

legislation enacted in 1983, grassroots organizations have joined forces with federal, state and local government agencies to identify new opportunities to provide for public enjoyment of a trail that follows "Our Nation's River." Protection of our river—which is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed—and its historic sites and natural areas must be a top priority for our region in the years ahead.

The National Park Service requires sufficient tools to help facilitate public involvement with this National Scenic Trail, which is why I support full funding of this effort under the Service's budget.

I congratulate the community of grassroots supporters of the Potomac Heritage Trail including the Potomac Heritage Partnership, Prince George's County government, the Accokeek Foundation and many other local groups and individuals. They are leading the regional effort to encourage conservation, historic preservation and sustainable commerce along the Potomac River corridor. They deserve our full support for their efforts.

SALUTING PATIENT  
APPRECIATION DAY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's doctors and patients. The Genesee County Medical Society has proclaimed today, and the third Tuesday of every October thereafter, as "Patient Appreciation Day." At events around Genesee County, doctors are expressing their gratitude to their patients and are recognizing the great benefits of the doctor/patient relationship. I commend their efforts to reach out to patients and share their gratitude.

At a time when the news is filled with negative stories about managed care, I believe Patient Appreciation Day is a positive way to recognize all the good things that are happening in our nation's health care system. Patient Appreciation Day is a time to mark the important role that patients play in making our nation's health care system the best in the world. It is a day when doctors take an extra moment with their patients to express their gratitude and celebrate the opportunities they are given to provide their life-giving services.

It is my greatest hope that the Genesee County Medical Society has started a nationwide trend and that doctors across the country join in celebrating "Patient Appreciation Day" in the future. The Genesee County Medical Society should be applauded for their positive efforts toward improving the lives of the patients they serve.

HONORING DR. RICHARD BERTKEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Bertken, a native

of the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Bertken returned to Fresno after completing his studies at USC, UCLA, The George Washington University, and Stanford University. He was one of the first medical practitioners with the University of California San Francisco Medical School, Fresno. Dr. Bertken has officially retired from his government position with Veterans Administration Medical Center, but will continue to see patients as a consultant.

Dr. Bertken achieved state of the art therapeutic modalities. Many patients with Rheumatological and Immunological problems awaited his expertise. In a short time, his patients graduated from wheel chairs to crutches, to full ambulation; for many, a return to full employment and to all, an improved quality of life.

Dr. Bertken considered the needs of the whole person, displaying genuine concern. He is dedicated not to just lessen pain but to eliminate it and prevent disability. Dr. Bertken is a strong patient advocate, seeking access to the most recent approved medications and treatments for his patients.

With his enthusiasm and positive attitude, he empowers patients under his care to take an active participation in their treatment plan through education and self-management. His vision for patients living quality productive lives include not just our veteran population, but also those he treats at the University Medical Center where he practices with the UCSF program.

As a leader he has established a culture of integrity for both patients and staff, an accountable and truthful standard of practice in health care delivery.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. Bertken for his service to the community and his patients. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Richard Bertken many more years of continued success.

HONORING REV. GUSTA BOOKER,  
JR.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rev. Gusta Booker, Jr. for his 31 years of service at Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church of Houston.

For more than 3 decades, Reverend Booker has addressed the needs of the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church's congregation. In celebration of the church's 31st Anniversary, the congregation held a "Celebration of Love Service" this month followed by "A Love Fellowship Reception." The growth and success that Greater St. Matthew has experienced under Reverend Booker's leadership reveals a Pastor who is truly connected to his community.

Reverend Booker is the youngest of nine born to the late Reverend Gusta Booker, Sr. and the late Mrs. Gussie Booker in Columbus, Texas. Reverend Booker married Theola Massie in 1964, and they are the affectionate parents of three children, Ronald, Gusta III, and Alita Corine; two daughters-in-law, Valree

Booker and Nicole Booker; two grandsons Ronald, Jr. and Joshua; and one granddaughter, Peyton Nicole.

