

HONORING ST. MARY'S CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce on their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Their initial meeting was held in April, 1974 by combining the Leonardtown and Lexington Park Chambers. A board of directors was installed and George Sparling was elected president. Eddie Bailey, Rubye Beaman, Eddie Burroughs, Robert Dudley, Bert Fenwick, Jack Fletcher, Joe M. Gough, Stewart Hobbs, Jim Kenney, Richard Lubbers, Charles Mason, Bill Raley, Buzzy Ridgell, Mary Salisbury, Les Shaw, Harry Lee Smith, Leroy Thompson, Jr., Elliot Weisman, and Rocky Willis served as the board of directors.

The chamber had 150 charter members. Office space was two rooms on the second floor of the First National Bank of St. Mary's in Leonardtown, courtesy of Joe M. Gough. They occupied those offices until 1988 when the chamber moved to Mechanicsville. Not only has the chamber grown in membership with 400 members today, but also in service to the community, with members serving on a number of county and state boards and local committees.

Over the years, the chamber has supported county events such as the Oyster Festival and Maryland Day. The Trade Fair was started in 1983 to give local businesses the chance to show their wares and to promote county businesses. As a result of a good working relationship with county government, state government and the Southern Maryland Congressional delegation, major accomplishments of direct and indirect services to the business community have been achieved. The chamber lobbied for five years to have the commercial inventory tax reduced, which affected 80% of the county's wholesale and retail businesses.

In 1976, the chamber operated the tourist information center at Charlotte Hall. In 1980, the Tourist Information Center found its permanent home at the chamber office in Mechanicsville. Over the years the chamber has evolved into a vital entity of St. Mary's County. Despite its growth, one thing has not changed; the original core values to promote local business and empower local citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the remainder of my colleagues to join with me in applauding the service and sacrifice of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE
REFORM ACT

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, joined by my colleague, Mr. BONIOR, today I introduce the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 1999. This legislation will expand the safety

net for American workers by reauthorizing and improving existing adjustment programs for workers who are adversely impacted by trade. It combines the best features of the existing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) programs into a consolidated TAA program and improves the effectiveness and timeliness of services provided to American workers hurt by international trade.

The bill would authorize the consolidated TAA program for 5 years through fiscal year 2004. Most importantly, the consolidated program would expand eligibility to workers who lose their jobs due to shifts in production by their firm to other countries. Currently, TAA eligibility is restricted to workers hurt by imports and NAFTA-TAA is limited to workers adversely affected by imports from, or shifts in production to, Mexico or Canada only. Our bill will ensure that comprehensive assistance is available to workers who lose their jobs due to imports from, or shifts in production to, any foreign country.

The legislation also ensures that rapid response and basic readjustment services will be made available to workers upon the filing of a petition for TAA eligibility. These services are critical to facilitating rapid reemployment of workers and providing important information relating to the resources available at the Federal, State, and local level to assist them. The measure also requires a one-third reduction in the time period for the Department of Labor to process eligibility petitions under TAA in order to ensure that benefits are made available to trade-impacted workers as soon as possible after their displacement. To ensure that these workers get the assistance they need, the bill provides a much-needed increase in the annual cap on training expenditures to \$150 million; a portion of which supports the training costs associated with the expanded "shift in production" provision, and a portion of which is needed to fund the significant increase in program caseload currently being experienced.

The legislation also harmonizes the differing rules of the current programs relating to requiring enrollment in training as a condition for receiving income support. The new rules retain the program's emphasis on linking income support to training but permit specified exceptions where appropriate to assist certain workers. In addition, the bill would reduce the hardship currently experienced by workers who attend community colleges by expanding the period for scheduled breaks in a training program during which a worker may continue to receive income support.

