the coal industry and the mercantile and cultural center for mining towns in the surrounding area.

Perhaps the town's most important attribute, however, is its hundreds of civic-minded citizens who share a vision to preserve and revitalize this very historic place. In recent years, the community has pulled together to promote tourism and economic development. I am confident all these efforts will prove to be successful and in the coming years, Uniontown will remain a very bright and unique jewel in the heritage of our Nation.

Again, I congratulate all the citizens of Uniontown and know they will have a wonderful day to celebrate their beginnings and renew their community spirit.

THE 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION AT ST. AGNES HOME FOR BOYS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the St. Agnes Home for Boys in Sparkill, NY, was an outstanding home for orphaned boys for over 100 years. It closed its doors forever back in 1977, but the many boys who were raised by the loving Dominican Sisters of Sparkill will never forget their kindnesses and the outstanding lessons of life that they learned there.

In its over 100 years of existence, thousands of orphaned and needy boys were reared at St. Agnes home. The home taught these youngsters the importance of patriotism, which is underscored by the fact that over 555 graduates of St. Agnes served in the Armed Forces of our Nation during World War II alone. It is hard to believe that any school so small anywhere else in the Nation could possibly have produced so many soldiers. Sadly, 39 of them were killed in action during that conflict—a record of valor which is probably unequaled.

One graduate of St. Agnes, Gerald F. Merna, is today the vice president of the American Defense Preparedness Association, headquartered in Arlington, VA. Another is his brother James, a resident of Lanham, MD, who now serves as chairman of public relations for the St. Agnes Alumni Association. Jerry, James, and their four brothers all were raised at St. Agnes. Their eldest brother, George, was killed at the age of 19 in a sea battle during World War II.

On August 24 of this year, the St. Agnes Alumni Association conducted its 50th anniversary reunion. Seventy-five alumni of St. Agnes from all across the Nation came to Rockland County, in my congressional district, to pay tribute to the sisters, and the sports coaches, who molded them into outstanding citizens, and to reminisce about their incredible experiences at St. Agnes.

The Speaker of the House generated a great deal of controversy last year regarding his comments on orphanages. Here is an example of an orphanage which filled a community need and became a beacon for thousands of youngsters.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the newspaper article dated August 25 which appeared in the Rockland Journal News recounting the recent reunion:

[From the Rockland Journal News, Aug. 25, 1996]

ST. AGNES ALUMNI CELEBRATE MEMORIES

(By Richard Gooden)

Sparkill.—Art Kingsley provided humor, emotion and nostalgia yesterday during the 50th anniversary celebration of St. Agnes Alumni Association's founding. He held the attention of 75 feisty people, in 85-degree heat, on the grounds of the Dominican Convent.

That was the easy part.

In order to prepare for the day's events, the 73-year-old World War II veteran and former resident of the St. Agnes Orphanage used a chain saw to remove two plaques from a wall of the Hallan Building. He bought a third plaque. He then dug a shallow 10-by-5 bed on the lawn, filled it with gray stone and embedded the plaques in a cream marble.

''This is a beautiful work of art,'' said James Merna, a resident of St. Agnes from 1946 to 1950 and now head of public relations for the alumni association. ''Art Kingsley made this all happen today.''

The corner plaques were dedicated to St. Agnes physical education teacher James Faulk and the nuns who worked at the home. The convent closed the orphanage in 1977.

The plaque in the middle honored the 39 soldiers that attended St. Agnes, who died in World War II and the Korean War.

Merna, a stocky round-faced man, eager to help all in attendance, reminisced on the transformation from childhood to manhood at St. Agnes.

''We went from the ballfields of St. Agnes to the battlefield of World War II and the Korean War,'' said the Marine veteran who graduated from Tappan Zee High School. Merna challenges any orphanage to equal or eclipse the 555 St. Agnes residents who went on to become soldiers.

Merna credits Faulk, who died in 1985, with shaping the orphans into productive citizens. In honor of his role model, Merna named his first child James Faulk.

Pete Lawton, a resident at St. Agnes from 1940 to 1948, also shared his recollections of the football coach while posing for a picture beside the plaques.

''This man was an inspiration to us kids,'' said Lawton, a Congers resident who was at the orphanage from age 6 through 13. ''He is the major reason why most of the St. Agnes kids lived decent lives.''

WELCOME TO AMBASSADOR JASON HU

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, greetings and best wishes to the Republic of China's Washington representative, Ambassador Jason Hu. He comes to Washington from his last post as the Republic of China's Director-General of the Government Information Office. With his wide government experiences and a solid background in politics and commerce, Ambassador Hu will forge ever stronger links between his country and ours. I heartily bid him welcome and look forward to working with him and his colleagues.

As I welcome Ambassador Hu to Washington, I hope the Republic of China will be able to return to the United Nations and other international organizations as soon as possible. As an economic power and a symbol of democracy, Taiwan deserves the world's respect and recognition. Since 1949, the Republic of China on Taiwan has moved from an agricultural society, exporting only bananas and sugar, to a major trading nation today. Moreover, the 21 million people on Taiwan are prosperous and free.

Last but not least, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate President Lee Tenghui and Vice President Lien Chien. I wish them good luck as they prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10, 1996.

GOLD ISN'T A WACKO IDEA

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, an old friend, Owen Frisby brought to my attention an August 19, 1996 article featured in The Detroit News, pertaining to the gold standard.

I have contended for years that in order to revitalize our Nation's economy, we must remove from Government the temptation and the ability to produce chronic budget deficits. Restoration of a dependable monetary standard based on a commodity with fixed value would, by making monetization impossible, accomplish this. It is for this reason that I have introduced legislation in previous Congresses reestablishing the Gold Standard.

The author of the article emphasizes that the Gold Standard has been tested, and proven over the centuries as the best mechanism to protect against destructive inflation and deflation. I commend to the attention of my colleagues, ''Gold Isn't a Wacko Idea.''

[The Detroit News, August 19, 1996]

GOLD ISN'T A WACKO IDEA

Even before Jack Kemp had been named as Robert Dole's running partner, the Clinton White House was on the attack. In addition to bashing his tax-cutting ideas, aides to the president cited Mr. Kemp's affinity for a return to the gold standard as further proof that he's an economic wacko. Should he choose to pursue the issue, however, we have little doubt that's an argument Messrs. Dole and Kemp would win.

The gold standard has pretty good history, after all. Alexander Hamilton placed America on a gold standard as part of his effort to refinance the young country's debt following the Revolution. The link with gold was broken temporarily during the Civil War and in the early 1930s, but it was soon reestablished in both cases. And for good reason: The gold standard proved a durable and politically potent means of ensuring the value of the dollar.

After the remaining links to gold established under the postwar Bretton Woods agreement were finally broken by Richard Nixon in the early 1970s, inflation soared. The market price of gold itself vaulted from $35 an ounce to $850 an ounce. It's still selling for more than $380 an ounce—more than 10 times its price only 25 years ago.

If you wonder why the American middle class is still feeling ''anxious'' about its living standards, you need look little further than at the massive expropriation of wealth and income that this represents. Little wonder it is so tough to wean people from such ''middle-class entitlements'' as Medicare, Social Security benefits, day-care and college tuition subsidies.