

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 choppers 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 decided to purchase a tract of land. 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 stove 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 the community's business section, 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 where forced 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 lakes, streams and snowmobile trails.

One can look back over the community's history, Mr. Speaker, and acknowledge that, yes, the town once had more local industry and a greater population. But one can also say that Millersburg, strengthened by its trials by fire, is as vigorous and forward-looking a community today as it once was, ready to utilize its local assets for the advancement of its citizens.

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 MA-
SONS 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 Freedom.

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. Dedicated 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 BASKET-
BALL 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 alumnus, 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 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 Semon 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 Hale School basketball team.

What makes Gina's accomplishment so momentous is that she is the only girl in a league of boys. Hale School doesn't have a girl's 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 Hale School. She plays for the girls' team at St. Symphora (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 wholeheartedly congratulate Gina and wish her all the best in the future.