

Glen Park, IN. Members of that group included: J.J. Kelley, Thomas F. Kennedy, Maurice Cox, John B. Rockford, and John P. Churchill. These men purchased a building from the German Evangelical Church of North America on May 19, 1921, and they moved the building from 20th and Grant Street to a site at 39th and Broadway.

In August of that same year, Father John B. DeVille, an assistant at Holy Angels Parish, told the committee and Bishop Herman J. Alerding that he would accept the responsibility of ministering to the spiritual needs of the fledgling St. Mark Parish. Father DeVille celebrated Mass regularly in the church on Broadway, and he taught religious education classes to children.

On February 4, 1922, the first marriage at St. Mark Church took place between Carlo Terlicher and Aurelia Chiabai. Aurelia Terlicher, who is 92 years old this month, is still a member of the St. Mark Parish family. Albert Antonio Sgambelluri was the first to be baptized at St. Mark on October 2, 1921.

It wasn't until June 17, 1923, that Bishop Herman J. Alerding appointed Father Joseph Ryder as the first pastor of St. Mark Church. Within 5 years of its inception, the rapidly growing St. Mark Parish needed newer and larger facilities. As a result, construction of the combination church, school, and convent began in July, 1926, on the selected site at 501 West Ridge Road. The Right Reverend John Francis Noll presided over the dedication ceremony of the new facility in July, 1927.

At first, Sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ gave their time and service to the schoolchildren of St. Mark. However, after the school building was completed, Father Ryder secured the services of the Dominican Sisters and they assumed the role of faculty at the school and resided in the convent on Ridge Road. The Sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ eventually replaced the Dominican Sisters in September 1931. In June 1986, the Sisters reluctantly announced the end of their ministry at the school. A new principal, Ms. Muriel Lennstrum, was hired along with several other lay teachers.

In April, 1951, a new school building was completed to accommodate the evergrowing enrollment of schoolchildren. In the early years of the parish, St. Mark School originated from religious education classes. As St. Mark celebrates its 75th anniversary, Ms. Maria Vazquez serves as principal of St. Mark School, which boasts an enrollment of 149 pupils enrolled in the grade school. Clare Coppinger and Dorothy Pictor have organized an alumni association with over 1,000 members from the classes of 1932–1957.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the current pastor, the Reverend Robert P. Gehring, and the 421 parish families of St. Mark as they celebrate the church's 75th Anniversary. St. Mark is a multiethnic and multicultural parish known for its caring and welcoming of all people. May they continue to celebrate for many years to come.

## POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the importance of National POW–MIA Recognition Day on September 20, 1996. I urge my colleagues to participate in recognizing America's heroes, those who are presumed missing in action.

Our Nation has fought six major conflicts in its history. In those wars, over 500,000 Americans have been taken prisoner of war. Those servicemen and women experienced numerous hardships and treatment which could often be described only as barbaric during the course of captivity. Those Americans imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II faced the worst possible conditions in captivity and were firsthand witnesses to the utter depravity of their fellowmen.

I have been a strong advocate of an accounting of our POW–MIA's since I first came to the Congress in 1973. I proudly supported the creation of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, the National POW–MIA Recognition days, and POW–MIA legislation because I believe the families of those who are missing in action deserve no less. Hopefully 1996 will be the last year that such an occasion will be necessary. My hope is that by this time next year, our Government will have obtained a full accounting of those brave American's whose fates, at this time, are still unknown.

Permit me to focus special recognition on those POW–MIA's from Korea and Vietnam. Despite the administration's best assurances to the contrary, many of us remain unconvinced that the Governments of North Korea and Vietnam have been fully cooperating with the United States on this issue. Regrettably, by normalizing relations with Vietnam, I believe that we have withdrawn our leverage over the Vietnamese government on this issue.

On September 18, 1996, the Washington Times ran a front page story about the latest POW–MIA hearing held by Chairman DORNAN's Subcommittee on Military Personnel. This hearing, on September 17, 1996, consisted of several key witnesses, including a former aide to President Eisenhower, and a high ranking Czech defector who was a member of Czechoslovakia's Defense Ministry.

The defector, former Gen. Jan Sejna, testified that Soviet and Czech military doctors performed ghastly medical experiments on U.S. POW's in North Korea during the Korean war. Those experiments were used to test the psychological endurance of American GI's, as well as their resistance to chemical, biological, and radioactive agents. Moreover, Mr. Sejna also stated that he helped organize shipments of POW's to the U.S.S.R. during the Vietnam war, and that at least 200 were sent there between 1961 and 1968.

Hopefully this information will lead to a further investigation regarding the safe return of any living POW's who may still be in captivity in Korea or elsewhere.

Americans should always bear in mind the love of country that America's veterans have shown as well as their personal sacrifices, courage, convictions, and dedication to freedom that these individuals have exhibited.

Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman BOB STUMP recently quoted a portion of President Abraham Lincoln's letter to a mother who lost five sons on the battlefield: "I cannot refrain from tendering to you the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

May it be of some solace to the families and loved ones of our missing and POW's that there are many of us in the Congress committed to a full and final accounting of our missing.

## A GREAT AMERICAN RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today our Nation salutes the career of a distinguished Naval officer, Adm. Bruce DeMars, who will retire from the Navy this fall after more than 40 years of dedicated service to our country. For the last 8 years, Admiral DeMars held the position of Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, and faced the task of strengthening the capability and quality of our Nation's nuclear powered warships despite ever-tightening budget constraints in the post-cold war era.

Admiral DeMars was appointed Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program after compiling an impressive record of accomplishments, including tours as the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *Cavalla* (SSN 684), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas/U.S. Naval Base Guam, and as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Submarine Warfare. At the time of his appointment, the Navy had plans for substantial nuclear powered warship construction—the product of a continuing Soviet threat. The sudden and dramatic collapse of the Soviet Union during the next few years called for a comprehensive review of our defense requirements. The *Seawolf* attack submarine program was terminated, and Admiral DeMars faced the difficult challenge of adjusting to drastically changing defense requirements while maintaining the program's long established reputation for technical excellence and uncompromising safety. The program's reputation had been established by Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, the program's founder, and later commended by President Reagan as recognized worldwide for excellence in all phases of its work.

Admiral DeMars met this challenge headon, continuing the superb performance, safety, and environmental record of nuclear powered warships. Our nuclear powered warships benefit from acceptance in foreign ports worldwide, which reflects the emphasis placed on safety—not only for the sailors who must work and live on these warships, but for preserving the environment which affects all of us. Over the past 8 years, these warships safely steamed over 40 million miles, and over 20,000 sailors and officers were trained to operate their nuclear propulsion plants. In 1994, nuclear powered warships reached the significant milestone of over 100 million miles safely