

Payne & Dolan is the first highway construction company ever to receive this award. The company's comprehensive equal opportunity program includes proactive hiring efforts in Milwaukee's central city, community involvement and partnerships, scholarships, employee training and development, minority business mentoring and more.

The company has worked with the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and other community partners to develop a pilot program called Transportation Alliance for New Solutions, or TrANS. This program recruits and raises awareness of industry opportunities among minorities and women.

In addition, Payne & Dolan helped spearhead development of the Central City Workers' Center (CCWC), a centralized "one-stop shop" to link highway contractors with potential employees. This one-of-a-kind collaboration among unions, government, industry and community-based organizations seeks to provide family-sustaining incomes to a minimum of 150 central city residents over the next two years.

Payne & Dolan's success stories are the life stories of people like Sean McDowell, who began working for Payne & Dolan in 1993 and today, with the company's guidance and support, owns his own asphalt company. People like Roger Carson, who was hired as a laborer in 1991 and has been a foreman for two years. And people like Wendy Young, who was hired as an unskilled laborer in 1994 and is now an apprentice operating engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the contributions and commitment of Payne & Dolan and its CEO, Ned Bechthold, as well as salute the employees who have worked hard to make this equal opportunity program succeed and to make the EVE award possible. It is clear that Payne & Dolan is building much more than highways—it is also building a direct path to opportunity. I commend Payne & Dolan, and I commend the United States Department of Labor for its recognition of this outstanding corporate citizen.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate German-American Day and the many great contributions German-Americans made to our society. Through their loyalty, determination, spirit, and culture, German-Americans have significantly enriched the lives of all Americans.

In 1987, Congress formally recognized the achievements of German-Americans by proclaiming October 6th to be German-American Day. As we celebrate this October 6th, the thirteenth celebration of German-American Day, all Americans have the opportunity to reflect upon the cultural legacy of German-Americans.

America's German heritage predates our nation's independence. Our first German immigrants arrived in Philadelphia in 1683. Since

that time, America has enjoyed the immeasurable contributions of such creative German-American minds as Carl Schurz, Baron von Steuben, Levy Strauss, John Jacob Astor, and Peter Zenger. More recently, the works of Albert Einstein, Wernher von Braun, and Henry Kissinger are testimony to the industriousness, loyalty, and talent of German-Americans.

In addition to the contributions of these German-Americans, 57 million Americans of German descent have helped enrich America through their participation in the workforce and the arts. In the 1990s, when my home city of Chicago experienced rapid growth, German immigrants arrived in their largest numbers. By sharing their industry and arts with our city, they helped Chicago become one of the world's great cities. Although Germans were only twenty-nine percent of the city's population, they constituted fifty percent of the city's bakers, forty-four percent of brick and tile makers, and thirty-seven percent of machinists. While German-American craftsmen and skilled workers fueled Chicago's industrial growth, German art, music, and literature also helped mold the cultural developments of the city.

After the Great Fire of 1871, German-Americans took an active role in rebuilding Chicago. Their efforts can be seen even today in the city's world renowned architectural beauty. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded by a German-American violinist and flourished due to talented German musicians who made Chicago's Symphony Orchestra into one of the world's greatest musical institutions. In addition, German theater introduced the classical works of Schiller and Goethe as well as many other European works.

While the contributions of German-Americans have shaped American cultural and industrial development, they are easily overlooked, largely because they have been overwhelmingly embraced by Americans and are now thought of as simply "American." October 6, 1999 once again calls attention to all Americans of German descent and their contributions to the vibrancy and strength of the United States.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my full support of H.R. 1451, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act.

This bill would authorize the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, a group charged with the responsibility of recommending to Congress activities to celebrate the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birth.

I am particularly pleased that the bill has been amended to include commission members from my home state of Indiana.

This is important because many people don't realize President Lincoln spent 14 years of his life on a small farm in Lincoln City, Indiana. There he helped his father on the farm

and developed his love of reading. It was in Lincoln City that he also lost his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, when he was nine years old. These events during his formative years in Indiana contributed greatly to the development of President Lincoln's extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Indiana are proud of this heritage. H.R. 1451 will help highlight the extraordinary life of our 16th president. No commemoration would be complete without noting southern Indiana's part in the Abraham Lincoln story. I encourage all Americans wishing to learn more about this American hero to visit Lincoln City, Indiana, and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

I am pleased Congress is taking the initiative to promote and support the commemoration of such a remarkable figure in our American history.

RAY SAUL HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished journalist, community leader, and close friend from my District in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—Ray Saul. This month, the Sons of Italy Lodge 1043 will honor Ray as "Italian American of the Year." I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event.

A native of Hazleton, Ray is a graduate of Hazleton High School and Penn State, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in journalism. He was the editor of his college yearbook and was cited by the All College Board for outstanding achievement as a student leader. A Navy veteran of World War II, Ray entered the service as an apprentice seaman and retired as a Lieutenant Commander after a combined 21 years of active and reserve service.

Ray is best known to the community for his 47 years of dedicated journalism at the Hazleton Standard-Speaker newspaper. Ray was sports editor at the Standard-Speaker for twenty-seven years and managing editor for the last fifteen years. Since his retirement in 1997, he continues to write sports columns and other features for the newspaper. As a journalist, Ray was an active member of the Associated Press Sports Editors Association and the Managing Editors Association.

In 1995, he was honored by the Department of Defense for his feature stories of various Hazletonians serving in World War II. Ray received an Associated Press Citation for a story on a local basketball team's success. In recognition of his writing and participation in sports, he was honored by several chapters of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the PIAA District 2.

Ray Saul has always recognized the unique responsibilities inherent in leading a local newspaper which is truly the voice of its community. Under his leadership, the Standard-Speaker could be relied on for fair and accurate reporting of stories important to the Greater Hazleton area. Ray always put the interests of the community first.