Pastor Booker was called to the ministry in 1967, and later founded Greater St. Matthew "Southeast" located at 7701 Jutland Street. In 1994 he founded Greater St. Matthew "Southwest" at 14919 South Main Street, giving rise to the congregation's concept "One Church in Two Locations." In 1995, the Lindler-Booker Family Life Center was constructed.

Reverend Booker shares his insight and experiences with those who seek knowledge and guidance. He has published two books: *After the Honeymoon* and *Living Beyond the Pain*. His television and radio ministries can be seen and heard in Houston, Beaumont, and Austin.

While Reverend Booker's religious and spiritual obligations to his growing congregation have always been paramount, as a community leader, he has shared his faith and free time as Founder and First Moderator of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, past President of Central State Convention of Texas, and past Chairman of the Christian Education Board of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his 31 years as Pastor at Greater St. Matthew, Reverend Booker's intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity has served his congregations well. He brings tireless energy and compassion to each of his endeavors, whether it's as a Pastor, community leader, or friend. His contributions to the ministry and his energy in addressing the needs of his congregation and surrounding community are truly commendable.

MATTHEW NONNEMACHER  
HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young boy from my District in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—Matthew Nonnemacher. Matthew is only eleven years old, but he will be a participant this Friday in the White House Conference on Philanthropy. While most boys and girls his age are more concerned with getting their homework done, Matthew has been helping his disadvantaged neighbors.

Last year, Matthew's fourth grade teacher at St. Joseph Memorial School, Terri Smith, gave her students an assignment to draw a picture of the one wish they would like to be granted if they were on top of the world. Matthew's picture depicted him giving money to poor people. Later, after having asked his parents what would be the best way to help the poor, Matthew wrote a letter to the editor of his local newspaper, the Hazleton Standard Speaker, with the same question. Matthew received numerous letters suggesting projects such as food drives, clothing collections, and a dime drive. Matthew changed the latter suggestion to a penny drive, because he thought it would be more fun, and set an ambitious goal of collecting one million pennies, or \$10,000, a donate to the United Way of Greater Hazleton.

With the help of then-United Way of Greater Hazleton Executive Director James Settle,

Matthew's project was named "A Million Ways to Care" when it began in August of 1998. Matthew visited almost every civic organization in the city with a request for pennies and placed hundreds of two-quart collection jars throughout his community of 26,000 people. School students throughout the community also enthusiastically collected pennies for him. On October 22, 1998, the pennies were collected and loaded on a flatbed truck, paraded through town with a police and school bus escort, and taken to First Federal Bank, where an enthusiastic crew of bank employees and volunteer spent thirteen hours counting more than 5.5 tons of pennies. The final sum amounted to \$18,196.91 or 1,819,691 pennies, which was promptly presented to the United Way of Greater Hazleton on last year's National "Make a Difference Day."

Mr. Speaker, Matthew Nonnemacher represents the best of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Matthew was once asked why he wanted to help the poor and his answer was plain: "So the poor can have everything that we have—like food, clothes, and a place to stay." I am glad the White House has recognized Matthew's achievement by inviting him to the White House Conference on Philanthropy. Matthew's dedicated parents, John and Sandi, also deserve praise for their heroic efforts to guide and help their son.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring Matthew's achievements to the attention of my colleagues and wish Matthew the best in his future philanthropic efforts.

#### A VERY SPECIAL MEMORIAL

### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to participate in an extraordinary event in my Congressional District. The Ex-Students Association of Blooming Grove High School in Blooming Grove, Texas, recently dedicated a World War II memorial listing the names of all area residents who had served in our armed forces in World War II.

What made this event so extraordinary is that the memorial contains the names of 324 men and women, and two German Shepherds. These 324 men and women served in the military from a town of less than 1,000 in population. I can't imagine that any community of comparable size anywhere in America contributed as many of its sons and daughters to the war effort between 1941 and 1945.

Of the 324 from this remarkable Navarro County community, a total of 15 lost their lives. Additionally, a tremendously high number of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen from Blooming Grove were officers, with 37 holding officer rank. One of these 37, Ray Morris, rose to the rank of Admiral.

