

the joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, and Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board. He is now the chairman of the board of the company his father began in 1922, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., and his son, Hal, is the president. He has served as president of the Virginia Municipal League and on the boards of United Virginia Bank and Crestar Bank. Mr. Parrish is one of the founders of the Prince William Hospital where he has served on the board of directors.

Mr. Parrish has been involved in far too many community clubs and groups to mention all of them at this time. Mr. Parrish is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas, the Kiwanis Club of Manassas, the American Red Cross, the Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, and Boy Scouts of America. He has also been a member of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company since 1948.

In addition to the honors and credit to his name that I have already mentioned, he has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Oil Men's Association and in 1998 was recognized by his peers by being named Virginia Oil Man of the Year. Also, in 1995 he served, along with his wife Mattie, as the grand marshal of the Manassas Christmas Parade.

He met Mattie during his years at Osborn High School in Manassas where they have been sweethearts since eighth grade. Mattie has been an incredible source of support and devotion ever since. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The most amazing thing about Mr. Parrish is that despite his long and distinguished career, he remains without a doubt one of the most humble public servants that can be found anywhere. Throughout his 50 years of public service and during his time in the military, he has shown extraordinary and tireless dedication to his country, state, city, church and family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in commending Delegate Harry Parrish for achieving 50 years of remarkable public service.

PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join our colleagues and the tens of thousands of Americans who have served with the Peace Corps in celebrating its 40th anniversary.

I had the honor of working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, in what was then a small town where I taught English. When I returned to my "village" a few years ago, I was astonished to see not only how much had changed—but also to see how many of the students and former colleagues I knew three decades ago still remembered the work done so long ago.

There are few initiatives as successful as this one, and it is with tremendous pride that I count myself as one of the people lucky

enough to have had this experience. In the years since 1967, I have visited dozens of countries where Americans are performing Peace Corps service—and dozens more where their work is desperately needed.

I have met countless leaders in business, in charitable organizations, in government, in academia, in every walk of life whose service in the Peace Corps launched careers that have contributed in innumerable ways to the betterment of our country and the countries where they worked.

The Peace Corps does tremendous good overseas. It does wonders for the Americans who serve, and the millions more who benefit from the goodwill they instill in those who know them. And it does America proud. I salute it for its successful first 40 years, and hope it will continue a tradition unmatched by any other American initiative.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL SCHEIDT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Scheidt, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He recently retired as the Republican Party County Chairman and intends to spend more time with his lovely wife, Bettie, and eleven energetic grandchildren.

In addition to his service as County Chairman, Mr. Scheidt is a former State Chairman, a 30-year District Chairman, and a former County Treasurer. He has served as a delegate to the Republican State Convention each session since 1958 and as a delegate to the National Convention on seven separate occasions. Indiana Governors Edgar Whitcomb, Otis Bowen and Bob Orr have all recognized Mr. Scheidt's devotion by awarding him the Sagamore of the Wabash.

Privately, he farms 300 acres of land in Bartholomew County. As a pioneer in real estate, he developed both the Highland Ridge Subdivision and Woodridge Retail Center near Columbus, Indiana. Such achievements earned him the title Realtor of the Year in 1987 by the Columbus Board of Realtors.

Mr. Scheidt's passion for public service has made him an inspiration to all the residents of Bartholomew County. He is not only deeply regarded, but also deeply loved.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this respected man who has helped make selected communities of south central Indiana the pleasant places they are today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2001 I had an urgent family medical issue. As

a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Please excuse my absence from this vote. If I were present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps volunteer, I am pleased to rise to speak in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

When President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, the response to this bold initiative was both swift and enthusiastic. Less than six months later, the first volunteers had accepted the challenge and left for their two year assignments overseas.

In 1966 and 1967, I myself served as a volunteer in Somalia. It was a meaningful experience for me, and it allowed me to see that Peace Corps volunteers are the best grassroots ambassadors the United States can have. The Peace Corps provides direct aid to ordinary people, and it is probably one of the most cost-effective forms of foreign aid that there is.

I am also pleased to say that the state of Wisconsin leads the Peace Corps' legacy of service. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the nation's top producer of volunteers, with other 2,300 graduates having joined the Peace Corps and bringing their skills and talents to dozens of countries.

Now, as we observe the Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, it continues to capture the imagination of the American people. It has emerged as an international model of citizen service and of practical, grassroots assistance to people in developing countries.

Additionally, Peace Corps volunteers also make a difference at home by continuing their community service, and strengthening Americans' appreciation of other cultures. By visiting classrooms, working with community groups, and speaking with friends and family members, Peace Corps volunteers are helping others learn more about the world in which we live, and helping to build a legacy of service for the next generation.

Today's 7000 volunteers are somewhat different than the volunteers of the early years. The average age has risen from 22 to 28, the percentage of women has increased from 35 to 60, the number of volunteers with graduate degrees is growing.

But having said that, I believe today's volunteers still share a characteristic with their predecessors that is a cornerstone of Peace Corps service—a commitment to the spirit of volunteerism and service that President Kennedy first envisioned 40 years ago.

I salute the Peace Corps and the thousands of volunteers who have served, and I look forward to many more years for this organization which has truly made a difference around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO JOE FRANCIS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Joseph S. Francis, a man named by the San Diego Business Journal as "San Diego's Top Labor Leader". On March 2, 2001, Joe is retiring from the position of Executive Director of Labor's Community Service Agency, an agency he founded in 1985.

Labor's Community Service Agency is a non-profit organization, committed to serving workers, their families and the larger community. It develops partnerships with government, business, and labor—so these sectors can cooperate in making our city a better place to work and live. As Executive Director of labor's Community Service Agency, Joe has developed many programs that address the needs of workers in San Diego.

He is also currently the editor of the Messenger, Vice President of Job Training Associates, Board Member of the San Diego Carrier Museum, and a member of the San Diego County Board of Economic Advisors. His past positions include Executive Secretary of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council and Director of the Committee on Political Education (COPE). Joe was honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council in 1996.

Raised in New Bedford, MA, Joe moved to San Diego in 1953. He first worked at Convoir, followed by the San Diego Fire Department where he was involved in the local Firefighters Union. He was elected director of the Union Board in 1965—and later served as Secretary and then President of Local 145. In 1980, he was elected Executive-Director of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council with an overwhelming two-thirds of the vote.

Although organizing workers is his primary focus, Joe has also contributed to the community through his service on the Boards of the following organizations: United Way, the San Diego Technology Council, the Salvation Army, the Regional Employment Training Consortium, and as President of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation.

On the occasion of Joe's retirement from service as Executive Director of Labor's Community Service Agency, I want to sincerely thank him for his far-reaching vision, his relentless passion, and his tireless service to the working men and women in San Diego and throughout the nation.

Joe, you serve as a model of dedication and energy which we will follow as we strive to carry on the work that you have begun.

CASARELLA RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS IN EDUCATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Casarella, who has re-

tired after 37 years in education, culminating in four years as superintendent of the Wyoming Area School District in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Raised in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Joe worked and lived in New York, then in Berwick, Pennsylvania, finally returning home to lead the Wyoming Area schools. He has a long and distinguished career that includes service as a teacher, elementary school principal, junior high school principal, curriculum director, director of special education and federal funds, and as an assistant superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, it is a tribute to just how well liked Joe is at Wyoming Area and the job he has done that when he submitted a letter of resignation last year, students and teachers alike urged him to stay. The one word heard again and again from those who know him is "gentleman."

His accomplishments include successful staff contract negotiations and increasing access to technology for students and teachers, but his most prized accomplishment is the district's community program. In this initiative, representatives from Luzerne County Human Resources and Catholic Social Services work with administrators, teachers and students to identify at-risk students and families and connect them with the social services they need to help them succeed. About 30 families have been helped.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call Joe Casarella's long service to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF FELIPE REINOSO, HONOREE OF NOSOTROS MAGAZINE'S 33RD ANNIVERSARY GALA AWARD BANQUET

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Felipe Reinoso, who will be honored at the 33rd Anniversary Gala Award Banquet of Nosotros Magazine on Saturday, February 21, 2001. The Banquet is an annual event that honors distinguished Hispanic leaders for their important contributions to society. This is an opportune time for today's Hispanic leaders to reflect on the economic, political, and cultural contributions that Hispanics have made to American society.

In 1984, Felipe Reinoso received his Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Education from Sacred Heart University and his Master's Degree in Bilingual Special Education from Fairfield University in 1987. Before co-founding the Bridge Academy High School in 1998, where he was Principal, he taught bilingual Social Studies at Warren Harding High School for 14 years.

For his excellence in bilingual education, Mr. Reinoso has received numerous awards and honors, including a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly for Excelling in Education; Teacher of the Year, Warren Har-

ding H.S.; Connecticut Bilingual Teacher of the Year; an Award for Outstanding Achievement as Bilingual Teacher from Hispanic Society, Inc.; and the National Education Association Human Civil Rights Award. In addition, he has received the Points of Light Foundation President's Service Award from President Clinton.

On November 7, 2000, Felipe Reinoso became the first Peruvian-American in United States history to be elected as a legislator. Today, he proudly represents the 130th District of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Mr. Reinoso's victory resonates with historic significance, and gives a greater voice to the concerns of the Hispanic community.

In honoring Felipe Reinoso, Nosotros Magazine is promoting the most important values in American society today: hard work, dedication, and compassion. Mr. Reinoso embodies these American ideals; and, throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to provide others with the opportunity to meet the standard of excellence he has set. As an educator, he has worked hard to empower Hispanic Americans, and I am confident that he will continue his valuable service to the Hispanic community as State Representative.

Because of community leaders like Mr. Reinoso, the Hispanic community is not only experiencing economic empowerment, but also political strength. Today, we prepare for a future that reflects our years of hard work, and our commitment to each other.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Felipe Reinoso for his many contributions to the Hispanic community and to the State of Connecticut.

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been many years since I joined the Peace Corps, and I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

It was started on March 1, 1961, when President Kennedy signed the legislation launching the Peace Corps—establishing a bold and hopeful experiment to all Volunteers to bring practical grassroots assistance to the people of developing nations to help them build a better life for themselves and their children.

Forty years later, the Peace Corps has succeeded beyond everyone's expectations.

Today there are more than 162,000 returned volunteers in the United States, six of whom serve in the House of Representatives and two in the United States Senate. They have served in 134 different nations, making significant and lasting contributions from Armenia and Bangladesh to Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

There are more than 7,000 volunteers that are now living and working overseas. They are addressing critical development needs on a person-to-person basis: working with teachers and parents to teach English, math and