

Mr. Kropf was Employee of the Month in February 1987 and Firefighter of the Year in 1999. He received a citation for performing lifesaving efforts on June 2, 1998 and the Fire Chief's Award in March 2002.

Bill Kreston earned his Bachelor's degree in math from Eastern Michigan University in 1972. First employed by the Hamtramck Fire Department, Mr. Kreston was hired by the Sterling Heights Fire Department in 1986. He received a Meritorious Unit Citation for freeing a pinned victim from a serious auto accident in 1990. He has also received numerous safe driver awards. On July 27, 1992, Mr. Kreston was promoted to Fire Equipment Operator; on July 2, 1997, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; and to the rank of Fire Inspector on January 9, 2003.

Fred Campau was appointed as a Sterling Heights Firefighter on January 21, 1980. He was a member of the maiden medic course and pioneered the way for future Advanced Life Support students. He has received many distinctions, including 5-year Safe Driver Awards, Perfect Attendance Award and the Fire Chief Award in January 2002. Throughout his career, Mr. Campau has been promoted to Fire Lieutenant on October 17, 1995 and Fire Inspector on August 31, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these three heroes, who have dedicated themselves to the community with valor, commitment and honor.

#### A TRIBUTE TO POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Polytechnic University upon the extremely momentous occasion of its Sesquicentennial celebration. It is a privilege to represent Polytechnic University in the United States House of Representatives and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing its illustrious history and impressive accomplishments.

Founded in 1854 for "the higher education of lads and young men," Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute welcomed its first class of 265 students at 99 Livingston Street on September 10, 1855. The Institute thrived, and by the close of the 19th century, it was a full-fledged school of engineering with a new name—Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

By its 100th birthday in 1954, Polytechnic had outgrown its campus in varied downtown Brooklyn locations. In 1957, it moved to a centralized location at 333 Jay Street, former home to the American Safety Razor Factory. In 1973, Polytechnic merged with the New York University School of Engineering and Science and was renamed Polytechnic Institute of New York. In 1985, the Institute was granted university status by the New York State Board of Regents and officially renamed Polytechnic University.

Over the next 17 years, the University experienced the greatest transformation in its history. Polytechnic spearheaded the creation of MetroTech Center, a 16-acre, \$1-billion university-corporate park in Brooklyn, NY, which was built around its existing campus. The University

updated its facilities and built a new home in 1992, for its Bern Dibner Library of Science and Technology and its Center for Advanced Technology in Telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, Polytechnic University is an extremely prestigious institution, which has dedicated itself to producing students who are prepared to change and embrace the ever-increasing technological world. Under the leadership of its new President, Jerry MacArthur Hultin, I am confident that Polytechnic University will continue to teach and challenge its students to be among our nation's brightest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the prestigious accomplishments of Polytechnic University and join the university in celebrating 150 years of dedicated service to the people of the United States.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HURON RIVER VFW POST 4434 ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Huron River Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434, whose members have valiantly defended our Nation against all enemies and, often, all odds.

As they transitioned back to their loved ones and civilian life, the Huron River Veterans of Foreign Wars continued their distinguished service to our country through their dedicated community service projects, including the support of local veteran's services and the propagation of patriotism education for local youth. Truly, the members of the Huron River Veterans of Foreign Wars have provided a stellar example of service above self, and have championed the cause of liberty and equality within our Nation and our world. May their heroism and altruism ever be remembered as an inspiration to every generation of Americans.

In conclusion, then, Mr. Speaker, let us all extend our enduring gratitude to the Huron River Veterans of Foreign War Post 4434. It is the least we can do for those who have done so much for us.

#### IN HONOR OF ELLIE MAPSON, JR.

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ellie Mapson, Jr., community leader, activist, artist, dedicated family man and friend and mentor to many, as he is being honored by the West Park Community Coalition, Inc., for his grace, focus and tireless efforts in raising our Westside community into the light of possibility for everyone.

Mr. Mapson's steadfast commitment to his community mirrors his unwavering focus on family and faith. Mr. Mapson's wife of 47 years, Maggie, their children, Daryl, Kimberly and Dana; the loving memory of David; and their four grandchildren remain central to his

life. Mr. Mapson and his family are long-time members of the Second Calvary Baptist Church and the West Park Community Coalition, where he also serves on the Board of Directors. Mr. Mapson has devoted countless hours at his church as layman, program vice-president, past chairman of the board and Sunday school teacher. He also led the effort to develop a college scholarship program for member families.

