

a part of pediatric care, by having pediatricians in the out-patient setting encouraging parents to read aloud to their children, and by giving their patients (between the ages of 6 months and 5 years) books to take home with them.

Pediatricians are trained to counsel parents about the importance of reading with young children, offering age-appropriate tips and encouragement. Volunteer readers are in the clinic to read aloud to children as they wait for their appointments, thereby encouraging to learn to love books!

Through Reach Out and Read, every child starts school with a home library of at least 10 beautiful children's books, and parents are helped to understand that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to help their children learn to love books.

Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York has been working to begin its Reach Out and Read program for the past 15 months. On Monday, April 12, 1999, Interfaith officially opened its program in the Pediatrics clinic at their St. John's site. Presently, over 7,000 books have been obtained through grants and donation. Interfaith is prepared to keep this program going for many years * * * in addition to working toward expanding it into all of their community clinics. Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Interfaith Medical Center for its unwavering commitment to preparing our children for a bright future.

AMERICA'S WILDERNESS ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced "America's Wilderness Protection Act." As many know, I have been an advocate of wilderness for many years. For example, I have introduced legislation to designate wilderness in the beautiful red rock areas of Southern Utah in each of the last several Congresses. I was also instrumental in the passage of the Utah Forest Service Wilderness Act of 1984 a bill that designated almost a million acres of Wilderness in the State of Utah.

As a wilderness advocate I have become increasingly concerned about a particular issue that makes wilderness legislation extremely difficult to pass. The issue I refer to is wilderness studies.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 created something called a "Wilderness Study Area." Lands that became Wilderness Study Areas pursuant to FLPMA were studied by the Interior Department to determine whether they qualified for Wilderness designation.

Unfortunately, FLPMA failed to provide for the release of Wilderness Study Areas. Thus Wilderness Study Areas, absent Congressional action, would be studied in perpetuity—even after the actual study, done by the Interior Department, was finished.

The perpetual study of an area for wilderness suitability is clearly not in the public interest:

The biggest problem is that it hinders the designation of wilderness. Because Wilder-

ness Study Areas are managed almost as if they were already wilderness, there is no incentive to make the sometimes politically difficult decisions to actually make them wilderness. Also, because the Interior Department's wilderness studies invariably decide that certain parts of Wilderness Study Areas do not qualify for wilderness, fringe environmental groups often oppose any resolution to the issue, preferring perpetual Wilderness Study Area status over actual wilderness designation.

We need to reach a conclusion on this issue. Areas that qualify as wilderness should be designated as wilderness, and areas that don't should be released.

This bill would protect millions of acres of Wilderness throughout the country by directing that wilderness studies be completed within ten years. It would force Congress to decide the issue and finally designate wilderness.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support "America's Wilderness Protection Act" and protect America's wilderness.

UNITED BAY CITY CREDIT UNION: SUNSHINE FOR A RAINY DAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our nation's history is filled with examples of neighbors, friends, and coworkers coming together to help one another weather the bad times that life has in store for each of us. The members of the United Bay City Credit Union are an outstanding illustration of how bad times can be used to create good times. It was now fifty years ago that the employees of Bay City Chevrolet were ending a 110-day strike. They decided to each pool together a \$5 contribution to help provide a resource for their coworkers who needed help to recover from a tough time, help that may be there in future years for those taking the wise step to invest in their own future by supporting the future of others.

On April 20, 1949, the Chevrolet Employees Federal Credit Union was chartered. The subscribers to the organization certificate were Perely W. Bennett, Harry Vink, Richard E. Jane, Robert W. Kennedy, Chester S. Sosnowski, Harold McDougald, and Joseph M. Douponce. They took the first steps that resulted in George Reif as the first treasurer, and a portfolio that included 88 loans, 209 members, and bank balance of \$410.89 in 1950. That small effort has resulted in a financial institution that today boasts more than 20,000 members, assets in millions of dollars, and more than 100 companies that serve as partners with the Credit Union.

The history of this facility is enlightening. In 1954 an office was set up with a worker who was paid \$31.25 per week to run the office. In 1955, the name was changed to United Bay City Federal Credit Union. In 1959, members with four years of seniority could borrow up to a maximum of \$500. Branch officers were added over the years. Automated teller machines were added until now there are five. A

phone access line was installed to make financial transactions even easier. And the same Credit Union that once limited loans to \$500 today offers a Master Money/Check Card. To those who took the risk in 1949, today's services would probably have been considered too phenomenal to have even been thought of as dreams.

But even with these changes brought on by advances in technology, by competition, and by consumer demand, United Bay City Credit Union remains true to its original purpose: to provide a safe haven for hard-earned dollars, to offer responsible credit to make life's needs more manageable and life's opportunities more obtainable, to combine limited resources in a fashion that offer limitless options.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all your colleagues to join me in wishing Charlie Booth, Linda Meyer, the excellent staff and all of the members of United Bay City Credit Union a most joyous 50th anniversary, with many more successful ones to come.

HONORING LOU MATARAZZO AND RON DEVITO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lou Matarazzo, president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and Ron Devito, 2nd vice-president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. They are being honored on April 15, 1999, at the Terrace in the Park in Flushing Meadows, NY, on the occasion of their retirement. Their leadership in the New York City Police Department and as officers of the PBA is truly inspirational to all New Yorkers.

Well known for his devotion to his fellow officers and for being ready, willing and able to help a colleague in need, under any circumstances. Matarazzo has combined a hands-on approach with a thorough knowledge of police and human affairs. He began his career in law enforcement as a rookie patrolman in 1964. In 1969, he was elected a PBA delegate from the 108 Precinct and held that position for 9 years, serving on both the Negotiating and the "Cop of the Month" Committees. In 1977, he was elected the PBA Queens Trustee and soon began serving as chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of the Law Committee. In February 1991, he became the PBA Recording Secretary and in June 1991, he was elected treasurer. He has held his current position as PBA president since 1995.

Matarazzo served as a member of the Police Pension Board, and is an expert in the field of disabilities. He is also a member of many civic and police groups, including the Columbia Association, of which he was a recent "Man of the Year." He has been cited for excellence by the Police Honor Legion, the New York Shields, the Nassau County Shields and the Holy Name Society. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Public Employees Conference in New York States, which has over one million members.