

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