

began a quarter of a century of teaching youth not only about boxing, but about dedication, physical well being, and pride in one's self and one's abilities.

Since 1973, over 2,800 young people have benefited from the programs that the Azteca Boxing Team has had to offer, many of whom have ventured and excelled in the field of professional boxing. The large volunteer staff they maintain assist in the children's total development, including educational guidance, diverse cultural experiences, and community activism and awareness. The group, an official non-profit organization, receives 98 percent of its funding from donations, including computers for their students, field trips, and more. The remaining 2 percent comes from a \$2 membership fee, however they have pledged never to turn away a child due to lack of funds.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that the Azteca Boxing Team has given the Pontiac community is tremendous. Many of these youngsters owe their very lives to the impact that the group has made. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Ruben Flores, Juventino Prieto, and Robert Paramo for all their efforts.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR
GERALD CARDINALE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate state Senator Gerald Cardinale on receiving the prestigious Lincoln Award from the Woodcliff Lake Republican Club in recognition of his many years of service in the New Jersey Legislature and service to the community. This award is given to officials who epitomize the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and the ideals of the Republican Party. Senator Cardinale meets that test and clearly deserves this high honor in recognition of his hard work and dedication. Whether he is raising money for the Boy Scouts, attending to his dental practice or giving a speech on the Senate floor, he is one of New Jersey's finest public servants.

I have known Gerry Cardinale for many years and can tell you he is a gentleman of integrity and character. It has been a pleasure to work with him on projects of mutual concern in our home county of Bergen. He has been a source of sound advice and counsel. He has done much to make our community a good place to live, work, and raise a family.

Senator Cardinale has been a member of the state senate since 1981, following two years in the state assembly. He is currently deputy majority leader and, as chairman of the powerful and influential Senate Commerce Committee, presides over all legislation dealing with the business community, labor, insurance, industry and professions. Legislation he has sponsored to promote business and job development has included unemployment and automobile insurance reforms, lawsuit reform, tax relief for money market mutual funds, a 30-year rent control moratorium for new construction and government incentives for forma-

tion of corporate day care centers by the private sector.

Senator Cardinale has been involved in politics since he was elected to the Bergen County Republican Committee in 1962. He served as mayor of Demarest from 1974 to 1979 before being elected to the state assembly. He has been a delegate or alternate delegate to every Republican National Convention since 1980 except 1996 (when illness kept him from attending). He sought the Republican nomination for Governor in 1989.

Senator Cardinale is a true citizen legislator, operating his own dental practice in Fort Lee since 1959. He is a graduate of St. John's University and the New York University College of Dentistry. In addition to his political and professional careers, he has been active with many community organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, UNICO, the Sons of Italy, the Columbians and the Elks Club. A native of Brooklyn, he discovered the charms of New Jersey and moved to Fort Lee in 1960. He has lived in Demarest since 1964 and he and his wife, Carole, have raised five wonderful children in New Jersey—Marisa, Christine, Kara, Gary, and Nicole.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my good friend Gerald Cardinale on this occasion and wishing him success in the future. He is a truly dedicated public servant who cares deeply about those in his community and does all in his power to improve life in the State of New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. DOYLE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. Doyle, a valuable principal in my district who is retiring. Thomas Doyle is retiring after 42 years of dedicated service to the Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Doyle has been the principal at Byrne Elementary School since September of 1989. He has administered the Chicago Board of Education since 1957, where he started his career at the Graham Elementary School as a physical education teacher. In addition to Mr. Doyle's work with the Chicago Board of Education, he was also an instructor at other educational institutions. He worked summers from 1967 to 1970 at the Pirie School Teacher training Workshops as an instructor for Audio-Visual Techniques. Mr. Doyle worked part time as an instructor for various institutions, including Chicago State University and Daley City College. Mr. Doyle is committed to numerous professional affiliations and activities including serving as a member of the State of Illinois Reading Subgoals Committee, International Reading Association, the State Evaluation Team for the Illinois Office of Education, and the Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA).

Mr. Doyle's fairness, generosity, and positive attitude generate a strong respect from his staff and students. Mr. Doyle is attentive to the needs and concerns of the students and par-

ents. As the leader of instructional activities, Mr. Doyle gives student recognition for academic achievement in the classroom. His positive reinforcement has boosted the morale of both the teachers and students of Byrne Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Doyle's forty-two years of commitment to our youth is certainly worthy of recognition. I know that the community joins me in thanking Mr. Doyle for his dedication to our children.

RECOGNITION OF DIANE
PONTICELLI, MOTHER TO 1,022
CHILDREN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Diane Ponticelli, an eighty-year-old resident of Johnston, Rhode Island who recently received—for the second time—the key to her hometown, in commemoration of her thirty-five years of service and dedication to more than 1,000 children for whom she cared over the years.

This selfless, big-hearted woman has been, and still is, a mother to these children, and the adults they have become, in every positive sense of the word. She considers each and every one of them to be her own child and has always treated them accordingly. In a recent article in the Providence Journal, Mrs. Ponticelli remarked that she loves children and wishes she "could take care of more." I stand in awe of this woman and her incredible gift of unconditional love and acceptance to these children, who undoubtedly struggled through difficult family situations until finding the security provided in the Ponticelli home.

At one point, Mrs. Ponticelli had nine children staying in her house in Johnston, many placed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families. She took in entire families of children so that siblings would not be separated; she gave up her own bedroom for the children and slept on a couch near one of her physically-disabled charges; she cooked big Italian dinners and maintained three sheds, four freezers, and three refrigerators; all the while, she showered them love, practiced discipline, and provided them with a stable, caring home. Mrs. Ponticelli is now eighty years old, suffering from cancer, voiceless because of sickness, and small and frail, yet she remains a figure larger than life. Her capacity for love knows no bounds, and her children reflect that same sense of caring and devotion, visiting her often and caring for her in her illness.

We often decry cases in which our foster care system has run awry and allowed innocent children to fall through the cracks. Tragedies such as the recent shooting in Littleton, Colorado, force us to reexamine and reevaluate what we are teaching our children, at home and at school. As often as we lament these tragedies, however, we must celebrate the occasions in which the system and strong parenting work. We must recognize that when