

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sheriff Flynn has dedicated his time, his energy and his very big heart to the Mercy Center, a facility for developmentally handicapped children in our community. Through his work, the difficult lives of these young people have been made less difficult. I cannot think of a better definition of leadership, not just by action, but by compassion and decency.

Mike Flynn has a favorite expression—"Only in America." Only in America could the son of a steamfitter get such a tremendous opportunity to serve his family, his community, and his country. Sheriff Flynn has seized that opportunity and made the most of it.

Through all of this, Mike's wife Joan has been an invaluable partner and companion. Their six children and four grandchildren provide them with immense joy, and Sheriff Flynn would be the first to tell you that family always comes first.

Mr. Speaker, I know the entire House joins me in congratulating Worcester County Sheriff Mike Flynn on receiving the Froment-Moroney Leadership by Action award and for his decades of public service.

HONORING THE CAMPANIA CLUB FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the Campania Club of New Haven on its 85th Anniversary. An Italian-American organization, the Campania Club has been a tremendous asset to the New Haven community since its inception in 1914.

Founded by a small group of Italian immigrants, members have worked to promote strong family values. These values—love for family and friends, the importance of giving to others, a commitment to hard work are the foundation upon which our community stands. These are the values passed on from generation to generation. Though it began as a small neighborhood gathering, the Campania Club has grown and developed into an integral part of the foundation on which the New Haven Italian-American community stands. The Italian neighborhood where I grew up was a place where people knew each other, and looked out for each other. It's great to see that things haven't changed.

The strength and integrity of the club lies in the character and commitment of its members, and the historical list of club members' names, past and present, are a true reflection of the quality of the Campania Club. Over the years, membership lists have included many local officials and personalities including former Mayor William C. Celantano, as well as his brother 1967 Man of the Year, Dr. Luca Celentano. Local personalities included Packy DeFonzo and Joseph DeGale for whom the DeGale Trophy was named. Considering a major award in the athletic field, for years the DeGale Trophy was presented to an outstanding city athlete. As the organization has

grown, Club members continue to serve the community by supporting a variety of service organizations, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as local businesses and sports teams. It is this type of dedication that has kept alive the close-knit New Haven Italian community, passing on the legacy and traditions to the next generation.

The Campania Club has strived to promote family values while continuing to foster a proud Italian heritage. It is with great pride that I stand before you today to honor the Campania Club and its members for 85 years of outstanding service to the New Haven community.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize and honor Eleanor Forbes. She is the recipient of the 1998-1999 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition. Eleanor wrote a very moving and patriotic account of American democracy. I ask that the text of her script be inserted into the RECORD in its entirety at the completion of my remarks. Once again, I am proud to recognize Ms. Eleanor Forbes.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"—1998-1999 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(Pennsylvania Winner—Eleanor Forbes)

The voice you hear now is the voice of an American, a proud American. This same voice pledges allegiance to our flag every morning, and sings proudly along with our national anthem when it is played. I am fifteen years old. I do not have the resources to go out and change the world. I do not have the money to give to all my fellow Americans who need it, nor am I old enough to run for president or serve my country in a war. But these are not the only ways I can serve my country. My service to America is expressed in many other ways.

America has provided me with numerous opportunities for which I am grateful. I have the opportunities of education, participation in athletics, work, art and music, among other things. It is my duty as an American to grasp these opportunities firmly now, in my teenage years, so that I can give back to my country later in life. I owe it to America to be the best student I can be, to learn how to write and speak properly, to spell correctly, and to read the intricate works of the great American writers. I must learn to appreciate the artistic and musical works of the great American artists, and learn mathematics, science and history. It is my duty to visit the numerous places that make up American history books; to climb the steep steps of the Statue of Liberty and feel the warmth of heart that the immigrants felt when they first arrived in America. I need to look at the Liberty Bell with glistening eyes and understand its full meaning. To be a good American in the future, I must learn, understand, and accept all of America's past.

Right now, the opportunities to serve my country are limited, but are, by no means, small. For the land itself, I recycle, I put trash in the trashcans to keep our streets

clean. I plant trees to keep our environment healthy. For my fellow citizens I keep myself clean and presentable, I work hard for my money, and buy American products. I do not judge others in an unjust manner, if at all. I abide by the great laws of the country, and I keep myself up to date with the current affairs of America. After all the opportunities and services that America will have provided me by the time I am twenty years old, I will be obliged, not by law but by choice, to give back. I feel that the best way to help America is to help others in the name of my country. I am provided with such an opportunity by organizations like the Peace Corps. Then, in my adult years, I shall be fully prepared to choose a job that will help fellow Americans. I shall work honestly, hard, and be a good citizen. I shall vote and pay my taxes on time. All these things may seem small and trivial to some, but to me, they are ways I can give back to a country that has given so much to me.

America is truly the land of opportunity. My service to America is to grab all the opportunity that is thrown my way and make the most out of it, so that later in my life as an American I am able and ready to provide such an opportunity for others.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE L. STRAIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William L. Strain, Assistant Director of the Communications Department at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. On March 31, Mr. Strain retired from the extension service after 45 years and two months of service.

Mr. Strain is a native of Morgan County, Alabama and a graduate of Morgan City Training School in Hartselle, Alabama. He graduated with honors from Tuskegee Institute where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to Mr. Strain's academic accomplishments, he served his country as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In 1958, Mr. Strain served the people of Alabama as an Assistant Negro County Agent in Butler County. He went on to serve similar positions in Coosa and Tuscaloosa Counties respectively. In 1971, he served as the plaintiff in the civil action landmark court case Strain vs. Philpot, which establish the tone to bring about equal opportunity for Extension minority employees and clients, throughout Alabama and the rest of the nation.

Ever since that landmark case, Mr. Strain continued to dedicate his life to improvements in the Extension Service. He served as a member of numerous professional associations and has received many awards for his outstanding leadership in higher education, development of community relations and professional involvement in local, state and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to add that I am honored to stand here today and congratulate Mr. Willie Strain. He was a trailblazer in