

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY GARDNER

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Betty Gardner, who is retiring this month from her position as President and CEO of the Kings Federal Credit Union in Kings County, California.

During her tenure, Ms. Gardner has overseen a period of tremendous growth for the Kings Federal Credit Union. In 1960, she began serving credit union members from her home, slowly building the credit union's customer base. Nearly forty years later, the credit union's membership has expanded to 11,000 members, serving more than 180 select employer groups. In the small rural communities of Kings County, the credit union has played a vital role in providing project financing and financial services for people who might not otherwise have access to those services.

In addition to her leadership of the Kings Federal Credit Union, Ms. Gardner has been active in professional associations for the credit union industry. In 1990-91, Ms. Gardner served as chairman of the California Credit Union League, working to improve the league's voting procedures.

Her advocacy for and interest in the credit union industry also led her to travel on behalf of the industry. In October 1992 for example, she spent five days in Gdansk, Poland, visiting new credit unions and assisting the Polish Credit Union Foundation in their development of new operations.

Ms. Gardner has been honored by the California Credit Union League with a number of awards, including the 1994 Distinguished Service Award, and the 1998 Leo H. Shapiro Lifetime Achievement Award.

She has also been actively engaged in the community, participating in Soroptimist International, the Hanford Chamber of Commerce, the Sacred Heart Hospital Board of Directors, the Business Development Committee, the American Cancer Society, and serving as a former chair of the Hanford Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Betty Gardner for contributions to the credit union industry and to the larger community of Kings County. We send our sincere congratulations and wish her well on her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Ms. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, on November 8 and 9, I missed several rollcall votes on account of minor illness. Had I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 574 (H. Res. 94), "yea" on rollcall vote 575 (H.R. 2904), "yea" on rollcall vote 576 (H. Res. 344), "yea" on rollcall vote 580 (H. Con. Res. 223), and "yea" on rollcall vote 581 (H.R. 1554).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LAURA SMART

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, back in 1997 I attended a Little League event and heard an opening prayer that was remarkable. It was given by Laura Smart of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, my hometown. She and her husband, Lee, were the parents of one of the players. The prayer has become even more remarkable since so much attention has been given across the nation to schoolchildren and their relationship with their parents. I would like to share this prayer with the rest of the nation by placing it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Dear Lord,

Shine your Heavenly Light on us here tonight at this happy event celebrating our American League players, our coaches and our parents. Guide us in learning from thoughts and memories of years passed that will be shared through our speakers in these times of laughter and sadness, excitements and disappointments, and wins or losses. Only you, Lord, can help all of us to focus and prioritize your teachings in the real games of life knowing that Love for the children must remain. Bless us as we depart this event to bring a stronger light to others and to brighten the future by learning from mistakes, celebrating the greatness of good times, but using both as a ministry to all people and in your Honor, your Glory, and in your Name. We are so blessed to be able to watch our players run with two legs, hit with two arms, catch with two eyes and hear with two ears. For God's sakes make us realize when our own priorities get away from us that not all children can be on teams to have a chance to physically and mentally play. We are so blessed Dear God—in God's name we pray.—Written by Laura Smart, 1997.

THE CALUMET PROJECT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Calumet Project will be hosting its 9th Annual Job and Justice Awards Banquet on Friday, November 19, 1999, at the Social Hall of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Hammond, Indiana. The Calumet Project is a 15-year-old grassroots, labor-community-religious coalition that works for economic and social justice in Northwest Indiana. Each year, the Calumet Project honors prominent, extraordinary residents of Northwest Indiana for their tireless work to educate and organize people to fight for the betterment of all our lives. This year, four outstanding citizens from Northwest Indiana will be honored for their dedication to justice, and for their commitment to the people of Northwest Indiana.

One of this year's Calumet Community Hero Award recipients is Tom Conway. Mr. Conway is being honored for his dedication and contributions to the labor community. During the last year, he has been responsible for direct-

ing the United Steel Workers of America's (USWA) field campaign in the recent "Stand Up for Steel" efforts aimed at the steel imports which continue to be a source of concern to the USWA.

Additionally, Carlotta King and Jose Bustos will receive the Calumet Community Hero Award for their organizing efforts in their respective communities, Hammond and East Chicago. Ms. King's passion and focus has been to improve the quality of life for children. She is the board president of the Bethany Child Care and Development Center, and president of the board of V.A.U.L.E.S., a group that mentors African-American males. Ms. King also serves as a Redevelopment Commissioner for the City of Hammond. She is a strong advocate for community participation in the redevelopment of brownfield sites. Mr. Bustos has devoted much of his life to helping the people of East Chicago. He and his wife Eva started the group, "The Youth Conqueror," which was responsible for bringing attention to how the increase in gang activity and violence was threatening the community's young people. Additionally, they started the Cesar Chavez Catholic Workers Community House. The community house has assisted many young individuals in different areas of their lives. Mr. Bustos has also been active in organizing a Christmas dinner for the needy, organizing a student walkout to protest against a toxic waste dump, and the protest against Napalm.

Reverend Michelle Cobb will also be receiving the Calumet Community Hero Award for her religious work in the community. Reverend Cobb is a native of Gary, Indiana. She has served as the pastor of the Marquette Park United Methodist Church in Gary, Indiana, and is currently senior pastor of the Merrillville United Methodist Church in Merrillville, Indiana. Cobb is a member of the NAACP, the Merrillville Kiwanis Club, and the Black Methodist for Church Renewal. She also serves on the Northwest Indiana Worker's Rights Board.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Reverend Dr. Robert Lowery, is one of the most dedicated citizens of Northwest Indiana. Dr. Lowery is the minister at St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana, and has spent nearly half a century providing leadership on economic and social justice issues. Dr. Lowery serves on the executive board for several organizations, including: the Northwest Indiana Urban League, the Calumet Council Boy Scouts of America, the Lake County Mental Health Association, and the Referral and Emergency Service.

State Senator Frank Mrvan will be presented with the One of Our Own Award for his support of workers' rights. Senator Mrvan has been a state legislator for more than 16 years and a member of the Hammond City Council for 10 years. He is a member and serves on the board of directors for the Hammond Chamber of Commerce, the Urban Enterprise Association, and the Hammond Development Corporation.

Christine Walters will receive the Special Recognition Award for her active role as a Calumet Project Board member and her leadership in economic and social justice actions. Walters joined the Calumet Project Board in 1994 and became a member of the Northwest