

HONORING TOM STEARNS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Tom Stearns for his faithful dedication to improving the lives of others. Mr. Stearns died in a Missoula, Montana hospital on Sunday, May 27, 2001 after suffering a major heart attack.

Tom had an extensive career in public service. Mr. Stearns began his career as a member of the Clovis City Council in 1983 and was named Mayor for two years starting in 1988. In addition to his public service, Mr. Stearns was president of the Clovis Rodeo Association, and represented the city of Clovis on the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Mr. Stearns also served as president of the San Joaquin Division of the League of California Cities from 1991–1992. While dedicating much of his time to public service and private organizations, Mr. Stearns was employed by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. until his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Tom Stearns for his dedication to improving the lives of others in the local community. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Stearns.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID W. NELSON

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2001*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Dr. David W. Nelson from Middleton, Wisconsin. On June 30, 2001, Dr. Nelson will be inducted as the 80th president of the American Optometric Association at its 104th Annual Congress in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Nelson's commitment and contributions to his profession have earned him this prestigious recognition.

Dr. Nelson has an impressive record of service at the local, state, and national level showing his dedication and leadership in the field of optometry. He was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board in 1994 and held the elective offices of Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President. He also served as chair of the Membership Development Committee and Computer Network Task Force.

Dr. Nelson is also past president of the Wisconsin Optometric Association (WOA) and the Madison Area Optometric Society. His professional leadership began during his optometric doctorate studies as president of the American Optometric Student Association, a national organization of 5,200 members representing optometry students' interest in their four-year post-graduate programs.

Dr. Nelson has been recognized with the Optometric Recognition Award in 1989 and the Legislative Achievement Award in 1989, 1990, and 1994. He also was named Wisconsin Young Optometrist of the Year in 1995.

In looking at Dr. Nelson's past achievements, it is apparent that his devotion and motivation will meet the leadership demands of the American Optometric Association. I join his many friends and professional colleagues in congratulating him and wishing him well as the new president of the American Optometric Association.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2001

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to the 2001 graduating class of Michigan State University. Due to their hard work and dedication, they are now prepared to make significant contributions to the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

As graduates from the first land grant University in the United States, whatever endeavors the Michigan State class of 2001 may pursue, success is certain to follow.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Michigan State University Class of 2001. May this only be the beginning of the great accomplishments they will achieve in their lifetime.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST UAW CONTRACT WITH FORD MOTOR COMPANY

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to live in a country which protects our freedoms and liberties—the right to free speech, freedom of assembly, and free association.

The right to safe working conditions, an 8 hour workday, a 40 hour workweek, the weekend . . . are things prior generations fought, bled and even died for—and we should never forget that.

On the 60th Anniversary of the first United Auto Worker contract with Ford Motor Company, we need to recognize the difference the UAW has made in the lives of working families.

Prior to their UAW contract, Ford workers had no health and safety protections, no sickness and accident benefits, no grievance procedures, and no respect.

When Walter Reuther and Richard Frankensteen led UAW workers in the Battle of the Overpass in 1937, where they were beaten repeatedly, they began the process of bringing Ford Motor Company to the table to recognize the importance of a quality union workforce.

The years 1937 to 1940 were full of similar battles where workers fought, and some died, to bring dignity to their workplace and to build a better community.

Back then, every Congress of Industrial Organizations member in the Detroit area was asked to sign up the Ford worker “who lives next door or goes to the same church or is married to your . . . second cousin.”

On December 30, 1940, 1,000 men organized a strike in the Rouge River tool-and-die department over rest periods. Ford tried to discharge the UAW leaders, but the National Labor Relations Board ordered 22 of them reinstated. When the union members heard the news, they marched triumphantly back into the plant wearing their CIO buttons . . . something they would not have dared to do just a few weeks earlier.

Then in April, 1941, the company refused to meet with any union committees and followed this up by firing eight committeemen. When word of these discharges passed through the River Rouge plant, one worker shouted “strike!” Another voice took up the cry, “strike!” And soon, louder and bolder, the cries rolled through the plants “strike! strike!” There had never been anything like it in Ford history. Workers left their lathes and benches. Assembly lines ground to a halt. Workers began walking out, first in trickles, then soon in columns, and they marched from the Rouge River plant to a union hall, half a mile away. By nightfall, the hall was filled. The Ford workers couldn't believe what they had done—Ford Motor Company was shut down.

On April 10th, the strike came to an end, as quickly as it had started, it finished. Henry Ford, for the first time in his life, agreed to negotiate with a labor union. On June 20th, the first 24-page contract between the UAW and Ford was signed.

In contract after contract, the UAW has been able to improve upon that original document—in terms of wages, benefits, job protections, pensions, etc.—to the point where the UAW contract with Ford Motor Company ranks among the best in the world.

Today, we should remember those who fought so hard for that first contract 60 years ago . . . and we should draw strength from their perseverance so that 60 years from now our children will look back and see the exponential progress made by current generations.

HONORING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMBAT UNITS DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF ARMY OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we honor the continued commitment of the Army National Guard in supporting peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, as well as recognize the sacrifices made by these brave men and women who so valiantly serve our country. H. Con. Res. 154 commends the gallantry and dedication of these soldiers who have not only restored peace to the Balkans but have facilitated the recent democratization of the former Yugoslavia.