

around the world. He actually began his life in our parks in 1965 as a seasonal fire control aide, working throughout the West for the next six years.

Over the years, Michael Finley has developed an expertise in inter-governmental relations, working with state and local governments and on Native American issues. He has directed legislative efforts, research projects, law enforcement operations, museums and cultural facilities, engineering and maintenance programs and oversight of mining and mineral uses in the parks. He has worked extensively with the media and public interest groups, and is an international expert on conservation efforts.

His awards have included the National Park Service Superior Performance Award, the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award, and national recognition for public service by conservation groups.

Californians have been among those who have most benefited from Superintendent Finley's expertise. He was a ranger in Pinnacles National Monument and Redwood National Park, as well as ranger and superintendent of Yosemite from 1989–1994. He also served as a federal liaison and trainer in the development of seven state parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California. He was also superintendent of Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and as associate regional director for 13 parks in the Alaska region. Before taking over as Yellowstone superintendent in 1994, he was acting associate director of operations for the park service.

In his role as chief of the crown jewel of American parks, Superintendent Finley has successfully managed a staff of 800 and a budget of \$25 million. He helped create the Yellowstone Park Foundation to solicit private support for the world's first national park, and set Yellowstone on a course that will preserve its natural heritage, while providing the best possible experience for the 3 million people who visit each year.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Finley is leaving the park service to become president of the Turner Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the most dynamic philanthropic organizations in the nation. Please join me in thanking him for his years of service to our nation's parks, and wishing him and his wife, Lillie, continued success in their new endeavors.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleagues from Minnesota, I am introducing legislation congratulating the University of Minnesota and its faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Minnesota is a land grant institution established in 1851, seven years before the state of Minnesota

was accepted into the Union. Since its creation, the University of Minnesota has become one of the most comprehensive and prestigious universities in the United States, and is a major research institution spanning four campuses and outreach centers statewide.

During its first 150 years, the University of Minnesota has awarded more than 537,575 degrees, including more than 24,728 doctoral degrees. Among the University of Minnesota's accomplished faculty and alumni are 13 Nobel Prize winners.

The University of Minnesota's faculty, staff, and students have made significant contributions to our nation, and our world, which include the establishment of the world's leading kidney transplant center, as well as the invention of the flight recorder (commonly known as the "black box"), retractable seat belt, and the heart-lung machine used in the world's first open-heart surgery.

The University of Minnesota has also made contributions in other areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, and physical sciences, including the creation of more than 80 new crop varieties, the development of the taconite process, and the isolation of uranium-235.

The University of Minnesota reaches across the state with its Extension Service, which has contact with 700,000 Minnesotans each year. With program areas ranging from crop management to effective parenting, all Minnesotans benefit from the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Minnesota is an esteemed institution of higher learning, and as we mark its 150th Anniversary, I invite my colleagues to join me, and my fellow Minnesota colleagues, in honoring this remarkable university and its contributions to us all.

TRIBUTE TO BECKY TRINKLEIN

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Becky Trinklein as she prepares to celebrate twenty-five years of dutiful service as an educator, the past twenty years of which she spent at Immanuel Lutheran School in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Becky's faithfulness and dedication in sharing the good news of God's love in Christ with her students and others has made her an invaluable part of Lutheran education in her community.

A native of Frankenmuth, Becky is the only child of Victor and Marguerite Trinklein. The love and support of her family has carried her through every facet of her career and molded her into the unique, caring woman that she is today.

Becky holds a bachelor's degree in education with a special concentration in art education and a master's degree in education with a focus on early childhood education from Concordia Teacher's College. Her strong faith and adherence to God's will led her from St. John Lutheran School of Edgerton, Wisconsin, where she taught kindergarten and preschool for five years, to a similar job at Immanuel Lutheran School in the fall of 1981.

While Becky's teaching ministry has been distinguished, her noteworthiness extends far beyond the classroom walls. She has held leadership positions in the Michigan District Early Childhood Educators Conference, the North and East Lutheran Schools Early Childhood Educators Conference, and the Bay-Midland Lutheran Teachers Conference. The Michigan Region Five Odyssey of the Mind Board and the Bay Arenac Skill Center Advisory Committee have also benefited from her time and attention to service. Immanuel Lutheran has flourished from the commitment of this exceptional teacher and her presence has graced many committees and projects.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to praise Becky for her continued adherence to excellence in education. The early school years put an indelible stamp on children and Becky Trinklein's strong influence has helped instill in them a sense of self-worth and pride that will carry them far in achieving success in life. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Ms. Trinklein for her dedicated service to the children and in wishing her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, due to an emergency in my district I unexpectedly missed two votes yesterday. If present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 126 and No. 127.

WELCOME TO NEWARK, OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II, SIXTEENTH ASANTEHENE

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 22, my home city of Newark, New Jersey will have the privilege of hosting Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, sixteenth Asantehene, direct successor to Opemsuo Osei Tutu I from Ghana. I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in welcoming the leader of Ghana to New Jersey. Our nation has a special relationship with Ghana, which in 1957 became the first country in colonial Africa to achieve independence. Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of the Republic of Ghana, earned a college degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1939, creating a close bond between the people of Ghana and African Americans. When I had the great honor of accompanying President Clinton on his historic trip to Africa, we received a warm and enthusiastic welcome when over 500,000 Ghanaians came out to greet us.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu II has won admiration for the unique leadership he has provided the people of Asante and Ghana in general since he assumed the high office of Asantehene and