

Tom's distinguished service in the Navy can be seen as a blueprint for his many civic accomplishments. He received numerous citations and awards during the six years he served for our country. Among these are the Good Conduct Award, the National Defense Ribbon, the Certification of Accommodation for service in the Arctic Circle, Certification of Accommodation for work with Cuban Refugees. He was also recognized as Sailor of the Month, Service Force of the Atlantic Fleet.

Following his discharge Tom returned to our home town to begin his many years of public service by becoming involved in several different area schools. For four years he was P.T.A. President at MacGregor Elementary School. He was instrumental in helping Central High School resolve their millage, and later he served on the Bay City Public School Housing and Boundaries Committee. From all of his activities during this period, one can see Tom's deep commitment to the youth of Bay County.

Tom's commitment to the less fortunate among us can be seen in his involvement with social service organizations in the area. He served on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Social Intervention Services, and on the Bay County Substance Abuse Advisory Committee. Representing Bay County, he served on the Saginaw/Bay Substance Abuse Services Commission.

Tom continued his service to our community through local government. He served on the Bay City Planning Commission from 1985 to 1993, and for several years he was the Chairperson of the Commission. He resigned in 1993 to take a seat on the Bay City Commission. Tom served three terms, and as a symbol of the esteem his colleagues had for him, he was elected President twice.

Tom's service as Fourth Ward Commissioner is noteworthy for his many accomplishments. In short, Tom changed the dynamics of our city through his demonstrated philosophy of individual duty for the greater benefit of the community. Tom was responsible for a great many changes, but time allows me to only list but a few. Using his influence with his colleagues, Tom helped pass a resolution allowing the Bay City staff and elected officials the opportunity of attending a team building training meeting. He sponsored a resolution which allowed the city charter to be placed on the ballot in order that it be revised and modernized. He was heavily involved in the middlegrounds landfill clean-up, and the eastside riverfront clean-up. Privately, he was responsible for a fund-raising effort to modernize the Bay City Fire Department, by purchasing equipment which makes it easier to find individuals during a fire.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Tom's contributions to our community are many and are not limited to only one sphere of accomplishment. Tom volunteered for the Navy because he wanted to serve our country. He was involved in our schools because of his concern for our children. Tom was involved in city government because he wanted to make our home, Bay City, a place to be proud of. And, Mr. Speaker, I can say with all confidence that the residents of Bay City are proud and grateful to Tom.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that in Tom's retirement he intends to spend much

time with his wife, Lois, and their three children—Marcie, and her husband Bernie LaBerge and their three children Jessica, Brandon, and Danielle; Cindy-Sue Hernden and her two children Alyssa and Ryan; and Tammi-Rae, and her husband Tom Stein and their child Brittney. It is also my understanding that he will continue his long list of public service by serving on the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Tom Lock for his many contributions to our community. He truly is an example of exemplary civic duty, and as such, serves as a model to all of those in our country who desire to help others in their communities. Please join me in congratulating Tom, and in wishing him many productive years with his family and his many activities in our community.

TRIBUTE TO AL AND EILEEN FLORES

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two exemplary citizens in my district who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on October 31.

Al and Eileen Flores have shared many years and experiences as they traveled around the world and throughout our nation. Since meeting in England in 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Flores have demonstrated their patriotism by their connection to our armed forces, their refreshing commitment to family values as they raised six daughters, and a continuous and active participation in grassroots community organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Flores have fourteen grandchildren, and when asked who his hero is Mr. Flores answers, "My wife Eileen."

Not only do Mr. and Mrs. Flores embody the endless potential available to each American citizen, but also the wondrous result of a happy and fruitful life. Forty years of marriage is an accomplishment worthy of our respect and honor. Al and Eileen Flores, thank you for your example to our community, and happy 40th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF REV. RALPH A. BODZIONY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Ralph A. Bodziony for his contributions to Saint John Cantius of Cleveland, Ohio. Father Ralph has spent thirty years at St. John Cantius and is retiring after forty years of priesthood. His family and friends will honor his years of service with a celebration on November 28, 1999.

In his thirty years of service to St. John Cantius, Father Ralph has gone to great

lengths to help the parish grow and revitalize. Years ago, when it was not economically feasible to maintain the parish's old convent, Father Ralph helped turn it into The Malt Talbot Inn, an alcoholic rehabilitation center and halfway house. He also was heavily involved in the old elementary school being used for the Positive Education Program. In 1984, under Father Ralph, the parish held its first Polish Heritage Festival. It proved to be a very popular event and is now an annual celebration for parishioners and friends from all over to come and enjoy themselves.

Father Ralph has also led the church to a major facelift recently. In 1992, a beautiful Gothic altar was installed in the sanctuary; in 1994, the church organ was refurbished; and in 1997, the church was painted in anticipation of the one hundredth anniversary. St. John Cantius has come a long way in its one hundred years and, through projects like these, Father Ralph has been able to revitalize the parish alongside the redevelopment of the Tremont area.

St. John Cantius, through the leadership of pastors such as Father Ralph, has served the community for one hundred years. The parishioners, who value their ethnicity and beliefs, have developed new traditions while passing on their Polish ancestry to each new generation in the parish. Father Ralph's leadership and commitment to the parish has helped contribute to its rich and colorful history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the beloved Rev. Ralph Bodziony for his dedication to the church and his extraordinary works in the Tremont area. His life and efforts towards a better community have inspired us all.

HONORING JOAN AND RAY CONN ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CIN-CINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents, Joan and Ray Conn, who will be recognized at a gala dinner and pageant on Saturday, October 30, 1999 for their leadership as one of the founding families of the prestigious Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy (CHCA) located in Mason, Ohio.

CHCA is one of the fastest-growing schools in the country and has earned a reputation for excellent academics, competitive sports and extracurricular activities. In 1997, I had the privilege of presenting the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Award to CHCA Elementary. CHCA's goal is to nurture and support each student toward individual growth. The school embraces students, parents and faculty within the care of a Christian community.

Joan and Ray Conn worked together on many important initiatives for CHCA, including helping to form the vision for the school and spearheading fund raising efforts. They have three children, all of whom have attended CHCA.