

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.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

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.

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. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. 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