In keeping with an increased emphasis on integrated service delivery, the legislation seeks to enhance coordination between the consolidated TAA program and the dislocated worker program under the recently-enacted Workforce Investment Act. In particular, the bill would significantly improve the accountability of the consolidated program by ensuring that TAA and the dislocated worker program have common performance outcome measures; i.e. information on the placement in employment, earnings, and retention of employment by participants.

The legislation also assures that information will be collected and maintained that identifies

the countries to which production is shifted to and, to the extent practical, from which articles are imported. This will include information on the number of certifications relating to imports from, or shifts in production to, Mexico or Canada—which will assist in making eligibility determinations under related NAFTA programs and in assessing the adequacy of the consolidated program.

In addition, this legislation provides for the extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program administered by the Department of Commerce under chapter 3 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974. And finally, the bill establishes a Presidential Commission on Workers and Economic Change in the New Economy to make further recommendations on program improvements.

Mr. Speaker, while much of the country is enjoying a booming economy, there are geographic areas and industries which are experiencing significant worker dislocation. It is critical that the Congress support programs that give workers the tools they need to find and prepare for good-paying jobs in the new economy. One of the important ways we can begin to develop a broad consensus on trade policy is to address the negative consequences of globalization by reaffirming and improving on our longstanding commitment to assist workers impacted by trade. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting these reforms.

MARINO SIMONETTI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Marino Simonetti, who will be honored by the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County at their Past Commanders Ball on April 24. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute.

A 1948 graduate of Wilkes-Barre Township High School, Marino served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952, a period that included the Korean Conflict. Marino returned to the Wyoming Valley following his discharge and worked as an electrical inspector. He also operated Simonetti's Pizzeria.

Marino is active in all local veterans organizations. He is a member of the Korean War Vets, the Catholic War Vets, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is the Bersagliere for the Italian American Vets, overseeing the color guard. He is best known for his dedicated volunteer activities at the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Affairs Medical Center, each year portraying Santa Claus and entertaining hospitalized vets on Saturday mornings at his own expense. His Halloween costumes are now a tradition in the halls of the Medical Center each October.

Marino is a member of the Korean War Vets Memorial Committee, the Committee to Preserve the Memorial at Letterkenny Army Depot, and the Committee to Restore the Italian-American Honor Roll Memorial in the Italian Cemetery. He was a guard at the "Moving Wall" Vietnam Vets memorial when it came to our area and he carried the American

Flag on a march with the Canadian Legion on two occasions.

In 1992, Marino received the Humanitarian Service Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Association and in 1993, he was named "Man of the Year" by the Italian-American Veterans of Luzerne County.

Mr. Speaker, Marino Simonetti is a proud example of the strong tradition of patriotic volunteerism of our area veterans. Our veterans rise to any occasion to assist and support each other and are an integral part of our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I send my very best wishes to Marino on this special occasion and to all of my good friends in the Italian-American Veterans of Luzerne County.

HONORING MARTIN ETLER

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give birthday greetings to a constituent in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Martin Etlar of Elmary Place, who celebrates his birthday on April 24.

Marty was born in Holliswood (Queens), New York, on April 24, 1929, and eight years later in 1937, moved with his parents to Paterson where he graduated from East Side High School in 1947, and then went into the service for four years and three months, serving his country in the Air Force.

As a member of the 301st Bomb Group (352nd Squadron), Marty was stationed first in Guam, then at a Royal Air Force facility outside London, and still later at several bases inside the United States.

In 1952, he moved to Fair Lawn, a town in our district I am proud not only to represent, but also to reside in. He married the lovely Violet DeVries, and though his work in the maintenance department of United Airlines kept him busy for nearly 40 years, he still found time to give back to his community.

As a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for some 20 years, he has given of himself willingly on the first Monday of each month, and many third Mondays—rarely missing a meeting except in the summer when he has coordinated the reunions of his Air Force Squadron and Bomber group all over the United States.

Marty has taken the "job" of being a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment very seriously, almost always going out to the premises for which a variance is sought, looking at the neighborhood, the relief sought, and then trying to work the inevitable compromise between the zoning ordinance and those seeking a variance or relief from something that is otherwise prohibited.

