

each day by their husband or partner. The victim is killed by someone who, if one uses traditional marriage vows, has promised "to cherish and honor until death do us part"—which, of course, is a far cry from "to cherish and honor until I decide to kill you". Battery and abuse are particularly horrific because they destroy a sacred bond through violence, and leave these women isolated from their community, their family and in mortal fear of their partner.

The Bay County Women's Center, funded in part by the United Way of Bay County, and sustained by many dedicated and caring individuals, is an organization which is a model for all community agencies devoted to protecting adults and child victims against domestic violence and sexual assault. This month is designated National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and to mark this, the Women's Center plans their annual Candlelight Vigil for survivors to domestic violence. The Center is committed to ending domestic violence in Bay County, and for that very fact, it deserves our respect. Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all our colleagues to join me in honoring the work of the Bay County Women's Center. May I also offer my deepest condolences to the victims of domestic violence, and my support for all the survivors. It is my sincerest hope that with the guiding example of the Bay County Women's Center, we can all join together to work against the horrific crime of domestic violence and abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed two votes. Had I been here I would have voted: "Yes" on the passage of H. Res. 181. "Yes" on the passage of H.R. 1451.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANZ FRUEHWIRTH ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, my district in San Diego is home to some of our nation's largest flower growers. This industry plays a key role in the economy of San Diego County, the state of California, and the entire country. Flower growers, wholesalers, and retail shops produce a product that makes all of our lives more beautiful.

Last week, the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of two outstanding individuals in the floral industry. I want to personally commend one of those individuals, who also happens to be my constituent. The Society of American Florists gave out its highest award—induction into the Flori-

culture Hall of Fame—to Franz Fruehwirth, a scientist, inventor and breeder for the Paul Ecke Ranch, in Encinitas, California.

We should thank Franz every time a poinsettia—the number one flowering potted plant in the United States—is bought, sold and enjoyed. As one of the premier poinsettia breeders in the world, Franz has created many "firsts," including Lilo, the first long-lasting, dark leaf poinsettia that set the standard for all future varieties. He also created the first yellow poinsettia, "Lemon Drop." He bred the classic Freedom poinsettia, which now represents more than 60 percent of the poinsettia production in the United States.

Franz is more than a plant breeder. He is also responsible for developing the first hanging basket container and the first self-watering container. He also premiered a technique to produce the poinsettia in a tree form. He has shown his dedication to the floral industry as a 31-year member of the Ohio Florists' Association and the San Diego County Flower Growers Association.

In his acceptance speech, Franz simply said that he had been privileged to spend his life doing what he really considers to be fun: playing with his plants and seeing what new and exciting varieties he can develop. What a great lesson for all of us: here is a man who, by loving his work and devoting his life to that love, has given a great gift to us all.

Few of us can remember a time when Christmas celebrations did not include the poinsettia, but we would not have poinsettias at Christmas time without Franz Fruehwirth. The floral industry, my good friend Paul Ecke, of the Paul Ecke Ranch, and all of us in America are fortunate to have Franz Fruehwirth, who has changed American floriculture forever. And I am very proud to have him as my constituent.

I have attached an article from the San Diego Union Tribune that further highlights Mr. Fruehwirth's career.

POINSETTIA BREEDER RECOGNIZED WITH A SLOT IN HORTICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

(By Dan Kraft)

Ecke, now that's a name synonymous with poinsettias.

Franz Fruehwirth's name may not be as well-known, but he, too, has been instrumental in the proliferation of the popular plants.

Fruehwirth's contributions to the floral industry were recognized in Tucson last week, when he was inducted into the Society of American Florists' Floriculture Hall of Fame at the group's annual convention.

Fruehwirth, 66, is the chief breeder, or hybridizer, at the Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, which claims to be the world's largest producer and breeder of poinsettias. For the latter half of that claim, they have Fruehwirth to thank.

Although Ecke sells about 500,000 poinsettias grown in its own greenhouses each Christmas season, its genetic work has been licensed to growers around the globe and accounts for about 80 percent of poinsettias sold in the world. That genetic work is largely Fruehwirth's.

"Until he started breeding, almost all the poinsettias in the world had been mutations," said Marc Cathey, president emeritus of the American Horticultural Society and one of those who wrote letters recommending Fruehwirth for induction. "He is

unique because he has no scientific training to do what he does, yet he has beat all the big boys in the world."

Fruehwirth, a native of Hungary, immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1960 with his wife, Lilo, and their daughter Monika. He was 27 at the time and did not speak English. He worked at a tailor's shop in Oceanside when Paul Ecke Jr., a customer at the shop, hired Lilo as a housekeeper and nanny and offered Fruehwirth a job caring for his plants. That was in 1962, at a time when the ranch was converting from field-grown plants to greenhouses.

"Very quickly it became obvious that he was intelligent and creative, and Dad and Grandpa began promoting him," said Paul Ecke III. "He was instrumental in figuring out how to grow the poinsettias inside."

In 1968, Fruehwirth introduced the first new poinsettia genetics created at the Ecke Ranch. In 1991, a new variety he bred, called Freedom, was introduced. Today, it accounts for 60 percent of the poinsettias sold in the United States and Canada.

"I feel there are a lot of people who deserve recognition like this, and I'm very fortunate that I have the honor," Fruehwirth said. "I love my work and am humbled to get (the Hall of Fame induction)."

According to the Society of American Florists, induction into its Hall of Fame is reserved for those who have made a unique contribution to the industry and changed the way it does business.

"Most of those honored have a Ph.D. or are owners of major floral companies," Cathey said. "It's very rare for someone like Franz to receive this award."

During his 37-year tenure with the Eckes, Fruehwirth's "cultivars" have become increasingly dark in color and hearty, which enables florists to ship the plants greater distances and gives them a longer shelf life.

Fruehwirth, who lives in Encinitas with his wife, has no plans to retire. He is still hard at work evaluating the potential of 6,000 to 10,000 seedlings each year.

"As long as I have a positive influence, I'll keep working", he said in Tucson last week. "I still can't believe (the honor)."

A TRIBUTE TO PAYNE & DOLAN, INC., WINNER OF A 1999 EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an exemplary act of community spirit and corporate citizenship. A company located in Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District, Payne & Dolan, Incorporated, a Waukesha, Wisconsin-based highway construction company, has been named a 1999 recipient of the prestigious Exemplary Volunteer Efforts (EVE) Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Department of Labor has recognized Payne & Dolan for an innovative minority hiring, training and development program that has provided outstanding opportunities for more than 160 minorities and women and invested more than \$3 million into Milwaukee's central city.