

and the encyclopedia, wrote a history of the USO that would serve as the opening to the show.

The night of the Sweetheart Dance arrived, and we had the jitters. So the District Chaplain had us take hands, bow our heads and ask God to help us through this without making fools of ourselves. We walked onto the stage and to our surprise there were more than 350 people in the hall. Thankfully, the show went off without a hitch, and after all expenses, we made \$300, which we sent to the USO in the name of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Lake City, Florida.

Soon, we received numerous invitations to perform. We were asked to entertain for the residents of the Veterans Home in Lake City. We performed at a luncheon for senior citizens from five surrounding counties at the request of the local chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges. By now, the telephone calls were streaming in. Could we perform for the Shriners in May to raise more money for the USO? How about coming to the VA Hospital in April? Can you make it to some of the local festivals? Can you entertain at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Home? That would be another place where we can take up a collection for the USO. It seemed as if everyone knew about the American Legion Auxiliary USO presentation. We recognized veterans in the community at every program. The most outstanding request of all came when we were asked to appear in Tallahassee in the Rotunda at the Capitol on April 19.

Our local USO dance troupe of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57, Florida, is doing more than preserving an old pastime. We are rekindling a love of our country and recognizing our veterans for a job well done. We are also collecting donations for the USO so that they will be able to continue to make life a little better for our young men and women in the military who serve our country so dutifully here and around the world.

This project has truly turned into a very big red poppy.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I am joined by TOM LANTOS and 27 of our colleagues in introducing a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). This bipartisan, conservation incentive program helps to protect the world's most valuable tropical forests through "debt for nature" mechanisms.

In the 105th Congress I introduced the TFCA with our former colleagues Lee Hamilton and John Kasich. It was overwhelmingly approved by the House by a vote of 356-61, passed the Senate under unanimous consent and became Public Law 105-214. The TFCA was developed with the support and input of respected environmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund and Conservation International. Their support and ongoing commitment to this program are appreciated and commendable.

The United States has a significant national interest in protecting tropical forests in devel-

oping countries. Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits. They harbor 50-90% of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. They act as "carbon sinks," absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby reducing greenhouse gases. They regulate rainfall on which agriculture and coastal resources depend, and they are of great importance to regional and global climate. Furthermore, tropical forests are breeding grounds for new medicines. Twenty five percent of prescription drugs come from tropical forests. The United States National Cancer Institute has identified over 3000 plants that are active against cancer. Seventy percent of them can be found in rain forests.

Regrettably, tropical forests are rapidly disappearing. The latest figures indicate that 30 million acres (an area larger than the State of Pennsylvania) were lost each year. The heavy debt burden of many countries is a contributing factor because often they must resort to exploitation of their natural resources (particularly the extraction of timber, oil, and precious metals) to generate revenue to service their external debt. At the same time, poor governments tend to have few resources available to set aside and protect tropical forests.

The TFCA addresses these economic pressures by authorizing the President to allow eligible countries to engage in debt swaps, buybacks or reduction/restructuring in exchange for protecting threatened tropical forests on a sustained basis.

The TFCA is based on the previous Bush Administration's Enterprise for the America's Initiative (EAI) that allows the President to restructure debt in exchange for conservation efforts in Latin America. TFCA expands on the EAI and allows protection of threatened tropical forests worldwide.

The debt for nature mechanisms in the TFCA is an effective means to leverage scarce funds available for international conservation. The host country places an amount in its tropical forest fund that typically exceeds the cost to the Treasury of the debt reduction agreement. Furthermore, because these tropical forest funds have integrity and are broadly supported within the host country, conservation organizations are interested in placing their own money in these tropical forest funds producing additional leverage of federal conservation dollars.

Last year, the United States concluded the first TFCA debt reduction agreement with Bangladesh. This outstanding agreement will help protect four million acres of mangrove forests in that country and the world's only genetically secure population of Bengal Tigers. At present, there are eleven nations on three continents interested in negotiating TFCA debt reduction agreements. Furthermore, President Bush has expressed his commitment to the program.

