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By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA LEWIS PARKS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Sylvia Lewis Parks on the occasion of her retirement from Richland County School District One after 38 years of dedicated and unselfish service to the children of Columbia, SC.

Mrs. Parks joined the school system in 1958 as an elementary school teacher, where she quickly earned a reputation for her superior and innovative teaching style. After just over a decade of classroom teaching, Mrs. Parks began the first of numerous increasingly important positions within the school system, eventually becoming one of the top administrators in the entire system. Some of these positions were: Title One Coordinator; Director of Federal Programs; Executive Director for Development Programs; Executive Director for Development and Planning; and, Acting Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education. Mrs. Parks' most recent position has been Executive Director for Elementary School Services.

In addition to her work with Richland District One, Mrs. Parks has been a consultant to school districts and educational associations across the country including: the U.S. Department of Education, Seattle, WA, Public Schools, the Oklahoma City Schools, and the Fayetteville, NC, School District. She has been a presenter at the Overseas School-to-School Partnership in Gabon and Cameroon, West Africa, the South Carolina Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, and the South Carolina Education Association.

While keeping a very busy professional schedule, Mrs. Parks has always generously found time to serve her community and to improve the lives of the world at large. She has been a member of the board of directors of the United Black Fund, the Columbia Urban League, and the Midlands Marine Institute. She previously served as president of the Richland County Chapter of the Assault on Illiteracy Program and was a member of the

South Carolina Coalition of Blacks and Jews, the Community Relations Council, the Seventy-Three Breakfast Club, and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a former member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Despite the numerous demands on her time, Mrs. Parks has always found time for her family. She is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She is a friendly neighbor and a warm smile to all who meet her. Over the years, she has served as a mentor to legions of students, teachers, and school administrators. Mrs. Parks is a dedicated member of the St John Baptist Church, where she has been a member of numerous committees and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Parks is a true Renaissance woman. I am proud to represent her in the Congress. While she will be missed at Richland School District One, I am sure her dedication and untiring devotion to our children will never end. I ask that you and the other Members of the House join me in saluting Mrs. Sylvia Lewis Parks as her family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate her retirement on Saturday, May 25, 1996, at the Clarion Townhouse in Columbia, SC.

MEDIA OBJECTIVITY

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the professed objectivity of this country's mainstream media should be of concern to all Americans as they attempt to assess the vital issues of the day. News tinted with bias clearly prevents citizens from making truly informed decisions. I share with this body the following startling comments by Newsweek assistant managing editor and Washington bureau chief Evan Thomas from Inside Washington, a weekly public affairs show broadcast locally in the Washington area the weekend of May 11 and 12, 1996.

Apparently one member of the media establishment knows bias when he sees it.

There is a liberal bias; it's demonstrable. Boy, if you look at some statistics: About 85 percent of the reporters who cover the White House vote Democratic; they have for a long time. There is, particularly at the networks, at the lower levels, among the editors and the so-called infrastructure, there is a liberal bias.

There is a liberal bias at Newsweek, the magazine I work for. Most of the people who work at Newsweek live on the upper West Side of New York and they have a liberal bias.

I don't think it's so much Washington. It's New York. You have to look at which city we're talking about. It's where the networks are based—where the New York Times is based. I think the greatest liberal bias is amongst the people who work for large major news organizations in New York.

The network White House correspondent who writes for a conservative opinion magazine's bosses are liberal and they're always quietly denouncing him for being a right-wing nut.

The word liberalism is pretty much dead. Therefore, it's not a liberal bias; it's an anti-Republican, anti-right, anti-Christian Coalition bias. That's the bias.

I submit these observations into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the hopes they are

kept in mind when the topic of media fairness arises.

ROBERT A. FORTINSKY HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my close personal friend Robert A. Fortinsky, who, on May 20, 1996, will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Society of Fellows Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event, and I take pride in honoring Bob on the House floor today.

In 1913, the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith was established to fight defamation based on religious, racial, and ethnic prejudices and to promote education, and a more mature understanding of all humankind. Bob Fortinsky has embraced the principles of the Anti-Defamation League, and through his actions has become most deserving of the organization's Distinguished Community Service Award.

Born in Wilkes-Barre in 1929, Bob experienced a traditional Northeastern Pennsylvania upbringing with a strong commitment to academics. After graduating from Meyer's High School, he enrolled in Penn State university, but his education was interrupted in 1944 when he left college to serve his country in the U.S. Army.

While in the Army, Bob's leadership qualities became evident to his superiors who promoted him to Second Lieutenant. Upon attaining this rank, Bob became the youngest second lieutenant in the Army Chemical Corps. Following his service to his country, Bob returned to Penn State where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry.

Using the resources of leadership and a strong education, Bob established Fortune Fabrics, Inc. in 1949. Since that time he has established several other companies including Wyoming Weavers, Inc. in 1975 and Jij Enterprises, Inc. in 1983. Throughout all of his business dealings, he has always operated his businesses with adherence to the highest ethical standards and a commitment to producing the best quality products.

Bob's leadership is not only evident in his business successes, but in the community organizations and clubs to which he lends his skills and time. In 1972 and 1984, Bob was Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Campaign, and from 1973 to 1976 he served as the President of the Jewish Community Center of Wilkes-Barre. Bob was Co-Chairman of the Jewish Community Center's Endowment Fund, and in 1985 he became Chairman of Israel Bonds. He also served as President of Temple Israel and later served as Chairman of the Board of Temple Israel. In 1988 he was honored by Wilkes University with the dedication of Fortinsky Hall.