On the occasion of this milestone birthday, Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire Borough of Fair Lawn, and this House of Representatives, wishes him well.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT H.
HOLSTER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Robert H. Holster of Clifton, New Jersey, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He will be honored this Friday, April 9, by parents, family, friends, and professionals for his many years of outstanding contribution to the community. It is only fitting that we are gathered here tonight in his honor, for he epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Bob Holster has a truly storied past, starting with his education from my alma mater, Fordham University, where he graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a minor in Education Psychology. In 1974, Bob attended Columbia University, where he received his Masters of Art in Curriculum and Instruction Specialization. Recently in January of 1999, Bob received his latest achievement, by earning his Doctorate Degree in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University. This educational background serves as the foundation for the outstanding work he is doing each day on behalf of our students.

Educated in Passaic, New Jersey, Bob understands that a successful future for any individual is built upon a strong education. Toward that end, he has served the Passaic School System with distinction for two decades. This exemplary career includes eight years as the Director of Curriculum and nearly six years as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Staff Development. In both roles, Dr. Holster helped to shape the path of learning for thousands of young people in his community.

His tenure has most recently included six years as the Superintendent of Passaic's Public Schools. His tenure has been marked by innovation, steadfast leadership, and an unwavering commitment to each and every student in Passaic, New Jersey.

Superintendent Holster has been recognized many times for his community service, including being named Passaic City Man of the Year in 1987, Lions Club Man of the Year in 1994, and the prestigious "Dissertation Choice Award" from his alma mater Fordham University in 1995.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, over the years I have not only come to know Bob Holster as an outstanding educator, but I am proud to call him a genuine friend. He can always be counted on in tough times and in good ones as well. It is thus with distinct pleasure and privilege that I say these words.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Bob's wife Sharon, his family, friends, and co-workers, the Passaic School System, and the City of Passaic in thanking Superintendent Robert Holster for all his years of service to the community.

April 20, 1999

TRIBUTE TO "RSVP"

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the importance of volunteerism to our Nation. It seems that too often today we turn to the government when we need assistance. While this may be appropriate as a last resort, the government is not the answer to all our distinctly individual problems. Instead, a greater importance must be placed on volunteerism as a means of helping people.

One group of my constituents that is performing this very important societal function is the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In May, RSVP is celebrating their 25th anniversary of service to society. For the past 25 years, this group of 417 active volunteers have served the counties of Brown, Calhoun, Pike, and Schuyler.

RSVP provides hundreds of different community services including tutoring, mentoring, companionship, disaster relief, and child care. The list of community services that RSVP provides goes on and on to fit the needs of individuals in the community. A few examples of the personal care and service that RSVP has given include making sure that Dorothy, who is homebound, receives her afternoon meals and that Jesse, a young student, gets the help he needs with his spelling.

Too often people use "lack of time" as an excuse when declining to volunteer their time. However, some RSVP members volunteer only a few hours a week to helping their community. While a few hours might not sound like a lot, it sure means a lot to Dorothy and young Jesse.

I would like to personally congratulate the Retired Senior Volunteers Program on their upcoming 25th anniversary. They have not only helped their community by volunteering their time and services, but have also helped our Nation by setting an example for all to follow.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW O'LEARY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Matthew Paul O'Leary, who was born on April 20, 1977, in the state of Victoria, Australia. Matt O'Leary was an outstanding athlete who earned the title, "Best and Fairest," on many occasions in the rugged sport of Australian Rules Football. He was an exemplary sportsman in golf, tennis, and cricket, as well. Physical training was a daily part of his happy life. Loving the outdoors, he accompanied his aunt, Helen Soulsby, in an extended bicycle tour across his home state.

Highly intelligent, kind, and immensely popular, Matthew O'Leary lived life intensely and brought great joy to those who knew him. He