

which I am proud to be a co-sponsor of, would remove some of the barriers concerning the placement of AED's in public places by extending the Good Samaritan protection to AED users. Their lobbying efforts included developing a slogan and logo, researching H.R. 2495 in order to write a research paper, personally lobbying all 435 House of Representative members and staff, staging a rally on the steps of the United States Capitol, holding a press conference, and designating and operating an internet home page.

As all members of Congress surely know by now, once Robinson DECA rallies in support of a cause, they will not rest until the job is done. This was evident with their successful work towards the signing of the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act and in their efforts to promote organ and tissue donation among our young people in America. Their current campaign for H.R. 2495 is traveling down that same road to success. Their dedicated, hard work has led to a substantial increase in co-sponsors and wide-spread support for the bill in the House of Representatives. Furthermore, their public educational campaign has enlightened the public about AED's and implementing them to save someone in cardiac arrest.

Mr. Speaker, everyday 1,000 Americans suffer from sudden cardiac arrest, usually outside of a hospital setting. Unfortunately, more than 95 percent of the victims die because life-saving equipment is not readily available or arrives too late. Therefore, the work of Robinson's DECA chapter is vitally needed, and I applauded their enthusiasm and dedication in helping others understand the great need for AED's.

IN HONOR OF THE HOBOKEN LITTLE LEAGUE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Hoboken Little League for the 50 years it has provided young people with access to one of America's greatest athletic traditions. Baseball teaches responsibility, teamwork, sportsmanship, and nurtures self-esteem.

Fifty years ago, on April 15, 1950, the Little League began its commitment to the young people of Hoboken with four teams. This commitment has grown to 12 teams, with 144 boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 12 currently participating in what has become one of the finest youth organizations in the country.

Of historical importance: In 1972, Maria Pepe, the first female to play Little League Baseball, joined the Hoboken Little League. Maria became the force behind the Supreme Court's 1974 ruling that gave women the right to participate in any and all sports.

This great youth organization would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of those who understand the positive impact sports have on the lives of our young people. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the growth and continuation of the Hoboken Little League, espe-

cially the following dedicated individuals: Tim Calligy, James Farina, Charles Casalinos, Anthony Cardino, Dominick Miele, and Mike Turner.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hoboken Little League on its 50th anniversary.

COMPUTER DEPRECIATION REFORM ACT

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues, TOM DAVIS of Virginia, BILLY TAUZIN of Louisiana and JENNIFER DUNN of Washington, in introducing the Computer Depreciation Reform Act of 2000 to allow businesses to expense their computer equipment. Currently, businesses must depreciate their computer equipment over a 5-year period. I believe that this 5-year depreciation lifetime for tax purposes is clearly outdated. Many companies today must update their computers as quickly as every 14 months in order to stay current technologically.

I believe it is time to update an outdated Tax Code to reflect the realities of today's technology-based workplace. A 5-year depreciation schedule for business computers is no longer realistic.

The Computer Depreciation Reform Act allows every company, from the neighborhood real estate office, to the local hospital, to the local bank to fully depreciate, or expense, their computer equipment during the tax year in which the equipment is purchased. As a result, these companies will no longer be forced to keep their equipment "on the books" for tax purposes long after its useful life has become obsolete.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the leadership, and Chairman ARCHER to update the Tax Code to reflect the realities of today's technological workplace.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT J. GILLIHAN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Robert J. Gillihan, president of Teamsters Joint Council No. 56. Bob Gillihan is a valued member of the Missouri-Kansas community and a leading force in the fight for workers' rights.

Since an early age Bob Gillihan has demonstrated his untiring service to his country, his community, and his union. Joining the Marines in 1949, Bob honorably served our nation in Korea. While in the service, Bob displayed not just the courage of his convictions, but the persistence and determination necessary to lead. His personal and professional aspirations found ample expression in boxing's "sweet science." Between the ropes, Bob distinguished himself and his service, becoming All Service Middleweight Champion.

Following his career in the military, Bob returned to the Kansas City area and started

working in the construction industry. Joining Teamsters Local 541, Bob began work on the Kansas Turnpike. His outstanding work ethic and determined nature earned Bob the respect of another dedicated union man, vice president of the Local, Red Ruark, who guided Bob into the concrete industry, and in 1968 seized upon his leadership and elevated him into the Local 541 office. Based on Red's endorsement and his own outstanding work, President Curly Rogers hired Bob as a Business Agent.

In his new role in the Union Leadership, Bob became intimately involved in negotiations to improve the working conditions for his fellow men and women of the Local. Bob's tireless efforts on behalf of his colleagues led to significant improvements in wages, health, welfare, and pension benefits, and annual vacation time. In the course of his duties, Bob has improved the quality of life, refined the meaning of living, and cultivated a culture of values under which we all live. Bob Gillihan has spent his entire life on the front lines, fighting for the interests of families that need it most, and most deserve it.

In 1980, Bob followed his old friend, Red Ruark, as vice president of Local 541, and was elected president in 1990, a position he holds today. Bob is also president of the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council. A year later, Bob was elected secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Joint Council No. 56, a position he held until his appointment and subsequent election as the president of Joint Council 56 in 1999.

In addition to his union duties, Bob has worked throughout his career on issues of importance to the community at large. Bob served for 9 years on the Board of Directors of Park Lane Hospital, currently serves as a Commissioner for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, and served as Trustee for the Mo-Kan Teamsters Pension Health and Welfare Trust Fund. A dedicated family man, Bob and his lovely wife, Marlene have raised eight children and are the proud grandparents of many future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the 5th District of Missouri—on behalf of working families across America—I rise today to salute Bob Gillihan. Thank you, Bob, for all you have done, and all you continue to add to our lives.