Today, Bob Fortinsky continues to be active in many community organizations and private clubs. He is a Director of the Luzerne National Bank, and a member of the International Textile Society. In addition to being a Trustee of Wilkes University, he is a member of the university's John Wilkes Society. He became a

board member of the Fox Hill Country Club in 1996 after serving as President of the club during the previous year. Bob is also a member of the Wyoming Business Club and the King's College Century Club.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Fortinsky is a truly exceptional businessman and an outstanding community leader. He and his wife, Shirley, are responsible for making so many significant contributions to the betterment mankind. I wish Bob and his family everlasting success and happiness.

FISCAL YEAR 1997 BUDGET RESOLUTION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, minutes ago I voted in favor of the coalition budget, a plan to balance the budget in 6 years with \$137 billion more in deficit reduction than the Republican proposal. Given that the coalition budget was not approved, the House is now faced with a choice between the President's budget plan and the Republican plan.

I rise in support of the President's proposal and in opposition to the majority budget resolution. In several critical respects—from its support for the Federal health care programs that protect our Nation's seniors, poor children, and the disabled, to the agriculture programs that support the productivity of our farmers, to the investment it provides in the education of our children—the President's plan is vastly superior to the Republican budget.

However, in the area of veterans programs, the President's plan is seriously deficient. The President should modify his budget to provide a funding commitment more like that contained in the coalition budget. The coalition budget provides \$112 billion—\$5 billion more than the Republican plan and \$10 billion more than the President's plan—for discretionary veterans programs. These programs support the medical care, education, training, and rehabilitation services for those who served our Nation in times of war. I believe the coalition budget provides the appropriate level of funding for our veterans, and I urge both sides to adopt the coalition budget's funding commitment to the programs that serve our veterans.

HONORING THE EAGLEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Eagleville Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 173 and 174 on H.R. 3230 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on both rollcalls. I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following rollcall vote Nos. 173 and 174.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we are quickly approaching the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War and in preparation of this, I, along with several colleagues, would like to designate Louisiana State University [L.S.U.] in conjunction with Gettysburg College as flagship institutions which will plan this commemoration.

The centers' goals will include cataloging Civil War archives nationwide and studying the war from the perspective of every conceivable discipline, profession, and occupation. All of this will enable L.S.U. and Gettysburg College to plan a sesquicentennial commemoration that will celebrate Civil War heritage in the North and South, while engaging all citizens in a study of the ways in which both problems and prospects of today evolved out of many facets of the Civil War and its legacy.

Through these centers, we can educate the people about the Civil War. To quote Abraham Lincoln, "We will hope to reach the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues, and colors and conditions." These two centers will, as students and guardians of the American past, have done the most important public duty of our lives, and, with the grace of God, will have served the peoples of the United States and the world.

THE POLISH ARMY VETERANS ASSOCIATION POST 40, HAMMOND, IN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to congratulate the Polish Army Veterans Association [PAVA] Post 40 in Hammond, IN on its 75th anniversary. PAVA Post 40 will hold an anniversary celebration at its banquet hall in Hammond this Saturday, May 18, 1996. I especially would like to congratulate post commander, Mr. Walter Prygon, and post financial secretary, Mr. Zenon Wicinski, and all the other members of PAVA Post 40 for their time-honored dedication to preserve their Polish heritage and to assist their fellow countrymen in times of need. Joining the celebration will be Edward Repay, president of the Hammond City Council, and Lake County sheriff, John Buncich.

The history of the PAVA is one of pride and honor. At the beginning of World War I, while the United States was still a neutral country, several prominent Polish-Americans issued an appeal to organize a volunteer army to fight the threat to Poland's freedom. Because the United States was still neutral at this time, it granted permission to Polish-American leaders to form an army to help with the war in Poland. Within the framework of the so-called Act of Arming, thousands of young Polish immigrants in the United States and Canada presented themselves for training. This training took place at Camp Niagara, in Canada.

After training, the recruits were sent to France under the command of the leader of the Polish Armed Forces, Gen. Jozef Haller. General Haller named these troops the "Blekitna Armia" (Blue Army) after the color of their uniforms. Under the command of General Haller, the Blue Army contributed to the end of the Polish-Red Communist conflict. However, because Poland was destroyed by war and 150 years of bondage by neighboring countries, Poland could not compensate General Haller and the Blue Army for their heroic stand and sacrifice. After completing their duties, the Blue Army soldiers returned to the United States and Canada in tattered uniforms.

Once back in the United States, the soldiers sought to continue the traditions they developed in Poland by forming a veterans organization in the United States and Canada. This organization was registered in the United States under the name of the Polish Army Veterans Association. Currently, the national headquarters is located in Cleveland, OH, and there are 70 posts with about 2,000 members throughout the country. The purpose of the organization, as incorporated in its own constitution, is to bring help to those less fortunate, as well as to hold social gatherings in an effort to cultivate and continue Polish traditions.

Before World War I, the majority of Polish immigrants in the United States settled in industrial towns, such as Hammond, IN and others in northwest Indiana. These Polish-American settlers included discharged soldiers of General Haller's army. These immigrants registered with the national headquarters of the Polish Army Veterans Association, and, on May 5, 1921, they were officially designated as Post 40. Eventually, the members of Post