The International Relations Committee plans to take up the bill very soon, so I would like to invite all of our colleagues to cosponsor this important conservation measure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCNENLY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew McNenly of Lansing, Michigan on being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Computational Science Graduate fellowship is a rigorous, highly competitive program that provides numerous benefits to the fellows in return for a complete casework in a scientific or engineering discipline, computer science, and applied mathematics.

McNenly graduated from Howell High School in 1994 and is currently attending the University of Michigan pursuing his Ph.D. in Aerospace engineering.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Matthew McNenly for being awarded a Computational Science Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Energy.

HONORING ROSEMARIE FISHER

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 12th, 2001 family, friends, community leaders and well-wishers will gather to congratulate Ms. Rosemarie Fisher on her retirement as Executive Director of Rosalie Manor Community and Family Services in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I have known Rosemarie for many years, and have always admired her vision for and hard work at Rosalie Manor, and the Milwaukee community at large. Rosalie Manor is a non-profit social service agency founded in Milwaukee in 1908 by two Misericordia Sisters to minister to pregnant, single women. While the location and programs have changed in the past 93 years, Rosalie Manor's mission and role as a leader in the field of pregnancy and parenting services in the greater Milwaukee area continues on, thanks to the commitment of Rosemarie, her staff and board members.

Rosemarie began her work at Rosalie Manor in 1975 as a part-time social worker. She remained at the Manor until 1978, when she went to New York to work at another Misericordia Sisters agency called Rosalie Hall. In 1982, Rosemarie returned to Milwaukee and Rosalie Manor as its Executive Director. During the last 19 years, through Rosemarie's insight, planning and financial expertise, Rosalie Manor has become a successful social service agency, expanding programming and the number of families served in the greater Milwaukee area. Since 1984, Rosalie Manor grew from serving 2 residents to more than 3,000 families annually, with a budget of \$450,000 to more than \$3 million.

From 1983 to 1990, Rosemarie's vision of what Rosalie Manor can and should be meant

adding four new programs to meet the changing needs of the Milwaukee community, including Mother Care, Families United to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Supporting Today's Parents, and the Family Intervention Program. Rosemarie believes that her greatest accomplishments while executive director are continuing Rosalie Manor's mission to serve single, pregnant women and maintaining its strong financial position. Rosemarie can indeed take pride in these and so many more goals achieved while serving her community.

I rise to commend Rosemarie Fisher for her commitment to Milwaukee's families and for her years of service to our community at large. Her tireless efforts on our behalf will be missed but always remembered with deep appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO NORM LOVELACE

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate a good friend and advocate of Guam and the Pacific Islands, Norm Lovelace, on his distinguished career and his well-earned retirement.

Currently the manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Insular Area Programs, Norm initially joined the EPA in 1972. At the time, he was tasked to develop, validate and utilize mathematical models for water quality, phytoplankton and hydraulics of the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River for the EPA's Region 3 Annapolis Field Office.

Prior to his stint at the EPA, Norm was employed by the California Department of Water Resources. From 1966 until 1969, he worked on developing water quality and hydraulic models of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta. Having obtained a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Davis in 1969, he went on to perform terrestrial and oceanic geophysical surveys as a senior watch officer aboard the *NOAA Ship Surveyor* until 1972, when he joined the EPA.

Norm first got acquainted with Region 9 in 1979, upon obtaining a transfer to serve in several capacities mainly focused on the EPA's program in the Pacific Basin. He was the project officer for water programs on Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from 1975 until 1979. He went on to be selected as Chief of Municipal Management Section in the Water Division in 1979 where he managed programs and projects for key municipal areas such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego. In 1981, he became the Chief of the Office of Territorial Programs. Renamed Pacific Insular Area Programs (PIAP) soon after he took over, the office administered to all agency domestic involvements in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. This is in addition to agency interests in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau as well as in U.S. possessions such as Wake and Palmyra.