HONORING THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170 OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 93rd Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, April 30, 2000.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold their gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years

of membership include: Helen Marie Benich, Norma Jean Gibson, Rose Marie Gobbie, Matilda Kardos, Edward A. Pishkur, Joan Skonie, Katherine Vild, Stanley Warshol, and Sylvia T. Wilk.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with the Reverend Father Benedict Benakovich officiating a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," directed by Brother Dennis Barunica, and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, directed by Jerry Banina, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica, and the Adult Kolo group, under the direction of Elizabeth Kyriakides, will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet will conclude the day's festivities at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLATOONA DAM AND LAKE PROJECT IN CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize the Allatoona Dam and Lake Project in Cartersville, Georgia, on the occasion of its upcoming 50th anniversary.

The Allatoona Dam Project was authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1941 and 1946, to minimize flooding in Rome, Georgia, and surrounding areas.

On Saturday, June 15, 1946, ground-breaking ceremonies were held beside the Etowah River at the site where Allatoona Dam stands today. On that day 54 years ago, Georgia Governor Ellis Arnall, Georgia 7th District Congressman Malcolm C. Tarver, and Lt. General Raymond A. Wheeler, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, took shovels and pick in hand and launched a project that took four years to complete. Representative Tarver was the man most influential in passage of the Flood Control Act through Congress. In addition, Alabama Senator Lister Hill and Congressman Albert Raines of Gadsden, Alabama, assisted with passage of the Act.

General Wheeler stated in his address that, "in the course of our engineering studies and proposals, we took full cognizance of all uses of water, even through our primary concern was flood control. Consequently, this is not a

flood control dam alone. It is a multi-purpose project." He explained that the Allatoona Project embraces power production, recreation, reforestation, health and other factors, but the prime purpose is flood control.

Construction crews worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week for three and a half years to complete the dam. The project was essentially completed and opened for public use in 1950.

The Allatoona Dam and Lake Project has had a direct and extremely positive impact on northeast Georgia. It is an honor to remember and commend the many men and women who worked to construct this magnificent facility; and who continue to run it in a manner that benefits millions of Georgians each year. I especially commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Allatoona Project Management Office in Cartersville, Georgia, and wish them well on the 50th anniversary of the Allatoona Dam and Lake.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIRECT DEPOSIT AND DIRECT PAYMENT WEEK

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I bring to the attention of my colleagues the celebration of Direct Deposit and Direct Payment Week, which will be observed around the country on May 15–19, 2000. This effort is dedicated to educating consumers, businesses, employers, financial institutions and billers of all kinds about the importance of Direct Deposit and Direct Payment as financial management tools.

The Direct Deposit and Direct Payment Coalition, composed of the Federal Reserve, the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA)—The Electronic Payments Association, and regional Automated Clearing House Associations, is celebrating this week to promote the benefits of Direct Deposit and Direct Payment to improve the efficiency of the Nation's payments system, to reduce payment risk, and to provide utmost privacy and security to users.

Direct Deposit and Direct Payment, electronic payment methods that allow consumers and businesses to be paid and to pay bills automatically, can reduce the Nation's costs considerably. Our Nation's payments system costs more than that of most other industrialized nations.

Direct Deposit and Direct Payment are two "unsung heroes" of wise financial management. Individuals can save effortlessly by earmarking part of their pay for Direct Payment into their savings or investment account. Saving for the future and managing finances wisely are important responsibilities. In addition, as a less costly and more efficient alternative to paper-based systems, Direct Deposit and Direct Payment benefit nearly every consumer and business.

Think of what our lives would be like without Direct Deposit and Direct Payment. Does anyone have time these days to stand in bank lines to deposit paychecks every week or two? With Direct Deposit, an individual's pay is automatically deposited into his/her checking

or savings account. With Direct Payment, individuals can pay bills, such as mortgage or cable, directly from their accounts. Direct Payment saves time, and guarantees that payments will be made on time, every time. No more buying stamps, looking for mailboxes or worrying about the payments. Direct Payment can be used to make a large variety of payments, from utility to insurance to brokerage to telephone.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting Direct Deposit and Direct Payment Week. These secure, efficient and highly confidential payment methods have helped individuals and business save time and manage their finances more efficiently and securely for more than 25 years. And I urge all Americans to recognize the importance of these valuable financial tools.

IN HONOR OF BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INC.'S 50TH SEASON ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Bayonne Little League Baseball Inc. for the forty-nine years it has provided young people with access to one of America's greatest athletic traditions. Baseball teaches responsibility, teamwork, sportsmanship, and nurtures self-esteem.

Forty-nine years ago, on April 15th, 1951, the Bayonne Little League Inc. began its commitment to the young people of Bayonne when W. Vincent Cook, and a handful of associates, organized a four-team program. Volunteers contacted several merchants who agreed to provide uniforms and equipment for the 90 youngsters in the league. In 1952, twelve more teams were added to accommodate the incredible numbers of boys who wanted to participate.

The increase in participation led to the building of a stadium. The League received assistance building the stadium from William Rosenthal, and, as a gesture of its appreciation, the League named the new stadium in memory of his son, Lewis Rosenthal.

In 1954, the number of Little League teams increased to twenty, and by 1962, the astounding success of the League led to the establishment of a program that consisted of 24 Major League and 12 Minor League teams. The challenge of expansion and the substantial financial obligation that went with it was a constant challenge for the organization; but not once did this prevent the League from successfully providing for the many young people who registered to play.

After numerous complications, and an extraordinary fund raising drive by the community of Bayonne, the League was able to move to a new stadium in 1965. The decades to follow demonstrated the same growth that the first did, and the community of Bayonne never wavered in its profound commitment to its young people and the challenge of Little League expansion.

This great youth organization would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Commissioner Gene Klumpp and all those who understand the positive impact