

Ann Kutscher has dedicated her life to community service through a variety of organizations and positions. Ann has been a member of the Jefferson City Optimist Club since 1991 and has previously served as the President of the chapter. On August 21, 1999, she was installed District Governor.

For over twenty years, Kutscher has been a devoted member on the General Federated Women's Clubs of Missouri, Inc. (GFWC). In GFWC, she has served as State President, Mississippi Valley Region President, and as member of the International Resolutions Committee and Diana's Club. Kutscher also formed the GFWC-Jefferson City New Horizon Junior Club.

An active environmentalist, Ann has served on the Conservation Federation of Missouri, holding the positions of Honorary Chairman, Treasurer, and she was the first woman elected President of the board. She also served as past President of the Mid-Missouri Conservation Society, and she is on the Jefferson City Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ann's wide range of involvement also includes youth leadership development and church volunteerism. She has served as State Chairman for the Hugh O'Brein Youth Leadership Foundation and has been serving as the Missouri Girls Town Board President since 1986. She has also been an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, as Assistant Treasurer, President of the Trinity Missionary Society, and Chairperson of the Trinity Steering/Building Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Kutscher is a personal friend of mine, and I have had the privilege to have her on my staff for many years. She is a devoted parent and grandparent with three sons and six grandchildren. From 1973 to 1976, she was my Administrative Assistant when I served in the Missouri Senate. Since 1983, I have had the pleasure of having Ann as a Capitol Liaison in my Jefferson City district office. Ann Kutscher is a true model of dedication and achievement for her community and State. I know the Members of the House will join me in offering a heartfelt congratulations to Ann Kutscher.

#### TRIBUTE TO TONY AGUIRRE

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a greatly respected and remembered man. Tony Aguirre, a captain and former fire chief with the Hollister fire department and community role-model, died this last July after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 61.

Tony was a committed and professional firefighter who selflessly devoted himself to the welfare and safety of the members of the community for nearly half a century. Tony Aguirre was a long-time resident of Hollister who returned to the community after serving in the National guard and attending San Jose State University. He is remembered by many as one of the real heroes in the community.

Recently, Tony had been honored as the Man of the Year by the Mexican American

Committee on Education and also served as the first president of the San Benito County League of United Latin American citizens.

We will always remember Tony Aguirre for his courage and compassion. My thoughts are with his family.

#### HONORING JOHN R. LINDAHL, SR.

### HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and one of America's top entrepreneurs, John R. Lindahl, Sr., founder and recently-retired Chairman of State Industries, Inc. in Ashland City, Tennessee.

After flying 64 missions as a B-26 bomber pilot in World War II, John returned to Tennessee and went into business for himself making coal and wood-burning stoves out of a garage. By 1948, John took his small State Stove and Manufacturing Company in a new direction and began producing water heaters.

With some 150 competing water heater companies in the early fifties as his competition, John Lindahl let nothing stand in his way. He sold, delivered, and installed water heaters himself, running this small operation often from his car. With John's hard work, his dedication to free enterprise and commitment to quality, State Stove and Manufacturing became State Industries, one of the world's largest and leading manufacturers of residential and commercial water heaters and water system tanks.

Relocating in the early sixties to Ashland City, Tennessee in my district, State Industries boomed into one of the most modern and efficient plants in the industry. Occupying a 1.6 million square foot plant and employing more than 2,000 employees, State Industries now grosses sales in excess of \$400 million.

Well-known for his devotion to his employees, service and building strong relationships with customers, John Lindahl, Sr. is proof that the American dream is possible through commitment, loyalty and faith.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity today to congratulate John Lindahl, Sr. on his truly remarkable success and impressive legacy. Along with my colleagues in the House, I send my best wishes to him for a happy and healthy retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO NORWAY

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Norway for its numerous contributions to and dedicated support of the international affairs which have become significant factors in the development of a sound Balkan market economy and a strong foundation for democracy. In particular, I would like to specifically highlight Norway's exemplary commitment to recent international

peacekeeping operations, military volunteer support and participation in various multilateral economic and humanitarian programs.

Since 1947, Norway has taken part in nearly 30 peacekeeping operations involving more than 55,000 military volunteers. With a total population of about 4.5 million, this is a significant contribution which greatly exceeds larger NATO ally countries. These Norwegian military volunteers have been stationed in the Balkans, the Middle East, Kashmir, Korea, the Congo, Guatemala, Angola, El Salvador, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia to name a few.

Since 1997, Norway has assisted with extremely delicate international situations by taking as active part in peace keeping operations such as supporting the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Stabilization Forces (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United Nations Truce Supervision (UNTS) in East Solovenia, and the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP).

Norway is equally strong in the economic marketing and developing of democracy for three Baltic states; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Through various multilateral cooperative programs and exercises, Norway has stimulated economic growth and collaboration between a number of western countries with the Baltic states. This unified effort has resulted in the establishment of a joint Baltic peace-keeping battalion, a joint Baltic Navy Squadron, and Baltic Security Assistance Group. Norway has also provided significant monetary aid to the Balkan area with 153 million dollars to aid Kosovars in Norway, 38 million dollars in military expenses and 29 million dollars to United Nations for humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Speaker, Norway is indeed a "keystone" to the foundation of international democracy and within the Balkan area. Its continued support of peacekeeping operations, humanitarian support and economic growth remains vital to world stability. For outstanding support of democracy, I congratulate and pay tribute to our good friend and ally, Norway.

#### SACRED HEART CHURCH IN SYRACUSE TO BE DEDICATED AS A MINOR BASILICA

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 1999*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues today a significant honor for many of my Central New York neighbors and constituents who are parishioners at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Syracuse.

My wife and I attend mass at Sacred Heart quite often and so we were happy and proud, as are so many others who worship in this neighborhood church on the west side of the city, to hear the recent news from the Vatican that the church will be designated, by order of Pope John Paul II, a Minor Basilica during a mass to be celebrated on October 3.

To many in the parish, this important designation represents years of prayers and hard work by Father Peter W. Gleba, the rector and