

that campaign, but Bryan's presence made the experience more enjoyable, or at least more bearable, that it would have been without him.

Mr. Speaker, Bryan is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and professionalism.

Bryan plans to continue working in the public relations and media relations arena. He also plans to continue devoting his spare time to his two primary hobbies—bicycling and investing. I wish him may more miles of scenic, safe, and relaxing bicycling, as well as many more years of double-digit returns on his Compaq, Merck, PepsiCo. and other stocks.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Bryan Wirwicz for his loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution, and I know you join me in wishing him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

---

TRIBUTE TO VRETENAR CONSTRUCTION 1996 ST. FRANCIS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vretenar Construction, city of St. Francis 1996 Business of the Year.

Vretenar Construction, formerly known as Vretenar & Sons, was founded by John Vretenar, Sr. in 1949 with a trailer, a wheel barrow, a mud box, and a lot of hard work. Forty seven years later, Vretenar Construction remains a family business, run by John's son Milton and Milt's wife Elizabeth since John's retirement in 1965. Even Milt and Betty's son Craig was involved in the family business until he became building inspector for the city of St. Francis.

Vretenar Construction has provided many years of service to the community, building homes, and buildings for area residents and businesses. But their dedication extends well beyond that. Milt, the longtime mayor of the city of St. Francis and a talented mason contractor, is constantly donating his time and skills to a city he loves so dearly. Milt quietly helps out wherever he can, from construction of the veteran's memorial to repairs on the St. Francis Historical Society house to a host of other projects too numerous to mention. He and Betty also remain involved in a number of community organizations and have for so many years been so committed to making St. Francis a great place to live and work.

Vretenar Construction is a perfect example of a business with a strong community spirit. It is certainly a well-deserving recipient of the city of St. Francis Economic Development Committee's Business of the Year honor. For the Vretenars, community service is truly a family affair.

TRIBUTE TO MISS ARIANE FRANCO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary young Puerto Rican, Miss Ariane Franco, for her dedication to excel academically and serve the community. She is an inspiration and a role model for many young students in the Nation, specially the Puerto Rican and South Bronx communities to which she belongs.

Ariane was recently selected as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Northeast Youth of the Year. She will represent the Northeast as one of the five finalists in this year's competition, which is being held in Washington, DC.

Like many other youngsters across the Nation, Ariane was raised in a family which faced many difficulties. Her desire to do something positive led her to achieve academically and to serve the community.

Ariane has been an active member of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club over the past 4 years. At the club, she worked as a tutor for remedial math and reading, and as a computer instructor. She was also involved in numerous community service programs, including the Club's Smart Moves Program. Through this program, Ariane taught youngsters to be aware of and to prevent substance abuse, teen pregnancy, peer pressure and AIDS.

Ariane's strong determination to fight adversity, and her family's spiritual strength have molded her into a very positive individual, always full of optimism and with the desire to help others.

In addition to her community activism and leadership, Ariane is an excellent student. In spite of difficulties, she remained an honor student throughout her 4 years of high school at Stevenson's in the Bronx. She now attends the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. Her strong desire to inform people about the truth has led her to major in communications with the goal of becoming a journalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Ariane Franco for her leadership and commitment to her community, and for serving as a role model for young people. Young individuals like Ariane make all of us proud, specially our Puerto Rican community of the South Bronx.

---

RECOGNITION OF THE METAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATION TO NQS 9000

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the owner and employees of Metal Dynamics Corp. [MDC] of Tulsa, OK, for being the first foundry in the United States to be certified to NQS 9000. This certification recognizes that MDC has implemented and maintained a quality system fully compliant with each provision of ISO 9002-1994.

NQS 9000 is an industry-specific quality program created and administered by the

Non-Ferrous Founders' Society [NFFS]. Sponsored by the Defense Logistics Agency Technical Enterprise Team as part of the AMC lead time and cost reduction program, NQS 9000 is a low cost alternative to traditional ISO 9000 registration for the foundry industry. ISO 9000 is the recognized standard in the quality control community. NFFS developed the NQS 9000 program so that a foundry can pursue a higher level of quality without paying the expensive fees charged by many ISO consultants. The Metal Dynamics Corp. was one of the first companies to enroll in NQS 9000 and achieved NQS certification in only 6 months.

The Metal Dynamics Corp., owned by Don Doss since 1976, has 43 employees, and works with stainless, ferrous and nonferrous materials to do investment casting and sand casting. Among their products are components for the Trident Seawolf Submarine. The employees of MDC are to be commended for their efforts to change old habits and learn new ones—to operate as a progressive and proactive team. Businesses such as Metal Dynamics Corp., which emphasize the importance of a commitment to quality and a proactive approach to achieving it, serve as an example and set a high standard for others in the industry. Their proven success is an incentive for achievement.

Don Doss, the president and owner of the Metal Dynamics Corp., continues to prove himself not only as an advocate, but also as a pioneer in quality control. A graduate from the University of Tulsa in mechanical engineering, he joined NFFS in 1976 when he gained ownership of MDC. He served as president of NFFS from 1982 to 1983, and on the Cast Metals Institute Board from 1986 to 1990. He is currently a board member of the American Foundryman's Society [AFS] and is chairman of the NFFS Quality Task Force, which established the NQS program. By implementing the program at his own foundry and earning the certification, Mr. Doss has demonstrated the benefit of the NFFS NQS 9000 program. By being the first foundry to be certified, the Metal Dynamics Corp. has secured respect and recognition for itself and other small foundries among world leaders in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Don Doss and the employees of the Metal Dynamics Corp. for their admirable efforts to provide quality products, which in turn help our country to be economically stronger and more competitive. I would also like to recognize the other small foundries like Metal Dynamics Corp. It is their devoted hard work, commitment to success, and willingness to change for the better that stand out as encouragement for the rest of us. Theirs is the attitude that made our country great, and that will secure for us our future.

---

“REMEMBERING AMERICA'S POW/MIAS”

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not bring to your attention an inspirational essay by one of America's leading advocates for veterans, my very distinguished