

April 15, 1999

This month marks the end of Jim's term as Outagamie County Executive, a position he has held for the last three years.

But Jim's history of serving the people goes back a full 45 years—and we're truly fortunate he decided to dedicate his life to public service.

As a young man, Jim joined the U.S. Marine Corps and later went on to serve for 19 years with the U.S. Army Reserves.

For most of his working life, Jim delivered letters for the U.S. postal service—and was always a smiling face folks could count on.

For the 22 years before he became county executive, he served on the Outagamie County Board, where he earned a reputation for approaching problems with his trademark common sense.

I couldn't dream of letting this occasion go by without telling Jim how much his time and hard work have meant to me and to the people of northeastern Wisconsin.

So, on behalf of myself and the countless other people whose lives have been made brighter by Jim's efforts, I want to say "thanks!"

HONORING THE SHEPELS AND
MARIA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding citizens from Beaver, Pennsylvania. To the delight of the community, George and Maria DiLeonardo-Shepel reopened a fine family restaurant known as Maria's on April 1, 1999. The Shepels' hard work and commitment to this neighborhood institution are testimony to the strong work ethic of western Pennsylvania.

I would like to recognize the Shepels for their contributions to their community. Without these types of individuals, many of our neighborhoods would lose their local traditions. Their dedication and hard work are deserving of commendation.

The Shepels bought Maria's in 1988 and successfully modeled the restaurant after an authentic Italian eatery. For six years, this establishment was a popular neighborhood meeting place. During my first campaign for the U.S. Congress, the Shepels were among my first supporters, and invited me to dine in their restaurant. I will never forget their friendship or their kind words of support.

The couple has spent the last few years renovating the restaurant and restoring it to its original condition. By providing quality food and friendly service, the Shepels have ensured that Maria's will be a permanent fixture in this community for years to come. My fellow colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I rise and applaud George and Maria DiLeonardo-Shepel. I hope they continue to enjoy tremendous success and wish them the best of luck in the future.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, people who give back to their community are a precious resource. For my home town of Bay City, one wonderful example of how valuable this precious resource can be is Knights of Columbus, Council #414, which this week celebrates its most special 100th anniversary.

Forty-nine men from Bay City and Saginaw met on April 16, 1899, to organize Valley Council 414, with its first home at the Old Cottage Hall on the corner of Sixth and Madison. While some members withdrew from 414 in order to form other new councils in Saginaw and the surrounding area, by December 29, 1915, the Bay City Council 414, renamed as such in 1902, had grown to over 1,500 members. A proud but sad point of history was made when in 1917, Francis McCauley became the first Bay County and Council 414 member casualty in France during World War I.

Over the years, Council 414 has grown in members and has moved through several facilities that have served its diverse needs. At the same time, it has held true to the main purposes of the Knights of Columbus, founded by Rev. Michael McGivney in 1882—charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. It has held its loyalty to the Catholic Church and the Pope. The Knights of Columbus have promoted solid values through its promotion of family life, charitable disbursements to needy people and disaster victims, its "Crusade for Life" in defense of the unborn, insurance for its members, an educational trust for children of members who are killed or totally disabled due to military service or in performance of their duties as full-time law enforcement officers or firemen, and student loans to Knights, their families, and members of the clergy.

Council 414 has worked particularly hard to provide charitable assistance to the crippled children and adults of Bay City, as well as to the mentally challenged. Its "Klown Unit" provided more than 2,200 hours of enjoyment to children at schools, hospitals, special events, and the Special Olympics last year. The Knights have been wonderful friends through their visits to senior citizens. They also provided, without charge, assistance with their Pall Bearers Group at over 400 funerals since the group's inception more than a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we ask whether or not our people have a sense of values, and whether or not they are prepared to recognize that the government alone cannot provide all of the assistance that people may require, we need look no further than the Knights of Columbus, and inspirational units like Council 414 of Bay City. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Grand Knight James F. Morrisette and the more than 640 members of Council 414 on this very special 100th anniversary, and in wishing them many more successful and fulfilling years to come.

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HONORING RONALD ANSIN

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the fine work and outstanding public service of a true philanthropist, Mr. Ronald Ansin. On this Saturday, Ron will receive the 1999 National Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award for Community Service, United Way of America's highest honor given for volunteer service.

A native of central Massachusetts, Ron graduated from Harvard College cum laude in 1955 and continued his education at Yale Law School graduating in 1958. Both a civic and business leader in Massachusetts, Ron heads two successful companies, the Anwelt Corporation in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and L.B. Evans's Son Co., Inc., in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Over the past 30 years, Ron has committed himself to civic and community service on many local, state and national issues.

Locally, Ron has been a philanthropic force in North Central Massachusetts, supporting the Thayer Symphony Orchestra, HealthAlliance, Inc., the Fitchburg Art Museum, and local educational institutions including the Applewild School, Fitchburg State College and Mount Wachusett Community College. Ron has been the recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America and has received a Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Fitchburg State College.

Within Massachusetts, Ron held the position of the Commissioner of Commerce and Development in the mid-1980's. He also served on a number of state-wide boards and councils including the Governor's Commission on Co-generation, the Mental Health & Retardation Area Board, and the State Job Training Coordinating Council. Ron currently serves on the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

Nationally, Ron is the treasurer of the Center of National Policy in Washington, DC, a non-partisan and non-profit public policy think tank. In 1977, Ron served as an industry advisor (footwear) to the Office of the President.

Mr. Speaker, few people in public life ever make the type of contributions made by Ronald Ansin. I can sincerely commend Ron as a true humanitarian, a role-model for our youth, and a man worthy of honor and respect. It is only appropriate that the House join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ansin today.

THE FAMILY FARM PROTECTION
ACT

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am proud this week to introduce my first bill before this house.

It's a bill designed to bring some desperately-needed relief to farm families across