assistance, James A. Lego, Jr., of Gallitzin, Pennsylvania, was presented with the following medals that he had been awarded as a member of the 1st Infantry Division, 16th Regiment, but never received:

The Silver Star, on July 20, 1944.

The Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

Two Purple Hearts for wounds received April 16, 1943 and July 14, 1944.

The Distinguished Unit Badge and two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, Pre-Pearl Harbor Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Five Overseas Bars and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal with one Silver Star and one Bronze Service Star.

We also unveiled a monument in recognition of the late Mrs. Esther McCabe, a native of