

Good programs can give kids the chance to interact with their peers and adults in a positive way, to gain or improve new skills, to master educational material, to develop strong bodies, or to foster creativity. In addition, studies have shown that students who attend productive after-school programs make significant academic gains, enjoy school more, feel more safe, and are less likely to participate in delinquent behaviors year round.

We, as leaders of this Nation, need to focus on improving the quality of children's out-of-school time. I do not necessarily believe we have to spend billions of dollars to accomplish this task, but we should invest ourselves and our time. Up to date information is desperately needed to understand the dynamics, intricacies, strengths, and weaknesses of existing after-school programs. The last major study of after-school programs was completed in 1993 by the National Institute of Out-Of-School Time. This lack of up to date information is what drove me to hold several round table discussions with my constituents last year and to draft the "After-School Children's Education Act (ACE Act)" that will initiate a state-by-state study to help us understand what the current culture of after-school programs is, and where the gaps are in providing educationally enriching and personally fulfilling programs for kids. The ACE Act would not spend a lot of money, but it would set a ball in motion that can lead the Congress to better information and better decision making on how to proceed with meeting the needs of our children and families with after-school programs. I am thoroughly convinced that we must carefully focus our attention on children, especially in their earliest years. Children are eager and able to learn, but as they get older habits become ingrained and are harder and harder to break.

It is a pleasure to join Congresswoman TAUSCHER today in emphasizing the importance of after-school programs for the future of our Nation's children and, in return, our nation's future.

CONGRATULATING HERMAN
KLEINDIENST ON HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate one of my state's best known farmers, Herman Kleindienst of Stillwater, New Jersey, on his 100th birthday, March 16, 1999. Mr. Kleindienst is well known as a community leader in Sussex County, not only in agricultural circles but in the business community, with civic groups and with his church. His hard work and dedication have helped improve the lives of many other New Jerseyans in many ways. He is a standard bearer for us all.

Mr. Kleindienst has been recognized for more than half a century as a "New Jersey Conservation Pioneer" for his work in soil conservation—the agricultural practice of maintaining farmland to prevent erosion and exhaustion of the soil's nutritional content.

A long-time dairy farmer, Mr. Kleindienst began practicing soil conservation on his fam-

ily's farm in Stillwater during the 1940s, a period when the technique was developed in response to the Dust Bowl agricultural losses of the 1930s. His role as a leader in the soil and water conservation movement began in the late 1950s with his appointment as a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Sussex County Soil and Water Conservation District. During the 1960s and 1970s, Mr. Kleindienst became known as a dedicated leader of the conservation movement at the local, state and national levels. He was among the pioneers who played an active role in the formulation and implementation of conservation and land use policies regarding "wise use" and protection of soil and water both on and off the farm. Mr. Kleindienst is a former member of the board of the National Association of Conservation Districts and a former president of the New Jersey Association of Natural Resource Districts.

Mr. Kleindienst has also been active in a variety of other agricultural organizations. He is a former trustee of the United Milk Producers Association, a former member of the New Jersey Dairyman's Council, a former member of the Northeast Breeder's Association and a former member of the New Jersey Cooperative Livestock Auction Market.

In addition, he has been a member of the Newton Rotary Club since 1969 and is a former president of the club. He helped found Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newton and is also a member of Midland Park Lutheran Church in Bergen County.

Indeed, Mr. Kleindienst is one of the outstanding citizens who has made Sussex County one of the best places in our great nation to live, work and raise a family. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Kleindienst and wishing him all of God's richest blessings.

HONORING MICHAEL STEWART

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 four local heroes from western Wisconsin. I want to honor Michael Stewart 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 residents 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.

Michael Stewart is one of those extraordinary citizens. On June 21, 1997 at approximately 6:30 a.m. Michael was driving down the 200 block of Platt street in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Directly in front of Michael a 20 foot long, 15 foot wide sink hole appeared and trapped the car of another driver. The driver was able to climb out of the car and stand on top of it in an attempt to escape, while water was quickly filling up the sink hole. Stewart

was driving behind the driver and rushed to his assistance. He risked his own life by hanging over the blacktop ledge, with no support, and reached down to lift the driver out of the hole. The stranded driver stated that the rescuers must have been God's Angels in saving his life.

On behalf of all the citizens of western Wisconsin I ask that the United States House of Representatives recognize Michael Stewart for his courage and thank him for being a concerned and giving community citizen.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—CLINTON COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. MCINTOSH. 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 gentlelady from Clinton 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 Clinton County, Indiana recently. She is Donna Guynon. She started to help people at an early age and never stopped. Donna was a New York high school student during WWII. To help that great cause, she served on the junior Red Cross and volunteered as a air raid supporter in New York. Donna never gave up the idea of helping others when she moved to Indiana. She has tended to the ill by working as a Gold and Pink lady for 38 years in local hospitals. She still works with the Red Cross and is active in the Meals and Wheels project bringing food and companionship to our seniors. Donna's work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope.

She doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; she does it for the smiles and laughter. She is a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Donna deserves the gratitude of her county, state, and nation and I thank her here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

INS HOME-FREE STRATEGY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed by recent reports in the Washington Post and