

Championships, she led the team in runs scored.

Laura has brought honor and credit to the community and country as part of the U.S. team that won the gold medal in softball at both the Atlanta and the recently concluded Sydney Olympic games. Laura Berg's leadership and persistence not only helped the U.S. softball team rebound from losing three games in a row, she powered the game-winning run against Japan that gave the United States the gold medal in Softball at the 2000 Sydney Olympic games.

In returning to her roots at Lakeland Elementary School, Ms. Berg challenged students to never give up on their dreams and stressed the value of education.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to rise in support of Ms. Berg, not only for her accomplishments on the field but also to recognize her as an outstanding role model for the youth of this country.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to stand before the House today to honor the Fairfax County Park Authority's 50th anniversary on December 8, 2000. Fifty years ago, private citizens were the catalyst for the creation of the Fairfax County Park Authority. Looking to the future, they worked with the county's elected officials to establish the means to protect open space, historic sites, places for family recreation, and resource areas where wildlife could continue to thrive.

The wisdom of those farsighted activists is evident today. Islands of woodlands and playing fields, strips of stream valleys and trails, historic fragments of Old Fairfax, Virginia and centers for active recreation and leisure pursuits form a patchwork of parks across the county, accessible to everyone and offering something for every interest. Fairfax County has a park system recognized as among the best in the nation.

The Park Authority has over 386 parks on more than 19,326 acres. Park facilities include a horticulture center, a working farm, an activities and equestrian center, eight indoor RE-Centers, five nature and visitor centers, eight golf courses, on/off-leash dog park, three lakes, two campgrounds, an ice skating rink, a Water Park and a working mill. Recreational opportunities in the parks abound, with millions of people per year enjoying picnicking, hiking, fishing, tennis and golf. There are also carousels, miniature golf courses, amphitheaters and marinas.

Together, people of Fairfax and their Park Authority have kept trust with the ideals of those who founded the Park Authority. With the support of the people and volunteers, the agency has maintained its commitment to preservation, protection and play. With their support the agency has survived shifting attitudes towards land use, the ups and downs of

budget, changes in government and shifts in demographics.

The Fairfax County Park Authority was created in 1950 to plan, acquire, develop, operate and maintain a park and recreation facility system that would contribute to the quality of life and environment for the citizens, visitors and tourists to Fairfax County. Over the past five decades, this system has evolved into a diversified mosaic of open space and recreation facilities, ranging from small neighborhood parks to an extensive network of county-wide parks which afford a variety of recreational opportunities for county residents. The park system also serves as the primary public mechanism for the preservation of environmentally sensitive land, water resources and areas of historic significance.

The Park Authority protects, manages and preserves thousands of natural and cultural resources located within its 19,326 acres. The cultural resources, bits and pieces of our history which allow us to understand our present and plan our future, include structures, roads, landscapes, folklore, artifacts, historic and prehistoric archaeological sites. These resources are preserved for our enjoyment and the education of our children.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this December, the Park Authority will mark a half century of touching people's lives. Today, the children and the grandchildren of our original park patrons come to our parks for recreation, relaxation and respite. Together, people and parks will build on the past to shape the future. Like the couple at the golden wedding party, I toast a powerful union and an enduring relationship.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER DISTRICT DIRECTOR AND FRIEND JOHN J. MCGUIRE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 16, 2000, John J. McGuire, my former District Director in Syracuse, New York, and close, personal friend, died after a long battle with brain cancer. John served as an integral part of my staff since my election to Congress in 1988. Prior to that time, he served as a compliance officer for 11 years with the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor in Syracuse.

John McGuire, a former Marine, was a highly decorated disabled American veteran. He is a past recipient of the Veterans Service Award from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, four Special Achievement Awards and the Federal Distinguished Career Award. After serving as a sergeant in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, John taught English both here in the United States and in the Balkans.

With John's death early last week, his wife and children lost a terrific husband and father, and I lost a neighbor, a close advisor and loyal friend. The Central New York community lost a tireless worker and community advocate, and the entire nation lost a dedicated public servant and true American patriot.

I submit the attached column by Mr. Sean Kirst printed in the October 18th issue of the Syracuse Post-Standard, which so eloquently details John McGuire's motivation and career, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to commemorate his distinguished life.

He certainly will be missed, but can never be forgotten.

VETERAN, AIDE, FAMILY MAN DIDN'T DIE FOR NOTHING

John McGuire was a neighbor. He lived on the dead-end block of Robineau Road in Syracuse. Years ago, he bought a big metal pole and set it into a deep hole. He got a backboard and a rim, and he hung them above the street.

