

Hospital in Centreville and with the East Side Health District to expand its reach further into the area. I was happy to assist the center procure various grants to improve services to reduce infant mortality rates in the area and in 1997 the foundation opened a facility in Alton, Illinois. School based clinics also operate in East St. Louis and Cahokia, Illinois.

In recognition for its work to reduce the amount of low-birth weight babies, the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation and Touchette Regional Hospital was one of the first winners of the "Models that Work" program, as sponsored by the National Committee For Quality Healthcare. Other awards and recognition for the system include the American Hospital Association and the Baxter Allegiance Foundation. The Baxter Award recognized the system's work with the various foundation communities. The foundation was also a finalist in the Premier Cares Award sponsored by Premier Healthcare.

Just last year, the foundation further expanded its services by opening a second site in Madison County in Bethalto, Illinois. Private grants have also been awarded to the Southern Illinois Foundation from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to allow them to address Medicaid Managed Care issues and provide funds for planning and study for healthcare issues.

Locally, the foundation has also been presented the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the Kimmel Leadership Center. Dr. Bob Klutts is the chief executive officer and has been the executive with the foundation since 1988.

Operations in all of the Foundation Health center sites are now well established. The foundation system has grown from an initial 8,678 patient visits in 1988 to currently over 85,000 patient visits. In addition to the clinic sites they operate in several communities, they also operate three Quick Care sites with one site devoted to the needs of mother and child care and also a site directed to the needs of adults. It is one of the strongest Healthcare networks operating in Illinois today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the anniversary and service of the Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, last evening I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall votes 111-114.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 111, "yes" on rollcall vote 112, "yes" on rollcall vote 113 and "no" on rollcall vote 114.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH FORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the North Fork Chamber of Commerce for its outstanding contributions to the community.

During the last year, the North Fork Chamber of Commerce has accomplished a great deal. They have increased their membership to 64 members. The Chamber began quarterly town hall meetings with Supervisor Gary Gilbert and Sheriff John Anderson, holding three meetings in 1999. The Chamber has also joined SUPERCHEX (Superior California Chamber Exec's) to network with neighboring Chambers of Commerce. In collaboration with neighboring Chambers, the North Fork Chamber began advance planning, one year in advance, of chamber projects.

The North Fork Chamber started a weekly "North Fork Chamber Chat" column in the Sierra Star, a local newspaper. The Chamber also resumed monthly newsletters and monthly mixers for its members.

The North Fork Chamber secured \$52,500 in grants and matching funds to add new sidewalks, mini-parks, and tourist signs on Northfork's Main Street.

The Chamber began a part-time paid staff, courtesy of the USFS SCSEP program, which also provided mileage and classes on Microsoft programs and project management. Along with their many achievements, the Chamber also acquired a new office, courtesy of CDC, at the Mill Site Office Building, furnished and staffed by Jim Flanagan.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the North Fork Chamber of Commerce for its service to the community. I urge colleagues to join me in wishing the North Fork Chamber of Commerce many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WATCHFUL SHEPHERD AND JOSEPH FEMIANI

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month I praise the organizations which work tirelessly to end our children's suffering. I am proud to say that one such organization and its originator in my district are part of the crusade to make all children safe from harm. I am speaking of The Watchful Shepherd and Joseph Femiani.

Every day, 78 babies die, 2162 babies are born into poverty and 3,453 babies are born to unwed parents. Added to the likelihood that one in two children will live in a single parent family at some point in childhood, one in eight is born to a teenage mother and one in 60 sees their parents divorce in any year, it is no wonder that our children live in peril.

While Congress works to reverse these trends, The Watchful Shepherd protects chil-

dren already suffering at the hands of relatives and family friends. Piloted in Southwestern Pennsylvania hospitals in 1993 and 1996, The Watchful Shepherd program unites the resources of Children and Youth Services agencies, police departments health care professionals and community residents in a unique effort to improve the protection of children at risk for abuse.

Since its successful adoption by Washington County Children and Youth Services, other communities such as Tom's River, New Jersey; Dover, Delaware; and Chesapeake, Virginia have employed the program with great success for families currently enrolled in Watchful Shepherd. Surprisingly, most families voluntarily agree to the program, which consists of a panic button worn on the child and a telephone unit which are monitored by hospital, police or trained volunteer personnel. Many law enforcement agencies take Watchful Shepherd calls so seriously that they have classified the alarms as a level one priority. To date, there have been no false alarms and the system is constantly improving to serve children and their families together.

All great ideas have a creator. The chief champion of The Watchful Shepherd program is Joseph Femiani, whose idea has become a noble crusade. Borne out of personal experience, The Watchful Shepherd has no greater promoter. Mr. Femiani, a successful Washington County business owner, husband and father, could have savored the good life he had created for himself after a painful childhood, but he chose to make life safer for children everywhere.

Joe Femiani's tireless promotion of child abuse prevention and The Watchful Shepherd program has led to a feature in Time, an interview with National Public Radio and a segment on NBC's Dateline in addition to numerous grassroots campaigns to get the message out about his lifesaving program. All of this effort is not in vain. Mr. Femiani continues to receive national and international interest in The Watchful Shepherd program and works endlessly to organize financial support for those communities seeking to adopt the program.

Many marvel at Joe's stamina and commitment to his cause, as was the case in an interview with the Pittsburgh Catholic. "Whenever Joseph Femiani questions whether his efforts makes a difference, he reaches for a card he carries in his wallet which bears the names of children who have been murdered." That—it seems—has made all the difference.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTINGHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the Westinghouse High School, and in particular the men's senior basketball team. Westinghouse High School located in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, in the heart of the Westside, has a long tradition of academic and athletic excellence. The school has graduated several