

dedicated over forty years of his life serving as a mentor and inspiring youth.

Mr. Bartoszek, a native of Cleveland, was a toolmaker for Cleveland Pneumatic Tool Co. until his retirement eighteen years ago. A veteran who proudly served our nation during World War II, with a tour in France and Germany, he was an active member of Catholic War Veterans Post 1812 and VFW Post 108.

Mr. Bartoszek found his true passion when he was thirteen, when he joined the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Bartoszek spent forty years as a Scoutmaster and Explorer adviser. During his long and distinguished career with the Scouts he received many awards, including the Silver Beaver, Scouting's highest honor for volunteers. Mr. Bartoszek spent over ten summers working with youth at Tinnerman Canoe Base as a counselor of the Ad Altare Dei program, Pope Pius XII retreats, and Scout development sessions.

Mr. Bartoszek touched countless lives with his endless devotion to helping young men, and his steadfast commitment to creating a better society. Mr. Bartoszek is a friend to all, a man who tirelessly dedicated his life to the betterment of others, and a man who has served the larger community a greater deed than we will ever be able to thank him enough for.

I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in celebrating the life and tremendous accomplishments of this truly remarkable man.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
JERRY RAYMOND

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifetime achievements of Mr. Jerry Raymond who passed away in January 1999 and offer my sincere condolences to his family.

Jerry Raymond was a remarkable man whose many contributions to Wayne county, the labor movement and the City of Livonia will be long remembered. He was a 49 year resident of Livonia and served on the City Council from 1966 to 1980. Always cognizant of the needs of others, his favorite saying was "People come first." He advocated for housing for seniors before it was the popular thing to do. His sensitivity to others is undoubtedly why he was re-elected to office so many times.

There are many other fascinating things that are important to know about this special man. He quit high school after his mother died and his father lost his job. As he moved around the country looking for a job, he started getting involved in strikes and joined the cause of working men and women. He became a union activist and his leadership in the labor movement brought him national recognition. Despite his many achievements, Jerry felt something was missing as he watched other family members pursue a higher education. Although he did not have a high school diploma, he enrolled in law school. He graduated Cum Laude and was honored by being elected President

of his class. He opened a law practice called Jerry Raymond and Associates in Livonia and practiced law until shortly before his death.

Jerry was a special friend, role-model and mentor to many including myself. He was very involved in his community and in democratic politics. He is missed by everyone whose life he touched, but his spirit lives on in our memories and in the legacy he left behind.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH TAKACS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I remember Joseph Takacs, a man who devoted his life to the betterment of mankind, and the struggles of those who needed help the most.

Mr. Takacs led the autoworkers at General Motor's Fisher Body plant in Cleveland for more than 10 nonconsecutive years in the 1960's and 1970's. A courageous fighter for the working man, Mr. Takacs was one of 250 workers who staged a sit-in at General Motor's Cleveland plant that lasted from December 1936 into February 1937. Through the dedication and determination of Mr. Takacs and his striking colleagues a nationwide strike began. The strike forced the company to recognize the union as a bargaining agent for its hourly employees, even today, considered one of the greatest union victories.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Takacs was a dedicated man who committed his life to union reform, helping the poor, and fighting for the working men and women of this nation. Mr. Takacs was an inspirational leader and a mentor for generations to come. A champion of the causes of working people, Mr. Takacs never turned his back on anyone. A leader dedicated to his fellow colleagues, during strikes, Mr. Takacs would beg for food to make sure that there was always food at the union hall.

Mr. Takacs, a past president of United Auto Workers Local 45, has served on the front lines of the battle for working families since the 1930's. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this truly remarkable man, who has dedicated his life to serving others.

PASSAGE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, because the House passed H.R. 4865, the Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act, by a vote of 265-159, this Member encourages his colleagues to read the following editorial, from the August 5, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News. This editorial highlights why the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4865. In particular, this editorial correctly states that the taxation of Social Security benefits was not within the original intent of those who created this system.

[From the Daily News, Aug. 5, 2000]

"CONTRACT" NOT NOW MENTIONED

TAX REDUCTION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WOULD AID ELDERLY PAYERS

A modest tax cut proposal that would benefit some 9 million Social Security recipients is apparently going nowhere because of a threatened presidential veto.

Under the plan, which won a 265-159 vote in the House, with 52 Democrats joining the Republican majority, the amount of benefits subject to taxation could drop from 85 percent to 50 percent. That change would restore a tax level in effect until the 1993 increase urged by President Clinton and for which Vice President Gore cast the deciding vote.

Given current surplus levels, the change is easily affordable for Uncle Sam's standpoint. More than that, however, the change is in keeping with the original philosophy of the program. That is, to provide an old-age benefit to workers from earnings on which taxes had already been paid. It was much later that these benefits became an important new source of tax revenue for the U.S. Treasury.

It is of special interest that the same partisans who now protest a reduction in this tax, since it might help individual elderly people now earning as much as \$34,000 annually or married couples at a \$44,000 level, are the ones who have long berated opponents as "breaking a contract" on Social Security with any proposed alteration of benefits. They were silent when the benefits were effectively reduced with higher taxation.

Taxing those benefits was not the original intent of those who devised the system. Whatever implied contract existed was long ago violated by the decision to lump the benefits with other income and make it subject to regular taxation.

The system long discriminated against Social Security beneficiaries who worked for income rather than acquiring their extra money from interest payments or dividends. The imposition of the greater tax load—argued as necessary in 1993 in order to overcome deficits—did nothing to restore equity.

Much can and must be done to simplify the tax system, including that applicable to the Social Security beneficiaries, but such action must not preclude a simple reduction in rates to reflect the fact that excessive federal surpluses amount to a government taking of private wealth.

HONORING ING. KAROL MITRIK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Ing. Karol Mitrik, Mayor of Spisska Nova Ves, for his outstanding leadership and dedication to his fellow countrymen.

One of six children Ing. Karol Mitrik was born in Spisska Nova Ves where he was taught an early lesson in the value of work, working sunrise to sunset on a farm. His childhood experience led him to pursue an education in the area of agriculture. He graduated in 1981 with a Master's degree in Agronomy from the Agricultural University in Nitra. In 1994 he finished studies in the City University with Certificate in Effective Management.