

in England from December 7, 1942 until February 4, 1946.

I want to take this opportunity to salute the men of the 352nd fighter group. They, along with the millions of young men and women who served our country in uniform during World War II, served side by side to restore the peace and the freedom to those overwhelmed by tyranny.

Americans of all religions, of all races, and of diverse political philosophies, came together on the battlefield and on the homefront, helping to extinguish the flames of oppression and the evil that infected mankind throughout the world. America provided a beacon of hope in a dark sea of despair.

We must never forget those brave men and women who served in the war that changed our future. Since they have returned home, they have faithfully served this country with dignity and with strengthened character. They have all helped to create the single greatest country on the face of the earth and have altered, for the better, the future of mankind, both at home and abroad.

America can never fully repay her veterans. However, we can honor these courageous individuals by treasuring the freedom they preserved.

Mr. Speaker, the men of the 352nd fighter group all answered the call to duty when their country needed them. They are true American heroes.

CONGRATULATING PORTER-STARKE SERVICES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Porter-Starke Services, located in Porter County, Indiana, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary this Friday, September 22, 2000. Porter-Starke Services will commemorate its 25 years of dedicated service to the community of Northwest Indiana in a gala celebration entitled "A Silver Lining," to be held at the Porter County Expo Center in Valparaiso, Indiana. The celebration will serve as an opportunity for Porter-Starke to reaffirm its commitment to excellence in mental health services for individuals in Valparaiso, Portage, and the surrounding communities.

Porter-Starke Services grew from a grassroots effort initiated by citizens located within ten miles of a large state mental hospital. Concerned with the quality of care provided by the state hospital, the volunteers sought to provide improved care alternatives for those whose lives are affected by mental illness. To that end, Porter-Starke Services was incorporated in 1967 as LaPorte-Porter-Starke Services, and those volunteers served as its first board of directors. The name of the center reflected the three counties involved in the original effort. By 1968, LaPorte County had withdrawn from the group to form its own center, the Swanson Center for Mental Health. Thus, in 1968, the charter was altered, and Porter-Starke Services was born.

From 1967 through 1973, Porter-Starke Services' volunteer board of directors worked tirelessly to raise the capital to build an adequate facility, find a location suitable for the main center, and organize a comprehensive and effective program. Ultimately, land was donated by the Urschel family, and state and local funding was secured for financing construction of a facility in Valparaiso, Indiana. During the past two decades, Porter-Starke has continued to grow and change, reflecting the needs of the communities while remaining committed to the highest caliber of mental health care.

Over its 25 years of development, Porter-Starke has been fortunate enough to receive support and assistance from numerous community leaders and good Samaritans in Northwest Indiana. This year, Porter-Starke Services and the Mental Health Association of Porter County are recognizing several of these individuals for their dedication and commitment to the mental health field at a special dinner, prior to the gala celebration at the Expo Center. Larry Sheets and Lee E. Grogg will receive the Aled P. Davies Award for Public Policy on Health, the Gale C. Corley President's Award will be presented to Charles Walker, and the Patient Care and Advocacy Award will be given to John Wilhelm. Marilyn Lindner will receive the Porter-Starke Award for Community Mental Health, while Karen Conover will receive the Robert Anderson Community Education and Service Award. The Mental Health Association of Porter County will present Randy Zromkoski the Distinguished Service Award, Julane Corneil the United Way Agency Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Cooks Corners Elementary School, Kenya Jenkins, and Velma Strawhun will all receive the Friends of the Mental Health Association Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the administrators, health care professionals, and countless individuals who, over the years, have contributed to Porter-Starke's success in achieving its standard of excellence. Their hard work has improved the quality of life for everyone in Indiana's First Congressional District.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON BUDGET CONCEPTS ACT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the National Commission on Budget Concepts Act.

Over three decades ago, President Lyndon Johnson established his Commission on Budget Concepts. The Commission's task—to make the Federal budget a more useful document for public policy making—was no easy assignment. Nonetheless, the Commission put forth many sound suggestions that policy makers and the public embraced. That was thirty-three years ago.

Times have changed. Before Republicans balanced the budget, we had deficits as far as

the eye could see. Now we are forecasting surpluses in the trillions of dollars. Suddenly everybody agrees that the Social Security surplus should not be touched. We are taking trust funds offbudget. We are paying off principle on the debt.

Mr. Speaker, we are treading on unfamiliar ground. We should establish a new commission that will review the federal budget in today's terms, and figure out how it can best be presented in today's climate.

GAIL M. EDWARDS: A TRUE AMERICAN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gail M. Edwards on the occasion of his retirement, after nearly thirty-five years as a pilot with Trans World Airlines (TWA).

Gail is an ideal American and a man whose life and career have made us proud. He was born on July 16, 1935 and grew up in Indiana with his mother, Dorris Wannetta Edwards, his father, Harold Perry Edwards, and his brother, Victor Royce Edwards. He was the first of his family to graduate from college, and he received his degree from Indiana University in 1957.

He joined the United States Air Force immediately after college, fulfilling his lifelong goal of flying. As a child, he had spent many hours building model airplanes and hanging them around his room. He volunteered to fly volunteer airlift missions to Vietnam during the Vietnam War and then served in the Air National Guard for many years after the war, retiring as a Full Bird Colonel, Vice Wing Commander, Tactical Airlift Wing. He received two Air Force Commendation Medals.

Years later, when the nation was in the Gulf War conflict, he volunteered again. He ran into the Commanding General of the California Air National Guard and said, "Call me if you need a grizzly, gray-haired old man to fly a 130." They both smiled and Gail knew he wasn't going to get a call, but they also both knew if he did get a call, he would say, "You bet!"

Gail loved the Air Force for opening up vast vistas for him. He believed the Air Force was a "God-send." He loved every minute of it. While on duty in England and Japan, Gail met and married Kathleen Riley, an English/Speech/Drama teacher on American Airforce bases, in 1962.

Leaving the Air Force in January, 1966, he went to work for TWA and has been a pilot for TWA for nearly thirty-five years. He has said that after the Air Force taught him to fly and allowed him to experience the world, TWA gave him the opportunity to share it with his family and all the other passengers.

Gail lives with his wife of 38 years in Redondo Beach, California. His children are Kimberly Ellen Edwards (32) of San Diego and Jonathan Kyle Edwards (28) of Scottsdale.

He enjoyed working for TWA, and even more, he loved serving his country. He is extremely patriotic, just the kind of citizen we all want to be. He has volunteered with the