

Jewish prayer right about now. "Believe me," Barton says, "I will." He won't be alone.

"When it comes to emotional strength, he's probably the toughest person I know," Seifert says of his former assistant.

"Teckla was in tears for two weeks," says Bobb. "She hears cancer and immediately thinks, 'You're going to die. That's not the way I'm approaching it.'"

McKittrick "has forgotten more football than I know," Shanahan says, "but what really stands out is his incredible work ethic."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2000, I was unable to be in Washington and, consequently, missed two votes.

Had I been present. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 56 and rollcall No. 57.

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HONORING THE 12TH ANNUAL FRIENDS FOR LIFE BANQUET FOR THE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER IN ROME, GEORGIA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rome, Georgia. On March 23, 2000, at the Friends for Life Banquet, the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rome, Georgia will be honored for the work it does in the community to save the lives of unborn children.

Currently, in Washington, DC, we are working in the Judiciary Committee, as well as on the House Floor, to ban the heinous practice of partial-birth abortion and take other steps to protect the unborn. However, what we do in the Congress, even if we had a President who shared our regard for the unborn, can only address the symptoms of a societal problem that results in so many abortions each year. The real, long term solutions have to come from our communities. The Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rome, Georgia fills this vital role in aiding and assisting pregnant women so that neither the mother nor the child fall victim to abortion.

The Center has a direct and positive impact on many constituents here in Georgia's 7th district as well as citizens throughout North Georgia, and I would like today to pause and commend Rome's Crisis Pregnancy Center for all the hard work and dedication it provides to so many women and families in time of need, day in and day out. They truly are doing our Lord's work.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF "A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION"

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, A Prairie Home Companion is more than just a good radio program. It's a good radio program that has been around for twenty-five years. When it debuted on July 6, 1974, before a live audience of twelve at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, no one would have suspected that twenty-five years later it would delight a national weekly radio audience of 2.8 million listeners, and many thousands of international fans across the globe from Edinborough to Tokyo.

Over the past quarter century, A Prairie Home Companion has broadcast over 2,600 hours of programming, and has toured to forty-four of the fifty states. Close to one million people have attended live broadcasts. It's now heard on more than 470 public radio stations from coast to coast. The program, with origins in the American Midwest, has made a successful leap overseas. In 1985, Minnesota Public Radio started sending reel-to-reel tapes of the shows to Australia and Sweden. In 1990, digital audiotapes were sent to Taiwan. Since 1996, the show goes directly by satellite for broadcast worldwide. Now, it can be heard in dozens of European cities including Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Bonn, Vienna, Geneva and London. In twenty-five years, A Prairie Home Companion has become a true national treasure with international appeal.

The origin of the name, A Prairie Home Companion, is the Prairie Home Cemetery in Moorhead, Minnesota, near Concordia College, all of which are located in my home district back in Northwestern Minnesota. Mr. Garrison Keillor, a fellow Minnesotan and the program's host, inventor, chief writer, and heart and soul, has stated, "You can't name a show Prairie Home Cemetery, so I substituted Companion for Cemetery." His legions of fans are glad he did.

Every week the two-hour live variety show is packed with musical guests, comedy sketches and Mr. Keillor's commentary about small-town life in his fictional hamlet of Lake Wobegone. Many people in this country and around the world identify Minnesota with the image of Lake Wobegone, a town "where all the women are strong, the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average." Though there are other ways to pass the time Saturday evenings, fans of A Prairie Home Companion often plan their weekends around the show. Nutritionist Leslie Cordella-Simon has said, "It's a little respite at the end of the week." Here in Washington, Ruth Harkin, the wife of Iowa Senator TOM HARKIN, has commented that they rarely miss the program. She echoes the sentiments of many when she says, "Lake Wobegone is the town we both grew up in." NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw denies the rumor that he will not admit dinner guests to his house during the Lake Wobegone segment of the show. "I just don't pay much attention to them," he explains.

The first road trip of A Prairie Home Companion was to Fargo, North Dakota, and to

Moorhead, Minnesota, in October 1974. Now, they routinely travel farther down the road to places like Edinborough, Scotland, and Dublin, Ireland. In the last twenty-five years, the show's truck has traveled over 230,000 miles, and personnel have flown or driven over 385,000 miles. The traveling shows are so popular that a sponsoring station manager in Peoria, Illinois, made the following remark after A Prairie Home Companion visited his town: "I could've run for mayor and gotten elected." In 1985, Time magazine discovered A Prairie Home Companion and put Mr. Keillor on its cover. Over a span of twenty-five years there have been 941 live performances and 864 live broadcasts of A Prairie Home Companion. From February to June in 1987, A Prairie Home Companion made the jump to television, running in an un-edited time-delayed version on the Disney Channel. Since October 5, 1996, the show's audio has been delivered live over the Internet to anyone with a computer and a modem.

A Prairie Home Companion and Mr. Keillor have already received a silo-full of well-deserved national recognition, including a Grammy Award, two ACE Awards for cable television, and a George Foster Peabody Award. In 1994, Mr. Keillor was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame at Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communication. In 1999, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton at the White House. Mr. William R. Ferris, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, said, "The 1999 National Humanities Medalists are distinguished individuals who have set the highest standards for American cultural achievement."

Mr. Keillor likes to describe Lake Wobegone as a place "that time forgot and the decades cannot improve." The same could be said about his radio show. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Minnesota Public Radio, the staff of A Prairie Home Companion, and Garrison Keillor on the occasion of the notable achievement of twenty-five years of proud representation of the art, culture and people of Minnesota.

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HONORING THE LATE WILLIAM W. "BILL" GEARY, AMERICAN HERO

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to genuine American hero, William W. "Bill" Geary, who died on November 15, 1999. Bill was a veteran of World War II. He saw action in eight major campaigns throughout Europe during the war. Bill was a true friend to many people as well as a devoted husband to his loving wife "Bea".

Even though Bill witnessed atrocities and violence, he was a man of peace and he refused to accept that he was a hero among men. Fortunately, Bill's brother Joe Geary, U.S. Navy (Ret.) provided me a detailed history of Bill's service to his country. I am pleased to have this history inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all American's to see: