Thomas E. Starzl, the pioneer in the field of organ transplantation, who turned seventy-five years old on March 11, 2001.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of Dr. Starzl’s first liver transplant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Thirty transplants were performed in that year in 1981, which provided for the foundation for a liver transplant program at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System (UPMC) that would become the largest in the world.

Dr. Starzl earned his bachelor’s degree in biology at Westminster College in Missouri and his medical degree at Northwestern University. Following postgraduate work at Johns Hopkins University, surgical fellowships, and residencies, Dr. Starzl served on the faculty at Northwestern University for four years before transferring to the University of Colorado School of Medicine. It was there that Dr. Starzl made history by performing the world’s first human liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful liver transplant in 1967.

While continuing to perform kidney and liver transplants, Dr. Starzl focused his work to develop ways to suppress the body’s immune system to prevent organ rejection. In 1981, Dr. Starzl joined the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine as a professor of surgery. It was then that he utilized his new anti-rejection drug cyclosporine, which propelled transplantation from an experimental procedure to an accepted form of treatment.

Under Dr. Starzl’s unmatched leadership, the transplant program at the University of Pittsburgh grew into the largest and most active program in the world. To date, more than 11,300 total transplants have been performed through this program with approximately 6,000 of those being liver transplants.

Dr. Starzl retired from clinical and surgical service in 1991 but continues to make important strides in the field of transplantation and transplant immunology. In addition, Dr. Starzl continues to share his knowledge of expertise in this field as a remaining active as a professor. Dr. Starzl has had a tremendous impact and influence in the field of transplantation. He has received 21 honorary doctorates and more than 175 awards and honors, including most recently the 2001 King Faisal International Prize for Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, the Father of Transplantation. Through his commitment to furthering the capabilities of modern medical science, Dr. Starzl has not only saved countless lives, but it has helped establish the world-class reputations that western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, and the UPMC Health System all share in the field of medicine.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Protection Services Improvement Act.

This bill provides education loan forgiveness for child welfare workers who have been with an agency for at least 2 years. In addition, the bill provides States with $500 million in matching grants over 5 years to improve the quality of their child welfare workers. States can use these matching grants to improve child welfare workers’ wages, increase the number of child welfare workers, reduce the turnover and vacancy rates of child welfare agencies, increase education and training of child welfare workers, attract and retain qualified candidates and coordinate services with other agencies. These dollars can also go to private welfare agencies at the States’ discretion.

Tribute to Steve Gibbs

HON. ROB PORTMAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Gibbs, a dear friend and community leader who will be recognized on April 21, 2001 by the FreeStore/FoodBank for 26 years of service with the organization. The FreeStore/FoodBank was founded in Cincinnati in 1971. Steve has been a vital part of the organization as President and CEO nearly since its inception 30 years ago. Thanks to his dedication and hard work, the FreeStore/FoodBank has blossomed from a small, one-man operation into a thriving enterprise that literally has helped millions of people throughout Cincinnati, northern Kentucky and southeastern Indiana.

The mission of the FreeStore/FoodBank is “to provide food, products and services for those in need, and to further their self-reliance.” As one of the largest foodbanks in Ohio, it helps to feed nearly 300,000 people in our area each year. It also provides clothes and housing and employment assistance to the needy, and fills the pantry shelves of over 550 agencies, soup kitchens and shelters with donated food. Last year, it distributed close to 9 million pounds of donated and salvaged food, valued at more than $22 million. Also serving as President of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, Steve’s vision and ability to link sometimes unlikely partners also has helped to launch a number of innovative programs that continue to serve the needs of our community. One such partnership includes a joint venture between the FreeStore/FoodBank and the University of Cincinnati’s Health Resource Center to provide medical care to those who cannot afford it. Among other initiatives, he also established a relationship with Goodwill Industries to help increase donations.

Thanks to Steve’s efforts, the FreeStore/FoodBank is often recognized as one of Cincinnati’s most outstanding charitable organizations. All of us in the Cincinnati area thank Steve for his dedication to improving the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO MILLERSBURG, MICHIGAN ON THE OCCASION OF ITS COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL

HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN

Mr. STU Pas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Millersburg, a small community in my congressional district, the 1st District of Michigan. On Labor Day this year the people of Millersburg will celebrate the centennial of their village. The history of their community is rich and complex, a story of growth and decline and several major changes in the core industry of the community. Like other centennials, however, this date marks more than a chronology of events. It is a history of family unity and old-fashioned values, and the centennial is a wish and prayer for the future of this small village, a hope that it will endure another 100 years.

Village president Bruce Doran and his wife Jo are assembling a book on the community as a reference for this historic event. Their account of the community’s beginning tells how on the morning of September 23, 1897, a party of land owners and railway men assembled near the spot where a primitive highway
crossed the Ocqueoc River in Presque Isle County, Michigan, for the purpose of laying out a new town. Except for the openings along the river and along the highway, the unbroken forest extended for miles on every side. The line of the D&M Railroad was blazed on the trees, and in a few days the noise of railway trains would be heard for the first time in this primeval forest.

Many towns have been laid out like this in Michigan, Mr. Speaker, but, according to the Dorans’ research, Millersburg was probably one of the last Michigan communities deliberately planned in the forest. By noon the actual site was selected and a gang of 35 lumberers went to work. Axes flashed, and the mighty hemlocks, the giant elms, the majestic maples and the lofty basswoods were laid low, giving birth to the town of Millersburg.

The community took its name from Mr. Charles R. Miller of Adrian, Michigan, president of the commercial Savings Bank there. Mr. Miller had traveled through the area on business and had become interested in this area of the state through business contacts. He watched the progress of the D&M Railroad with keen interest and purchased 1,500 acres of primeval forest. With several logging branches planned, it was expected that the town of Millersburg would be the hub of activity.

In 1901 Millersburg became incorporated as a village. It grew and developed, with a variety of important local businesses, including four sawmills, one stave mill, five general stores and a newspaper.

But a town built in the forest and dependent on the forest can also be threatened by the forest. The decline of Millersburg as a lumbering town began with fires that swept the greater part of Presque Isle County in October 1908, inflicting a tremendous amount of damage. One fire threatened the village at the sawmills, and every available man fought to keep it from entering the town. Their efforts were rewarded, and the town was saved. But thousands of acres of timber were lost.

By 1911 the population had dwindled to 850 from a high of more than 1,000, and in July a fire burned this business section of the town, the schoolhouse, the post office and numerous homes. Two sawmills and 26 boxcars were destroyed. The business section was never rebuilt and many of the merchants and dealers, realizing that the era of large-scale lumbering was over, chose to leave to try their fortunes elsewhere. By 1916 the town’s population leveled off at 300, a figure which has remained relatively unchanged to this day. Agriculture became the chief industry in the township until the 1950s, when many of the farmers who force out of business due to rising prices.

Today tourism is becoming the mainstay of the community, marking the community’s willingness to adapt to new economic opportunities. Many people have come to the area to enjoy its beauty and to use its lakes, streams and snowmobile trails. Many have come to the area to enjoy its beauty and to use its lakes, streams and snowmobile trails.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the people of Millersburg and wishing them great joy in their celebration of 100 years as a community.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROMEO LODGE #41 FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an organization whose outstanding dedication and commitment to the bond of brotherhood and community has led to a great accomplishment. On Saturday, March 31, 2001, the Romeo Lodge #41 Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan will celebrate their 150th anniversary, a milestone occasion that heralds the lifelong Masonic creed of Love of God, Love of Country, and Love of Freemasonry.

Since the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons recognized the start of the Romeo charter on January 9, 1851, the Romeo Lodge #41 has been a thriving center of social, religious, and political life to its members. Dedication to education, morality, brotherly love, and non-sectarianism in religion and politics, the Romeo Masons have worked tirelessly to improve the community through their contributions in medical research, charity, and scholarship.

As the organization began to grow and expand, its ideas and vision for the future began to grow with it. Dedicating their time and talents to new construction efforts and remodeling, the Romeo Masons have worked hard to ensure their organization will continue to cultivate its roots as well as reach out to its younger generations. Preserving their tenets of Masonry, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, this organization will assuredly succeed in their crusade to improve the lives of people through faith, morality and God.

The Romeo Lodge #41 is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of its members and its community. I applaud the Romeo Free Masons for their leadership, fraternity, and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday night, April 1, 2001, the University of Notre Dame Women’s Basketball Team won the national championship. As a proud alumna, I stand before you today to offer my congratulations and to highlight this incredible accomplishment.

It was a storybook ending to a storybook season. In order to defeat a tough Purdue team and win their first national championship, the Notre Dame team rallied and overcame a double-digit deficit. Only four games have been decided by two points or less since the inception of the women’s national championship tournament in 1982. I wish to congratulate the entire team for all their hard-work, dedication, and perseverance. This season truly was a team effort, beginning with this year’s coach of the year, Notre Dame’s coach Muffett McGraw.

I also wish to congratulate the Notre Dame center, Ruth Riley, who was so reliable in the clutch at the end of the championship game and all season long. Accordingly, she has been honored as both the consensus National Player of the Year and the tournament’s most outstanding player.

From the gritty play of guard Niele Ivey to the long range sharp-shooting of Alicia Ratay, this year Notre Dame had what it took to be the best. The other team members, including Amanda Barksdale, Imani Dunbar, Ericka Haney, Monique Hernandez, Jeneka Joyce, Meaghan Leahy, Le’Tania Severe, Kelley Siemon and Karen Swanson, made this the most well-rounded team in the nation. Our hats are off to them as the 2001 National Champions.

TRIBUTE TO GINA THOMPSON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an amazing girl, my friend and neighbor Gina Thompson, who has overcome obstacles to become a starting point guard for the Halse School basketball team.

What makes Gina’s accomplishment so momentous is that she is the only girl in a league of boys. Halse School doesn’t have a girls’ basketball team, but Gina, who just turned 14, is just too good a player to let that stand in the way. While other girls tried out this year, Gina was the only one to make the cut. As a starting point guard, she averages six points a game and has had no problem gaining her teammates’ respect.

Most importantly, Gina has accomplished all this despite being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age nine. Just as she never let her gender become an obstacle in playing the game she loves, neither has Gina allowed diabetes to get in the way. She does have to give herself three insulin shots a day and continuously monitor herself to see that her sugar count remains normal, but Gina claims it is no big deal.

Gina has even extended her basketball activities beyond Halse School. She plays for the girls team at St. Symphorsa (where she attends CCD) and the eighth-grade Windy City AAU club basketball team. After graduation, she plans on taking her game to Maria High School.

Gina is an incredible girl who has faced her challenges head-on to become a success at the game she loves. I whole-heartedly congratulate Gina and wish her all the best in the future.