

The Post-Standard boasts a tradition that extends back more than a century—to The Post, which traces its origins to 1894, and The Standard, dating to 1829, decades before the founding of the City of Syracuse. The consolidation of the two newspapers was described as a victory over 'factionalism' in Onondaga County and the ascendancy of 'a Republican newspaper, dedicated to the public weal along Republican lines, and representing a united Republicanism.'

That partisan bias reflects an earlier era in newspaper publishing when journals were closely allied with parties and candidates. Most newspapers, including The Post-Standard, have long since declared their independence from rigid party orthodoxy, endorsing candidates based on their qualifications, performance and prospects rather than political affiliation. Of course, The Post-Standard continues to represent a region long known as a bastion of Republican fervor.

Although the mission of The Post-Standard through the years has included some hard truth-telling, its editorial page since the beginning has attempted to build and strengthen the community. 'The Post-Standard deems the blessings of life and of work too precious to be frittered away in perpetual contention and fault-finding,' wrote the editor in 1899. 'To prove itself a cheery presence, seeking to say good of men and things always when it can, and consenting to say ill only when it must, shall be this newspaper's consistent aim.'

Hewing to that aim is no easier today than in 1899. There never seems to be a shortage of rascals, ludicrous schemes and conspiracies afoot, no less in the Age of McKinley than the Age of Bill and Monica.

Yet there is something uplifting and inspiring in the long-ago editorialist's aspiration for his paper to 'preach the gospel of right living and bright living without being suspected of preaching.' He concludes: 'If it can help to lift men or in any degree make better or cheerier or more wholesome the community with which its lot is cast, it will be glad and grateful for its opportunity.'

We remain grateful for that opportunity today."

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER
KOULOKOVSKY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alexander Koulokovsky and his company "Nafta Sib" which has undertaken an exciting new project in Russia. In September of 1998 at the beginning of the new school year, a traditional Christian School opened in Moscow. This school, which was built in one year, was funded by the company "Nafta Sib," which also engages in several charities and projects aimed at restoring old churches, and preserving icons and religious artifacts. Mr. Koulokovsky is currently in the process of putting together a Board of Trustees for the Christian School which will provide financial support and assist in maintaining high standards of education.

This new Christian School is the first since the communist revolution in 1917. Prior to the opening in September, the school would pro-

vide occasional lessons in a rented apartment. Two hundred and sixty students are now enrolled in the school, and the erection of the new building will provide the opportunity for one hundred and twenty more students to enroll in this outstanding educational program.

The school has received all of the educational licenses required, and is permitted to conduct lessons in accordance with the state school programs. For the past two years, many graduates were accepted by the most prominent Russian universities. The students are also receiving religious instructions as part of their curriculum. The school has an in-house church which is named after martyr St. Pytor, the archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church and close advisor to the Russian Patriarch in the 1930s and was killed during the Stalin regime. Regular religious services are conducted for the students. This church is also the first one to be named after a martyr of this century and be recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church.

I traveled to Russia last September, and visited this school on its opening day. I was impressed with the school's curriculum, and with the quality of the students who attended it. As a former school teacher and the father of five, I know that education is the key to the future. For Russia's democracy to succeed, they must look to tomorrow and educate a new generation of Russians in the tenets of freedom. I applaud Alexander Koulokovsky for schooling Russia's leaders of tomorrow and for taking steps to bring quality education and religious freedom to the children of Moscow.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CENTRAL
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT, DR. ED ELLIOTT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Ed Elliott, who is retiring from his post as President of Central Missouri State University (CMSU), Warrensburg, MO, after serving there for nearly fourteen years.

During Dr. Elliott's tenure at CMSU, the University has seen tremendous growth in enrollment due to Ed's insightful university policies. There has been an expansion of the school's international and distance learning programs, increased admissions standards, a new general studies program, an emphasis in strategic planning and collegial governance, and an integration of a new teaching-learning-assessment model known as Continuous Process Improvement. In addition, numerous building renovations and new construction projects, including the James C. Kirkpatrick Library that will be dedicated in March, have added to student interest in CMSU.

Under Ed's leadership, the University has received dramatically increased state and alumni funding. He has also set academic priorities to develop all curriculum around a strong, liberal arts core, verifying quality through assessment and program-specific accreditation. In addition, he integrated tech-

nology into the curriculum and emphasized teacher education. Recently, Central has been named the state's lead institution in professional technology.

Dr. Elliott became Central Missouri State's 12th president on July 1, 1985, after serving for three years as president of Wayne State College in Wayne, NE. He came to Wayne State in 1971 as director of graduate studies and had also served as a dean and vice president before being named president there.

A native of Grain Valley, MO, Ed is a 1960 graduate of William Jewell College and started his teaching career in Harrisonville that same year. He earned his master's degree from Columbia University in 1964, and his doctor of education degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1969.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ed Elliott has had an outstanding career in education, and he will surely be missed by everyone at Central Missouri State University. I wish him and his wife, Sandra, all the best in the days ahead. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in playing tribute to this fine Missourian.

IN HONOR OF FATHER BENJAMIN
H. SKYLES

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Father Benjamin H. Skyles for his outstanding contributions to the community and citizens of Pasadena, Texas.

Father Skyles has served the community of Pasadena through his ministry as Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for 34 years. His social conscience is second to none. Throughout those 34 years, Father Skyles has been a tremendous asset to the Pasadena community. He has worked to protect the environment, care for and educate children and the elderly, train workers, and give a helping hand to those who are ill or living in poverty. He is also a dedicated husband and father.

His ministry has enhanced the lives of thousands of Pasadena citizens from birth to old age. St. Peter's Day School has nurtured and educated children for over 30 years. Its After School Program has been a safe-haven for latchkey children for over 25 years. For the elderly, St. Peter's offers low-cost housing. Additionally, St. Peter's has programs to confront social ills, such as alcoholism and hunger. St. Peter's also offers English as a second language program, Scouting Programs, and year round GED classes.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Father Skyles began his crusade to protect the environment. He became the first vice-president of the Channel Area Subsidiary Chapter for Help Eliminate Pollution. As Chairman of the Preservation of the Armand Bayou in 1972, he led the way in a complicated battle to save a beautiful natural resource so that it could be enjoyed by future generations. He chaired the Southeast Harris County Clinic Task Force in 1976 and 1977, which established the Strawberry Clinic and vital health services to the area.