His children, all the time, were out there playing basketball. Other kids often joined them in shooting hoops. Sometimes they were kids McGuire never saw before.

It became clear, over the years, that he was a true believer.

McGuire, 55 died Monday morning. His death was the second jolt in recent weeks on our small block, where Nick Rossi, a teacher, also died of cancer. In a sense, that is the cost of any strong neighborhood. With every loss, the fabric changes—much like a family.

Years ago, Representative JIM WALSH also lived on that same block. WALSH and McGuire, as neighbors, turned into good friends. When WALSH was elected to Congress, he asked McGuire to join his staff. McGuire was called "district director," but an awful lot of people knew him as WALSH's guy for vets.

WALSH will tell you he got lucky. He couldn't have made a better choice. There are countless stories of McGuire going to the wall to help someone receive benefits, or McGuire helping old veterans get the medals they deserved.

McGuire was an ex-Marine, a combat veteran of Vietnam. Sometimes he'd be sitting outside on his porch, watching a crowd of kids playing basketball, and he'd talk a little about the war. He spoke in a soft voice, with an accent forged in Brooklyn, and he'd recall the time they split dozens of Marines into two groups. They put both groups on different planes, to fly to the same place.

One plane got hit. Everybody died. John McGuire was on the other plane.

He came home angry, he said, lacking faith in anything. He wondered at the senseless luck that sent him back alive, when good friends in Vietnam seemed to die for nothing. Over the next few years, he forged a hard logic. He dedicated himself to justifying those who died, and the best way to do it was by helping veterans. If that circle went unbroken, then their sacrifice made sense.

That is what he did, for the rest of his life. He married a strong woman, Joyce Kusak, and they had four terrific children. McGuire lived for two things—his family and his cause. Kusak-McGuire tells a story of standing exhausted at the door, a newborn baby in her arms, while her husband left in the middle of the night to take down a veteran threatening suicide.

The McGuires settled on the dead-end block of Robineau. Years later, my family moved in down the street. One night, McGuire sat on the porch and watched a crowd of kids shooting baskets. Some of them he knew. Some of them he'd never seen. As he watched, he explained why he lived in the city.

He expressed a great respect, almost a reverence, for elderly veterans. He spoke of how he admired his parents and their contemporaries, the way they dealt with the Great

Depression, World War II, all the fears of the Cold War. But he also said that generation could not solve every problem, and one of the problems handed down was the polarization over race.

"We'll never solve anything," McGuire said, "unless we take it on." His wife felt the same way. They stayed in Syracuse.

A couple of years ago, McGuire returned to his hotel room at a business meeting. He kept trying to push his room key into the lock, upside down. His close friend, Harry Schultz, knew something was wrong. He got McGuire to a nurse, who examined him and then rushed him to a hospital. Brain tumor. They did surgery, but the tumor eventually came back.

McGuire, in the past few months, often took long walks. I saw him walking on a June morning with his son Aiden just after I returned from a conference in Washington. I think McGuire also had his toddler grandson with him, but maybe that is how I want to remember it.

I had visited the Wall, the Vietnam Memorial, for the first time. By coincidence, I had been there on Father's Day. As always happens on that day, there was a gathering for grown children of the soldiers whose names are on the wall. They brought sponges and buckets of water. They scrubbed their fathers' names to a shine.

I told McGuire the story. He started weeping, shoulders heaving, in the middle of the road. He said something—his voice cracking—about men who died for nothing.

That burden's gone. He's with them now. He spent his life shining the wall.

INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S.-
SINGAPORE FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Act of 2000. It is a critical and timely piece of legislation.

Positioned strategically amid vital shipping lanes, Singapore is one of the United States' closest, most strategically important friends in Southeast Asia. Singapore is the tenth largest export market for the United States. Literally thousands of Americans depend on exports to Singapore for their jobs. The U.S. is also the number one foreign investor in Singapore—with a total of \$25 billion in 1999. There are more than 1,300 U.S. businesses with offices in Singapore and more than 13,000 U.S. citizens living in the multi-ethnic island nation.

Singapore has established itself as the business hub for Southeast Asia and it is quickly becoming a hub for much of the rest of Asia.

Not just in business, but also on vital national security issues, Singapore offers us a perspective on the region informed by kinship with its neighbors and its own history of development. It is a reliable source of stability in a region of the world undergoing generally positive, but sometimes wrenching political, economic, and societal change. The U.S. Western Pacific Logistics Command is based in Singapore, and Singapore and the U.S. conduct both joint air and joint naval exercises. Most

recently, Singapore has undertaken to build a deep-water pier and naval base, entirely at their own expense, and offered its services to U.S. aircraft carriers.