Two dogs, "Snitch" Lane and "Jack" Garrison were pressed into duty as sentries. Bruce Lane, one of the driving forces behind the creation of the memorial, was only eight years old when his German Shepherd, "Snitch," was drafted by the Army. Bruce remembers how the dog's handler wrote letters home on a reg-

ular basis, letting him know that "Snitch" was OK.

The memorial, which was dedicated on October 16th, consists of five pieces of Georgia gray granite inscribed with the names, rank, and branch of Blooming Grove residents who served during World War II.

Members of the committee that raised money to construct the monument included Jean Hinkle, Alice Bell, Bob Lane, Bruce Lane, Jack McGraw, Ralph and Reba Ferrell, Shelby Thedford, Brad Butler, and Earl Smith. The committee overseeing construction included Bob Lane, Dana Stub, Loyd and Mary Gowd, and Helen Farrish. The beautification committee for the memorial included Terry Golden, Jean Hinkle, Bruce Lane, Elaine Campbell, and Alyne McCormick. They are all to be commended for their efforts in erecting this memorial.

Every community that contributed to the war effort should have a memorial to those who served, but few towns are as deserving of a memorial as Blooming Grove. Communities like Blooming Grove won the war and helped save the world for democracy. It is highly appropriate that Blooming Grove residents' service has been recognized with a very special memorial.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 1999, I inadvertently voted "no" on final passage of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (RC 513). This bill is very important because it will make it easier for the disabled to re-enter the workforce and be productive members of society. America is about freedom, and that includes the freedom to work and not be penalized because of a disability.

I strongly supported this bill when the Committee on Ways and Means approved it, and I hope the President signs the bill when it reaches his desk.

#### COMMENDING THE COLCHESTER LIONS CLUB FOR FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend members of Lions Club of Colchester, Connecticut for fifty years of service to their community.

The Club, formed on August 2, 1949, provides support to a wide array of activities in Colchester. It has a long-standing commitment to young people through its sponsorship of sports leagues and the creation and expansion of scholarship programs. Members of the Club work hard each and every year to provide vital support to local food banks. In addi-

tion, the Colchester Lions Club has been a leader nationwide in raising funds to eradicate preventable causes of blindness. In 1993, the Club was recognized by its national organization as one of forty "model clubs" in the country for its successful work in support of this effort.

The Lions Club might be most well-known in town for decorating and lighting a large Christmas tree on the town green. Some of the founding members of the Club planted this tree forty years ago and successive generations of members have tended it. Much like the tree, the Club has grown and flourished and become a central part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Colchester Lions Club on its Fiftieth Anniversary. I am confident that it will continue to play a vital role in Colchester for many years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN THOMAS G. OTTERBEIN, USN

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Thomas G. Otterbein, as he prepares to retire upon completion of 29 years of distinguished service. It is a privilege for me to honor his many outstanding achievements and commend him for his devotion to the Navy and our great Nation.

A native of Bad Axe, Michigan, Captain Otterbein is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1970. After receiving his commission, he completed flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1973. His first operational tour was with Fighter Squadron 111 flying the F-4 Phantom II, where he made deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and Western Pacific Ocean aboard USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CV-42) and USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) respectively. Upon completion of F-14 Tomcat training, his next sea tour was with Fighter Squadron 51, where he made an around the world cruise aboard USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70). In recognition of his superior aeronautical skills and leadership abilities, Captain Otterbein was selected for F/A-18 Hornet training and subsequently became the Executive Officer of Fighter Squadrons 161 aboard USS *Midway* (CV-41). Following that tour, he was the Executive Officer of Fighter Squadron 195 and had command of that squadron for eighteen months.

Captain Otterbein successfully completed Nuclear Power Training and was soon back in the fleet, serving as Executive Officer of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71). He subsequently assumed command of USS *Nashville* (LPD-13) and led the ship through Operations Support/Uphold Democracy in Haiti, earning the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Battle Efficiency "E" Award. The crowning achievement of his career came when he reported as Commanding Officer, USS *Harry S Truman* (CVN-75), leading the crew of our newest aircraft carrier through her sea trials and initial training operations.