

for help and then proceeded downstairs to her garage where she had an extension ladder. She grabbed the ladder and went across the street and extended it to reach the second floor. Terry Olevson helped his sons out of the window and on to the ladder to safety. Terry followed his sons down the ladder. Angela without hesitation was able to respond quickly to her neighbors' needs and as a result was able to assist in saving their lives.

On behalf of all the citizens of western Wisconsin I ask that the United States House of Representatives recognize Angela M. Barthen for her courage and thank her for being a concerned and giving community citizen.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RODNEY ANNIS AND HIS CONGREGATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Reverend Rodney Annis and his congregation at First Baptist Church on the upcoming expansion to their present facility.

First Baptist Church has been a prominent fixture in the Fosterburg community since its founding 142 years ago, when a group of German immigrants established this farming community. Today, a 14,000-square-foot addition is scheduled to be made to the present church, providing offices and a recreation center for a multigenerational congregation.

This addition will allow First Baptist Church to both continue and expand a tradition of service that started almost a century and a half ago.

Like you, I am pleased to witness First Baptist Church's leadership and growth in the Fosterburg community.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—ADAMS COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSCH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. McINTOSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished fellow Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others. Today, I want to mention a true gentleman from Adams County, Indiana who I had the privilege of meeting recently.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the Federal Government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana has not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes."

I met a genuine Hoosier Hero in Adams County, Indiana recently. He's Alan Converset, a sales manager at WZBD Adams County Radio. He and his wife of 32 years, Judy, have seven children.

Alan epitomizes a "Hoosier Hero." He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the less-fortunate. Alan served as president of the Decatur rotary club, and Chairman of the United Way golf outing to raise money for those who need a helping hand from someone who cares. He also works on the March of Dimes Walk America Committee.

Alan's work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. He doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. He is a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Alan deserves the gratitude of his county, state, and nation and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

DAKOTA WATER RESOURCES ACT OF 1999

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1999. My colleagues, Senator CONRAD and Senator DORGAN, are introducing a companion bill in the Senate today. This bill represents an unprecedented agreement among North Dakota's congressional delegation, the States' elected leaders and a variety of State organizations.

After years of negotiations, this legislation embodies a bipartisan effort to meet the comprehensive water needs of North Dakota, including the State's four Indian reservations. Without a dependable source of quality water the State's potential for economic development will be crippled.

The Dakota Water Resources Act amends the Garrison Diversion Reformulation act of 1986 and would refocus the project from large-scale irrigation to the delivery of safe water. Throughout North Dakota, people realize that the project as outliend under the 1986 act will not happen, and they support the more affordable, realistic provisions that would meet the State's water needs.

Right now, much of the State lacks a supply of quality water. Many communities have unresolved Safe Drinking water Act compliance problems. Rural water systems and regional water supply systems have been formed to meet the water needs, but much more needs to be done to complete those systems.

To meet cities and towns' needs for safe water, the act authorizes \$300 million for municipal, rural, and industrial water systems (MR&I) projects. It allows the State to provide grants or loans to MR&I systems. This means the State could establish a revolving loan fund and continue to use funds from repaid loans for MR&I systems.

In conjunction with the State's need for MR&I, it is important to note the additional authorization of \$200 million which would provide

for MR&I on the four Indian reservations. Additionally, authorization for irrigation on the reservations is included in this legislation, along with a provision which gives tribes the flexibility to determine which sites to irrigate within the reservation. The Standing Rock, Fort Berthold, Turtle Mountain, and Fort Totten Indian Reservations would finally be able to meet their long overdue water needs with these provisions.

Another major feature of this legislation which has not been realized under the 1986 act is the ability to meet the water needs of the Red River Valley in North Dakota. This would provide \$200 million for the State to choose the method of delivering Missouri River water to the Red River Valley. The communities of Fargo, and Grand Forks, as well as other towns up and down the valley would have a reliable source of water for continued growth in population and commercial activity.

Any project that would be completed under the act must comply with the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. We fully intend, and are required, to comply with the 1909 treaty between the United States and Canada when considering completion of any component of the project.

In addition to meeting the State and the Indian reservation's comprehensive and future water needs, this act involves significant environmental achievements. As nature resources trust would receive \$25 million to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, grassland conservation and riparian areas in the State.

Other sections of the act include authorization for the State to develop water conservation programs using MR&I funding. A bank stabilization study along the Missouri River below the Garrison Dam would be authorized. Also, the current Lonetree Reservoir would be designated as a wildlife conservation area.

All of these provisions and the entire Dakota Water Resources Act have been worked out with painstaking detail among numerous groups. I would like to personally thank the Senators from North Dakota, Senator KENT CONRAD and Senator DORGAN and their very capable staff, as well as North Dakota's State engineer and counsel, for their tireless work on the extraordinary agreement.

HONORING MARY BETH CLARK AND NORMA STAFNE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two local heroes from western Wisconsin. I want to honor Mary Beth Clark and Norma Stafne who took courageous action to aid another citizen.

For the past three years the Eau Claire Fire Fighters Local Union 487, in conjunction with the Eau Claire Fire Department, have recognized area students who acted bravely in emergency situations. The recipients of the Citizen Community Involvement Awards are citizens who put the safety and well being of their neighbors ahead of other concerns in a time of need.