

15,000 people, contributed 1,632 men to the Union Army, the highest percentage of citizens per county in the State of Michigan. The new exhibition illustrates what life was like for these men out in the field, and for their loved ones at home. Part of the grand opening celebration on May 19, 2000, will be educational programs on the topic of the Civil War.

The exhibition was made possible in part by funds from a Michigan Arts, Cultural and Quality of Life Grant. On September 1, 1999, Historic Charlton Park received \$339,000 to remodel and expand the museum. "A Test of a Nation: The Honor of a County" marks the completion of the first phase of the project.

Mr. President, it goes without saying that the Civil War is one of the most important events in American History, and perhaps the most important. I applaud all of the people whose efforts made this exhibition possible, for with these efforts they have allowed individuals of all ages an opportunity to experience a little part of that history. They have given them a chance to see what life was like for the men, women and children of Barry County who played an important role in keeping our nation together.

On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Historic Charlton Park Village on the opening of "A Test of a Nation: The Honor of a County." It is truly an important exhibition, and I know that the people of Barry County will greatly appreciate it.●

#### THE FRIENDS OF THEODORE ROETHKE HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on May 18, 2000, The Friends of Theodore Roethke, a group dedicated to maintaining the legacy of the great poet, will unveil a historic marker in his honor on the lawn of his childhood home at 1805 Gratiot, Saginaw, Michigan. I rise today, Mr. President, in honor of this special occasion.

Mr. Roethke was born in Saginaw in 1908, the son of Otto and Helen Huebner Roethke. He attended the University of Michigan and Harvard Graduate School, and later was a professor at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, Penn State University, Bennington College in Vermont, and the University of Washington in Seattle.

Before his death on August 1, 1963, Mr. Roethke received many awards for his poetry. In 1954, he became the first Michigan man to win the Pulitzer Prize for his collection of poems entitled *The Waking*. And in 1959, he received the Bollingen Prize and a National Book Award for another collection of poems entitled *Words of the Wind*. Some of his other works include *The Lost Son*,

*Praise to the End!*, and *I Am!* Says the Lamb.

In 1998, the Friends of Theodore Roethke purchased both Roethke homes in Saginaw, Michigan, with a mission to promote, preserve and protect the literary legacy of the great poet by restoring his family residences for cultural and educational opportunities. Since the group purchased the homes, they have written grants for educational writing workshops combining Saginaw public and Saginaw Township students, offered tours for students and teachers, purchased some of the original Roethke furnishings, opened the houses to working writers, and made some much needed repairs, such as a new furnace and asbestos removal.

Mr. President, I applaud The Friends of Theodore Roethke for their wonderful efforts to keep alive the legacy of Michigan's only Pulitzer Prize winning poet. I am sure that the unveiling of this historic marker is only the first of many tributes. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate The Friends of Theodore Roethke on the dedication of this historic marker, and wish President Annie Ransford and the rest of the organization continued success in the future.●

#### IN MEMORY OF MS. MARY S. PALMERI

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and in memory of Ms. Mary S. Palmeri, who passed away on August 30, 1999. Ms. Palmeri served the County of Wayne, Michigan, for 32 years, and has been chosen by her peers to posthumously receive the coveted Court Clerk of the Year Award, which will be presented to her family this week.

Ms. Palmeri was born in St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit in 1939, and was a lifelong resident of the city of Dearborn, Michigan. She graduated from Fordson High School in 1958, and spent approximately two years in college. In June of 1967, Ms. Palmeri became a typist at the County of Wayne Department of Civil Service, thus beginning a thirty-two year career of public service.

A few years later Ms. Palmeri was transferred to the County Clerk's Office, where she worked in numerous offices prior to becoming a Court Clerk, including the Record Room and as Supervisor of the Appeals Department. Ms. Palmeri ultimately worked as a Court Clerk for many prominent judges, including the Honorable Henry J. Szymanski, the Honorable William J. Cahalan, and the Honorable Pamela R. Harwood.

In addition to her work, Ms. Palmeri enjoyed many hobbies, including bowling, ceramics, crocheting, knitting and crewel embroidery. She was both a terrific seamstress and a wonderful

cook. She also loved to play cards, work on crossword puzzles, and play board games. She was also an active member of St. Alphonseus Catholic Church in Dearborn, Michigan. Ms. Palmeri is survived by her husband of thirty years, Frank, and their three children, Christopher, Cindy and John.

Mr. President, I am glad that the County of Wayne has chosen to honor Ms. Palmeri's many years of service by presenting her family with the Court Clerk of the Year Award. She was a hard worker who truly cared for the people around her, and her warm and generous personality is deeply missed by the entire Dearborn community.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED THE "CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 104

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit today for immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000." This legislative proposal would increase the penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) could impose upon manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products who do not inform the CPSC when the company has reason to believe it has sold a product that does not meet Federal safety standards or could otherwise create a substantial product hazard. The proposal would also improve product recalls by enabling the CPSC to choose an alternative remedy in a recall if the CPSC finds that the remedy selected by the manufacturer is not in the public interest.

Under current consumer product safety laws, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products are required to inform the CPSC