

and overall embracing of non-Finns to the culture and heritage of the community. Aside from the encouragement of Finnish people to understand more about their own history and traditions, those involved with this festival hope that all people are able to enjoy and learn more about the Finns' unique ethnicity that has evolved in the American and Canadian societies throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, it has been due to the incredible insight, dedication, passion and innovation of the planning boards from the U.S. and Canada that have made this four-day joint festival possible. I am pleased Marquette has been chosen for the second time to host the U.S. festival and as the first American location for the joint festival—it is because Marquette is “Sisu”. I applaud the Finnish communities in both the United States and Canada for preserving their sense of identity into the next generation and, based on the theme “Heritage Powers the Future”, I applaud them for utilizing their past to power the direction of their culture for years to come. I wish the Finn Grand Fest 2005 the greatest success and look forward to participating in the event this August.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL
JAMES B. STOCKDALE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, a true American patriot and a great military veteran. Vice Admiral Stockdale passed away on July 5, 2005 at the age of 81 after a life of public service and sacrifice. He is survived by his beloved wife Mrs. Sybil B. Stockdale of Coronado, Calif., and his four sons.

I believe Gordon R. England, the Secretary of the Navy, eloquently described the legacy Mr. Stockdale has left behind: “Admiral Stockdale’s courage and life stand as timeless examples of the power of faith and the strength of the human spirit.”

I could not agree more and would like to share a few details of his extraordinary life. Vice Admiral Stockdale was born on Dec 23, 1923 in Abingdon, Ill. At the age of 24 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in the Class of 1947 and began his unmatched naval career. Among his many distinctions, Vice Admiral Stockdale is remembered for his remarkable leadership as the senior naval officer held in captivity during the Vietnam War.

On September 9, 1965, after flying more than 200 missions over Vietnam, he ejected over a small village after his plane was struck by anti-aircraft fire. He broke his left knee during the landing and it was broken a second time during his captivity.

During his 7½ year imprisonment, Vice Admiral Stockdale was tortured numerous times, was forced to wear heavy leg irons for over two years and spent four years in solitary confinement.

But his spirit and determination to survive never wavered. Despite the torture and abuse, he refused to participate in enemy propaganda films. Vice Admiral Stockdale’s extraordinary heroism became widely known when he was

awarded the Medal of Honor in 1976, only three years after his release.

His 26 combat awards included two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Distinguished Service Medals, two Purple Hearts and four Silver Stars. He is a member of the Navy’s Carrier Hall of Fame, the National Aviation Hall of Fame and an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. Stockdale received several honorary doctoral degrees.

He is the highest-ranking naval officer to wear both aviator wings and the Medal of Honor. His other accomplishments include earning a master’s degree from Stanford University and serving at the prestigious institution’s Hoover Institute for 15 years. He was also President of the Citadel for two years.

In 1992, he was a candidate for Vice President of the United States winning nearly 20 percent of the popular vote.

Mr. Speaker, I introduce this resolution today to recognize the great sacrifices Vice Admiral made protecting the freedoms of the United States and to recognize his commitment to public service. I would also like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family Mr. Stockdale left behind, including his wife and four sons.

His life serves as an inspiration to the many servicemen and women protecting our country at home and abroad. Vice Admiral Stockdale was admired and respected for his courage and unfaltering determination.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN KERFOOT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of New Jersey’s finest citizens, John Kerfoot, and to honor all that he has done for his fellow Americans.

John is a model citizen who devoted his life to serving his country and community. He fought bravely in the European Theater in World War Two, and was rightly honored with a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star for his service.

Upon his return, John Kerfoot committed himself to helping the great state of New Jersey. He has devoted time and energy to the Camden County Democratic Committee, the Office of the Aging, and the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. He has served as a Sergeant at Arms for the New Jersey State Senate, a Camden County Freeholder, and a Labor Compliance Inspector for the Camden County Community Development Program. Over the past fifty years, John has helped his hometown of Audubon by serving honorably with the Audubon Park Fire Company, the Audubon Board of Education, and the Audubon Park Borough Council.

Although John is an extremely busy man, he still finds time to bowl with his wife Anne. His skills are certainly not limited to bowling, however. He successfully boxed in the Golden Gloves Tournament in the early 1930’s, and even won the boxing championship at Fort Dix in 1932 at the age of seventeen.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor John Kerfoot today. He has certainly accomplished much in the past 90 years, and his ex-

emplary life of service is one to be admired. Moreover, it is a pleasure to call John a friend, and I wish him a very happy birthday, with the hope of many more to come.

SHERIFF LAWRENCE “LUMPY”
LEVEILLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement officer who 40 years ago began his dedicated career in St. Ignace, Michigan as a police officer and rose through the ranks to head the Mackinac County Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Lawrence “Lumpy” Leveille retired this past winter with eight service stars upon his epaulets, each representing five years on the force. Sheriff Leveille’s nearly 40 years as a law enforcement officer and leader stand as a shining example to us all.

Sheriff Leveille graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 1965 where in the 10th grade he was given the nickname “Lumpy”. Being native of the first city across the Mackinac Bridge from Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, it seemed fitting for Leveille to return to St. Ignace when he began his career as a police officer on May 25th, 1965. That same year on September 11, he married Ara Jean Litzner. Through the years, they have grown their family with five children and eleven grandchildren. After nine years of patrolling and protecting St. Ignace along the shores of the Straights of Mackinac, Leveille was promoted to Sergeant of the local police department.

Among his long list of accomplishments, Sheriff Leveille has decreased the number of drunk driving arrests thanks to new technology and better training for his officers, despite the increase in Mackinac County’s population. He has improved safety for residents and his officers because of new cameras installed on patrol cars and in booking rooms which have lead to a reduction in criminal trials. He was also able to achieve fast finger print and background searches to help officers as well as the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team. Sheriff Leveille’s staff of 22 and budget of about \$1.5 million made his department the largest in the county.

Although Sheriff Leveille’s career with the Mackinac County Sheriff’s Department has come to an end, he has continued to serve the public as a Mackinac County Commissioner. There he has and will continue to have an influence on local policy with the best interests of County residents in mind. Having worked with many of the people involved in the county’s administration, “Lumpy” Leveille’s transition to the Board has been smooth as he works to bring a better harmony to the system.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a former State Trooper myself, I have had the pleasure of knowing Sheriff Leveille over the years and can attest to his impeccable reputation of being a fair and honest protector of the people. I know that through his work he has encountered both exciting opportunities to grow with the community but also hard times when tragedy and tough times affected the area. He has given his heart and soul to his work and I have always admired his dedication to the people of Mackinac County and Michigan’s First Congressional District.