

editor of the Award-winning weekly newspaper, The Monroe Journal. She also distinguished herself through community service in several capacities. To name a few, she was president and/or board member of the Monroe Area Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe County Public Education Foundation, the Monroeville Kiwanis Club (where she was the first woman elected as "Kiwanian of the Year"). She also served as a volunteer for the Monroe County Heritage Museums, and for the Alabama Writers Symposium during their inaugural year. In addition, she served in Israel as the representative of the Monroe County Commission and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce during performances of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Manifesting her talent, Mrs. Culpepper is a two-time recipient of the Alabama Medical Association's Douglas L. Cannon Recognition for Excellence in Medical Journalism.

As editor of the Monroe Journal and, later, economic developer for Monroe County from 1997-2000 and as chairman of the Monroe County Hospital Board, Mrs. Culpepper was an advocate for accessible health care for all citizens regardless of age, social or economic status. She was a driving force behind expansion of hospital services and creation of a rural health clinic in Monroe County.

Under Mrs. Culpepper's leadership, the hospital in Monroeville embarked on a major expansion and construction project, the creation of a cancer-treatment center and the development of a diabetes support program. She also oversaw the creation of Monroe Health Foundation and has been a contributor to the foundation.

Today, Mrs. Culpepper serves as executive director of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Her commitment to community development—preservation, education, and innovation in enriching the lives of all citizens continues. She is committed to developing a regional network of cultural, civic and humanitarian efforts to benefit all residents of south Alabama and continues to be a friend to Monroe County and Monroe County Hospital in this endeavor.

HONORING MONTE BLUM AND HIS HEROIC SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a great man, a real American hero. My statement today is a formal "Thank You" to Mr. Monte Blum, a proud veteran from World War II. It is a thank you he has never expected or asked for from his country.

The middle son of Russian immigrants, 19-year old Monte Blum enlisted in the Army and volunteered for the hazardous duty of disarming underwater mines as a deep sea diver in the 106th Engineering Corps. Clearing the way for ally shipping lanes off the coast of France in 1944, Cpl. Blum's attempt to disarm an enemy mine was disastrous when the explosive detonated.

With little chance for survival, Cpl. Blum was transported to a military hospital in Wales. His

oldest brother Herman Blum, who received medals for heroism in the Battle of the Bulge, traveled from his post in Germany to take his younger brother back to America to live out his last days.

Herman was determined not to let his brother Monte die overseas. After months of prayer, a miracle occurred—Monte Blum survived. He was subsequently awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Monte Blum will be turning 75 on February 26. He has been married to Helene Englander for 49 years and raised a son, Murray and a daughter, Robin. His children say that affection for their father gave them strength as Mr. Blum was in and out of the hospital during their youth. After dozens upon dozens of operations, medical technology finally was able to stem the constant discomfort they saw him endure while they were growing up. Helene was a constant rock and loving companion in tough years that would have sent most weaker wives packing.

In spite of his disability, Monte Blum was a hard working and successful business man all his life. No one but his immediate family ever knew that he had health problems. He held his head high, and provided a happy home or a well-loved family. He not only sent his two children to college but was instrumental for the education of 2 neighborhood kids. When there wasn't a synagogue in Baltimore where he bought his family a home, he pitched in and built one.

He taught his children about sacrifice and his undying love of our country. He emphasized the values of family, Judaism and kindness. His wife and children watched him laugh when he should have cried and never, never ever to this day, did he once complain.

His family has endured many tragedies. His older brother Lt. Senior Grade, Murray Blum, at 22, was killed in action as he dove overboard from a Merchant Marine vessel to rescue a drowning Swedish sailor, the only man to have perished on the ship, the SS Leonardis Polk. Murray Blum is buried in Cambridge, England at the beautifully tender U.S. Military Cemetery. His brother Simon who worked stateside in the service because of a disability, died of a heart attack, after the war.

Retired Major Herman Blum, who received a Bronze Star, died September 23, 2000 at age 82 and received a full military send-off befitting a retired Army Major and now rests with his parents and brothers.

At this point in his life, Monte Blum is a frail health, but still walks with dignity and the step of a man half his age. He is surrounded by those who adore him. Monte Blum and his youngest brother Calvin, who was in the 67th Flight Corps, remain the best of friends.

He is a living monument and the embodiment, the heart and soul of the greatest generation. With Veterans Day approaching, we would do well to recount the service and sacrifice of veterans like Monte Blum.

ON BEHALF OF PEIRCE COLLEGE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Peirce College, a matchless institution of higher education located in my district of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Peirce College has taken great strides to bridge the digital divide and become an institution dedicated to providing graduates for the information age. In fact, Peirce recently took two significant steps towards this goal. First, with the opening of its state-of-the-art alumni Hall and second, through the recent approval of its online degree programs.

Despite its purely urban location, Peirce College is reaching out to provide competitive workforce and technology programs to individuals living in the more rural parts of Pennsylvania. Peirce College is well positioned to do this. In Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Peirce's off-site programs enrolled 408 students from rural and suburban areas across Pennsylvania. Through distance learning technologies, Peirce College intends to connect all of its students and programs including those in the rural areas of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has one of the largest rural population of any state in the country. To this extent, the Peirce distance learning programs can offer a significant opportunity for students, many of whom are adult learners, to gain training in education programs that are technology oriented and needed in today's job market.

I support Peirce College in its effort to secure a federal partnership to expand its on-line and distance learning programs. To that end, I have worked with Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, ranking member for the House Appropriations subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Relocated Agencies. In this year's Fiscal Year 2001 House passed Agriculture Appropriation bill, report language was included to direct the Department of Agriculture to give consideration to the distance learning at Peirce College under the distance learning and telemedicine grant program.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, as authorized by the Food Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, aims to provide access to telecommunications services to improve rural educational opportunities. This program provided facilities and equipment to link rural education with more urban centers in order to increase educational opportunities for rural students. As such, I believe this program is well aligned with the goals and actions of Peirce College.

I strongly support Peirce college's proposal for a distant learning grant and look forward to working with the Department of Agriculture and the Committee to insure that Peirce College proposal receives full and fair consideration.