

but Hoosiers are right to be skeptical and demand more progress. First, even a 10% or 20% reduction in crime would leave us far less safe than we were twenty or thirty years ago. Persons who remember what it was like to leave a home unlocked or the keys in the ignition will not and should not be satisfied with only a modest reduction in the crime rate. Second, while crime has declined significantly in cities, it continues to rise in small communities and rural areas. I have pushed for more attention to the unique crime problems in these communities, which are too often ignored by the media and policymakers. Crime has long been primarily a state and local matter, but there are things the federal government can do to help.

## POLICE

One reason given for the reduction in urban crime rates is the increased focus cities have placed on community policing. More communities in southern Indiana are adapting this technique to fit our needs, and I am hopeful we can achieve a similar reduction in crime. For example, many officers meet regularly with local business and neighborhood organizations, patrol public places on foot and on bicycle, and run drug education programs in our local schools.

Our law enforcement officers are often overwhelmed, however, by increases in violent crime. In 1960, there were about 3 police officers for every violent crime in America. By 1993, that number was reversed: 3 violent crimes per police officer. More officers are clearly needed. I am pleased that the federal COPS program has provided funding for more than 70 new officers in southern Indiana, all paid for by reductions in the federal workforce. These officers are an important addition to the work of all Ninth District law enforcement, and we must continue our efforts to provide more police.

## PROSECUTORS

Even the best police work will fall short without tough follow-up by prosecutors. My sense is that too little attention has been paid to the problems facing prosecutors. Anyone who watched the O.J. Simpson trial knows how difficult it is to prove a criminal case. Congress should help give prosecutors more tools and more resources, similar to the way it has assisted local police departments. At the county level, prosecutors and judges are so burdened with growing case-loads, it is difficult to prosecute minor offenses. The U.S. Attorney's office has too few resources to meet the demands placed on it, which means that less serious offenses get reduced sentences or plea bargains. Criminals who commit minor offenses are more likely to commit major offenses later. It is short-sighted to let them get off the hook.

## PRISONS

With my support, Congress has passed a number of measures in recent years to increase funding for state and federal prisons. These were also paid for by reducing the federal workplace. I supported measures to encourage states to enact "truth-in-sentencing" laws that require prisoners to serve at least 85% of their sentences. At the federal level, tough provisions like the "three strikes and you're out" provision in 1994 anti-crime legislation mean that repeat violent felons will be kept off the streets.

For example, last year a New Albany man was sentenced to almost 30 years in prison for repeated felonies with a firearm. Although he had been arrested more than 30 times on charges of rape, sexual battery, trespassing, and other offenses, the state legislature provided only a three-year maximum sentence for his 1994 armed robbery. Because of the tough new federal sentences, however, this repeat criminal received a sen-

tence ten times harsher than under state law.

As crime rates and sentences increase, prisons are becoming more crowded. Indiana prisons are 14% overcrowded today, and county jails face a similar situation. Without enough jail cells, courts are forced to reduce sentences or release prisoners early. In addition to building more prisons, one solution is to reduce recidivism, the rate ex-convicts return to crime. The primary purpose of prison must be to prevent them from committing crimes again. Many correctional facilities have begun to require more work from inmates, as well as drug treatment and literacy training. Congress has provided funds to create youth boot camps, which impose discipline and order on younger inmates. These are the inmates who are most likely to be corrupted by older, more seasoned criminals in traditional prisons, and the ones who will benefit most from tough training.

## PREVENTION

We must also address the root causes of crime by providing strong alternatives to broken families, as well as opportunities for young people to pursue normal, law abiding lives. It is important to focus on our young people before they turn to criminal activity. I am particularly concerned that more of our young people are turning to illegal drugs. We must act now to ensure that this group is not lost to the cycle of drugs and violent crime. There are a number of outstanding community groups in southern Indiana, often working with churches, that run youth centers, drug treatment, job training, and counseling. These groups deserve our strong support. Parents, schools, churches, community groups, and public officials must do everything in their power to ensure that our children become productive, law-abiding citizens.

There is no single answer to fighting crime. It is a complex problem, with no easy solutions. Police, prosecution, prisons, and prevention are all critical components of an effective anti-crime strategy. Congress' role must be to facilitate the work of state and local governments to protect all our citizens from crime.

## TOM BIGLER HONORED

## HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, I stood before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to bring to your attention the accomplishments of a good friend and community leader, Mr. Tom Bigler. I am pleased to once again join in a community salute to Tom as he is honored by the Ethics Institute of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Bigler spent much of his life as a broadcast journalist. His editorial commentary during his 20 years at WBRE-TV became legendary and he set the standard for local news broadcasting which is still practiced today.

Today Tom teaches journalism and communications at Wilkes University and continues his dedication to the community through his volunteer service. This month Tom will assume the presidency of the Board of Directors of the Family Service Association of the Wyoming Valley.

His affiliation with the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, The Osterhout Library,

Leadership Wilkes-Barre and of course the Ethics Institute have kept Tom on the forefront of local issues and policymaking.

For several years, Tom has brought his keen insight on current events to print as a columnist for the Times Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to bring the many accomplishments of this distinguished community leader, Mr. Tom Bigler to the attention of my colleagues. I applaud the choice of the Ethics Institute for selecting him as this year's honoree. I join with his many friends, family and the community in thanking Tom for his years of service and dedication to the community of northeastern Pennsylvania.

## TRIBUTE TO BONITA HOUSE OF BERKELEY, CA

## HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Bonita House of Berkeley, CA, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary of service to the community. Bonita House has provided extremely important services to our community and provided valuable assistance to thousands of Bay Area residents who struggle with mental disabilities and substance abuse problems, allowing them to regain their independence and become productive members of society.

Bonita House was the first psychiatric residential treatment facility in Alameda County. In 1971, Bonita House opened the Berkeley Creative Living Center which was the first living center of its kind. This center has been instrumental in supporting people living with mental disabilities to achieve relatively autonomous and independent lives. It also opened the doors to the Junkman's Palace Cafe. Junkman's Palace Cafe illustrates one of many creative and innovative treatment methods implemented by Bonita House. The cafe has been a productive source for alternative vocational training and rehabilitation.

In 1982, Bonita House was given a HUD grant to open a living facility for adults with mental disabilities.

In 1991, Bonita House implemented a treatment strategy to deal with the dual issues of substance abuse and mental health problems.

The expansion of programs, the establishment of subsidiary agencies, and the implementation of integrated treatment services, are testimony to Bonita House's commitment to our community. It is with these attributes in mind that it gives me great honor to recognize Bonita House on their 25 years of distinguished service.

CLARION COUNTY, PA:  
COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

## HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, all eyes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—and increasingly throughout the Nation—are fixed admiringly on Clarion County.