

The John Philip Sousa Foundation designed this award to identify and recognize high school concert band programs of very special excellence at the international level. To be eligible for nomination, a band must have maintained excellence over a period of many years in several areas including concert, marching, small ensemble and soloists. The director must have been the conductor of the band for at least the previous seven consecutive years including the year of the award.

Each recipient receives a four-by-six foot "Flag of Honor" which becomes the property of the band. The flag is designed in red, white and blue and bears the logo of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The conductor receives a personal plaque and each student in the band receives a personalized diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to have such an outstanding high school band in the 14th Congressional District. I am delighted to extend my hearty congratulations to them. Their hard work and dedication is an inspiration to us all.

REPORT FROM WHITLEY COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

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 have 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 recognized this genuine Hoosier Hero in Whitley County, Indiana at a Lincoln Day dinner speech. She is Genny Walter-Thomson, whose devotion to her community has been unflinching. She has worked for decades to improve the lives of the mentally ill. By working tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate, Genny epitomizes a Hoosier Hero.

Genny's special love is for children. She has worked hard to build the new YMCA so the youth of this community can direct their energies in a positive direction. She also serves on the Welfare-to-Work board to help people with the transition from dependence to dignity.

Genny's work has given many people the most precious gift possible, hope. She doesn't help people for the pay, which is zilch, she does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Genny Walter-Thomson deserves the gratitude of the country, state, and nation, and I thank her here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1480) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1480, a bill to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Section 326 of the legislation, which addresses the modification of a project on the West Bank of the Mississippi River for flood control and storm damage reduction, contains language which clarifies the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, commonly known as "Superfund," to the project. As you know, the Superfund statute is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce, and this provision falls within that jurisdiction.

However, I have no objection to the inclusion of this provision. I recently sent Chairman SHUSTER a letter indicating that I would not seek a sequential referral of the bill, and ask unanimous consent that the letter appear in the RECORD at this point.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 27, 1999.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR BUD: I am writing with regard to H.R. 1480, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes. Section 326 of the legislation, modifying the project for flood control and storm damage reduction, West Bank of the Mississippi River (East of Harvey Canal), Louisiana, contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce. Specifically paragraph (a)(1) clarifies the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA") of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) to the project.

Because of the importance of this legislation, I recognize your desire to bring it before the House in an expeditious manner. I will not exercise the Committee's right to a sequential referral. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 1480. In addition, the Commerce Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be con-

vened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 1480 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter as part of the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I remain,

Sincerely,

TOM BLILEY,
Chairman.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
OLIVER OCASEK

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor Oliver Ocasek—one of Ohio's most distinguished citizens. On May 20, Oliver Ocasek will receive the YMCA of the USA's Volunteerism Award—the YMCA's highest honor. The YMCA is honoring Ocasek for his more than 50 years of service to youth organizations. We rise today, not only to recognize his deserved selection for this award, but to recognize a lifetime of service to the people of Ohio.

Sen. Ocasek's devotion to education extends well beyond his volunteerism with the YMCA. He co-founded the Ohio Hi-Y Youth in Government Model Legislature program with Governor C. William O'Neill in 1952 and supervised it throughout his service on the Ohio-West Virginia Board of the YMCA. He has served on the greater Akron area boards of Goodwill Industries, Shelter Care, and the Salvation Army. He also has been a professional educator in a wide variety of capacities: a teacher, a principal, a school superintendent, and a professor at both the University of Akron and Kent State University. He was instrumental in bringing together our regional institutions of higher learning to create the Northeastern Ohio Universities' College of Medicine. He capped his educational service with three terms on Ohio's State Board of Education.

This breadth of service to youth is impressive by itself. But alone, it does not capture Oliver Ocasek's contribution to the people of Ohio. Oliver Ocasek was one of the most influential legislators in the Statehouse, where he served in the Senate for 28 years from 1958 to 1986. In the 1970's, he became the first Senate President elected by his peers due to a change in the Ohio Constitution. Along with Republican Governor James Rhodes and Democratic House Speaker Vernal Riffe, Sen. Ocasek made many of the decisions to keep state government moving forward. He was an expert on Ohio's complex school funding system and used his knowledge, experience, and position to benefit local students. His enormous influence came from his savvy and from the hard, tedious work of studying, debating, refining, and reaching decisions on difficult and often contentious state issues.

He is astute, well-steeped in history, a gifted orator and a man of heart-felt compassion.