Singapore's trading regime in goods and services is the freest in Asia. The environment for foreign investment is inviting and the government is a helpful hand for Americans looking to make investments. Having said that, however, there are sectors where American companies are eager to compete. I am hopeful that a U.S.-Singapore trade agreement can both recognize the very free trade and investments relationship that exists and at the same time provide even greater opportunities for American business.

A free trade agreement with Singapore is important for the international free trade agenda as well. The United States must continue to work to bring down barriers to trade throughout the world. Free traders in Congress have had some key victories this year with the Africa Free Trade Bill, the Caribbean Basin Initiative and PNTR for China. We all celebrated those victories, as well we should. However, an anti-trade element still exists in Congress that seeks to turn the political tide against free trade. It will take constant vigilance to build and sustain an active free trade constituency. It is my hope that progress on a Singapore agreement will lead to bi-lateral and multilateral agreements with other Pacific Rim countries that share our interest in opening markets.

A U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement serves several key U.S. national interest. It supports U.S. jobs. It supports U.S. worldwide investment. It solidifies a vital trans-Pacific U.S. relationship. It will serve as a model for free trade agreements throughout the Pacific-Rim, and encourage the opening of consultations to this end.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the U.S. Singapore Free Trade Act of 2000 and I urge its passage into law.

SPECIAL ORDER ON THE
HONORABLE JOHN KASICH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, JOHN KASICH.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress in 1995, I joined an amazing group of men and women who made up the Ohio delegation. We had JOHN BOEHNER and DEBORAH PRYCE in Leadership; RALPH REGULA and DAVE HOBSON on Appropriations; MIKE OXLEY in Commerce; ROB PORTMAN on Ways and Means; the venerable Lou Stokes as Dean of our delegation; the very capable TONY HALL, PAUL GILLMOR, MARCY KAPTUR, SHERRON BROWN, JIM TRAFICANT and TOM SAWYER and, of course, JOHN KASICH as Budget Committee chairman.

I think all of us—no matter what our party affiliation—have come to truly respect JOHN KASICH for his Herculean effort to pass genuine welfare reform, and to reach a balanced

budget agreement for the first time in a generation. I remember when I first came here I was a bit taken back by JOHN's intensity. He had such genuine enthusiasm for Congress, and it was a bit out of the ordinary. JOHN kinda reminds me of that Will Farrell character on "Saturday Night Live"—the Spartan cheerleader—just bouncing off the walls with team spirit.

There is something inherently appealing about JOHN KASICH's tenacity and enthusiasm, his Midwestern sensibility, and his irrepresible zest for life. People trust him, respect him, and they know they're getting the real thing. It's been said that all you really need to know about JOHN KASICH is that even his ex-wife's mother votes for him. We should all be so popular.

JOHN leaves an important legacy in the House: He proved that you can work in a bipartisan fashion, maintain friendships on both sides of the aisle, retain the respect of your peers, and still achieve very big things. The House needs more folks like JOHN KASICH who care so passionately, and refuse to give up.

JOHN KASICH stood his ground and truly changed the way Washington operates. I came here at a time when we spent recklessly and never gave much thought to the future, and now we've ushered in a new era of making government live within its means. Our children are going to inherit a federal government that is more fiscally responsible and more responsive, and no small thanks is due to JOHN KASICH.

I'm proud to have served with him, and for the opportunity to have had the last six years to witness him up close. I will miss his loud ties, his manic energy, how he often seemed less than serious but was always taken seriously, and how—despite being a Republican—he always got to hang around with cool people, like Bono (Bah-no) from U2.

I also will miss hearing JOHN speak on the House floor. He always commanded attention. In fact, I've always thought that when JOHN KASICH took to the floor to speak about anything, he was sort of like road kill—you just couldn't look away. Folks are drawn to his plain but spirited manner and his refreshing candor.

Mr. Speaker, most state delegations could never fill the oratory void left after the departure of a JOHN KASICH. Of course Ohio is a little different from most states. We've been blessed with an abundance of fine orators who command the public's attention. I just hope that in the 107th Congress my good friend, JIM TRAFICANT, will step up to the plate and shed that terrible shyness he has around the C-SPAN cameras.

JOHN KASICH, I thank you for your service to our country, to our fine state of Ohio, and for your years of friendship and guidance. Ohio is losing a great legislator, but I know our state and country have not heard the last of you.