An advocate of the needs of the Pacific Islands, Norm served as a spokesman and rep-

resentative—ensuring that national agencies involved with the Pacific Islands were keenly aware of the special circumstances and needs of the region. He was instrumental in the development and enactment of public laws which adapted complex and cumbersome EPA programs to special circumstances and public health needs of the Pacific Islands community. Through his guidance, policies were refined, funds were allocated, and changes were implemented—all to the benefit of the region. For Guam, Norm played a key role in obtaining full delegation for the island's Hazardous Waste Management Program and Solid Waste Management Program. He was largely responsible for the federal funds secured for the construction of a highly needed hazardous waste transfer station currently in operation on Guam.

For all his work and dedication, we, who have been the beneficiaries of his hard work and dedication, are most thankful. Upon his retirement, I offer my congratulations for his distinguished career and my personal commendation for a job well-done. We wish him the best on his well earned retirement and all the luck in his future endeavors. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Norm.

“CAN DO” SPIRIT CONTINUES AS
45-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Community Area New Development Organization Inc. of Greater Hazleton, Pennsylvania, better known as CAN DO, on its 45th anniversary.

CAN DO is truly a remarkable organization. It was formed in 1956, in a moment of dire economic crisis for the Greater Hazleton area. The area's main industry, anthracite coal mining, was already in rapid decline when Hurricane Diane struck in 1955 and dumped several feet of water on the area. This killed most of the area's coal industry by flooding the deep mines and causing more than half of the remaining coal workers to be laid off. Unemployment reached almost 23 percent and stayed there.

A group of local civic and business leaders decided to take action. Working with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and led by respected physician Dr. Edgar L. Dessen, they formed CAN DO to attract new and diverse industries.

To purchase land they could market to new businesses, they tapped the generosity of the community, beginning with the Dime-A-Week campaign under which workers contributed \$5.20 a year, and the Mile of Dimes campaign, in which residents showed their support by taping dimes along Broad Street—Hazleton's main thoroughfare.

After purchasing land, the next step was to construct shell buildings, pre-built to be ready for new industry. CAN DO's organizers defied doubters who said the group would never be able to raise a half-million dollars in financially

strapped Greater Hazleton. They raised more than \$700,000.

Over the years, CAN DO has built on that initial success, guided by a series of dedicated community-minded citizens such as Dr. Dessen and others too numerous to list here from the founding era to the current leadership, including Chairman Joseph M. DeBias and President W. Kevin O'Donnell. CAN DO has grown from a grass-roots effort to a nationally recognized, award-winning leader in the economic development field.

Its achievements include amassing more than 270 industrial and office projects, more than 21 million square feet of buildings worth more than \$534 million, almost \$1.5 billion in private investment, more than \$5 million in taxes generated for local municipalities and school districts, more than \$275 million in annual payroll, and more than 11,000 current jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the many accomplishments that have flowed from the “CAN DO” spirit of the founders of the Community Area New Development Organization, which is still reflected in its volunteers and staff today. As the U.S. Representative for the Greater Hazleton community, I am privileged to work with such a dedicated organization, and I wish them and the community continued success in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
CONRAD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas Conrad for his dedicated service to the town of Middletown, Michigan.

Thomas Conrad was born in Hoboken, New Jersey and served his nation in the United States Army during both war and peace time. While in the Army during World War II, he served in the 5th Army, 10th Division, and was awarded the Purple Heart medal.

Soon after, he moved to Middletown, Michigan and quickly adopted it as his hometown. In Middletown, Thomas worked for the township Department of Public Works, the Housing Authority, served as a lecturer for the Knights of Columbus, and was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2179.

Thomas was an active member of his community but was probably most remembered for helping those in need. He was a strong advocate for senior citizens and worked hard to see that each senior had access to quality healthcare. He was active in the Irish Society and ran the 50/50 booth at the St. Mary's fair each year.

In 1984, the Kiwanis Club of Middletown named Thomas Man of the Year, and last year he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his service during the war.

Thomas Conrad passed away on February 23 of this year at the age of 75. He will always be remembered as a good hearted man who