Mr. Mapson is known as a local historian and ironically, his own life became part of Cleveland history. In 1972, Ellie Mapson Jr. became the first African American to run for Cleveland City Council in a seat located west of the Cuyahoga River. He finished second out of five candidates. He went on to serve as president of the predominantly white West Park Community Council, and he was also the first African American member of the West Park Kiwanis Club and eventually served as its president.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ellie Mapson, Jr., whose integrity, warmth, faith and concern for others continues to pave the way for strength and renewal throughout our Westside community. Mr. Mapson's professional talents and spirit of volunteerism have fortified all aspects of the West Park Community Coalition, Inc. and the Second Calvary Baptist Church. His activism on behalf of our entire community offers light, hope and the promise of a better day for people of the Westside, and for our entire Cleveland community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present on the legislative days of September 21, September 22 and September 28 of 2005 for Roll Call votes 478 through 493. On Wednesday, September 21, I underwent surgery for a detached retina and this was the reason for my absence.

If I were present I would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call vote 478, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 479, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 480, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 481, "No" on Roll Call vote 482, "No" on Roll Call vote 483, "No" on Roll Call vote 484, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 485, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 486, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 487, "No" on Roll Call vote 488, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 489, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 490, "No" on Roll Call vote 491, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 492, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 493, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 494, "No" on Roll Call vote 495, and "Aye" on Roll Call vote 496.

#### TRIBUTE TO PROJECT BACKPACK

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend the founders of Project Backpack for their inventive and inspiring efforts to help the children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Project Backpack was begun by Jacqueline, Melissa, and Jenna Kantor, three young sisters from Bethesda, Maryland. These sisters came up with an idea to collect donations of backpacks, toys and school supplies to be sent out to the thousands of children who were left homeless in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Inspired by the concept of "kids helping kids," Project Backpack has been tremendously successful.

Joined by Sodexo USA and other charitable organizations, Project Backpack has set a local goal of 10,000 backpacks and a national goal of 100,000. I encourage people throughout the United States to participate in this worthy project.

I applaud Jacqueline, Melissa, and Jenna in their continued efforts to help the children affected by Hurricane Katrina.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 27, 2005. Had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H.J. Res. 66 (Rollcall vote 494); "yea" on H.R. 438 (Rollcall vote 495) and "yea" on H. Con. Res. 209 (Rollcall vote 496).

#### COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKE HIGHLANDS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Lake Highlands Republican Women. In December of 1980, the Lake Highlands Republican Women were formed, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, "to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands."

For the past 30 years, the Lake Highlands Republican Women have worked hard to promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and to elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House.

The Lake Highlands Republican Women are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. The Lake Highlands Republican Women continue to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Today, I would like to honor the Lake Highlands Republican Women and their leaders, including: Patti Clapp (1981–1982), Jan Patterson (1983–1984, 1993), Lee Dewbre (1985–1986), Fredda Horton (1987–1988), Libby Swaim (1989–1990), Linda Russell (1991–1992), Annabelle Ward (1994–1995), Jill Mellinger (1996–2001), Suzy Pollok (1997), Deborah Brown (1998–1999), Kathi Drew (2000), Elaine Travis, (2002), Glee Huebner

(2003–2004), and Gloria Gibeau (2005). These strong Republican women embody the energy, vision and values of our party.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WOOD STOVE REPLACEMENT ACT OF 2005

#### HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wood Stove Replacement Act of 2005. I am joined in the introduction by Representative MELISSA HART.

Quite simply, our bill would provide a tax credit of \$500 for individuals and families who replace their old, dirty, uncertified wood stoves with new, EPA-compliant, clean-burning wood stoves or fireplace inserts.

As America's cities and counties struggle to come into compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, smaller and more diverse sources of pollution are regulated. The primary air pollution problem in many areas of the country, including Pittsburgh, is particulate matter. Particulate matter, or soot, is caused by burning fuels such as coal, as well as wood.

On December 17, 2004, the EPA designated nearly two hundred and fifty counties in the U.S. as out of compliance with federal air quality standards for "fine particulates" (particles under 2.5 microns in diameter). EPA has concluded that wood smoke from residential wood combustion appliances, fireplaces and wood stoves, is a significant contributor to fine particulate pollution in many of the designated counties.

In 1986, EPA established a New Source Performance Standard, or NSPS, that imposed strict limits on the wood smoke that can be emitted from wood burning stoves, and it implemented a program for certifying the performance of wood stoves that comply with the standard. EPA-certified wood stoves reduce wood smoke emissions by as much as 90 percent. According to the EPA, "certified wood stoves burn more cleanly and efficiently, save [. . .] money, reduce the risk of fire, and improve air quality inside and outside [the] home."

It is estimated that there are as many as 10 million old, uncertified, pre-NSPS wood stoves still in use in American homes. Fourteen thousand of them are in my area in Pittsburgh. Many of the uncertified wood stoves still in use today were purchased at the height of the fossil-fuel crisis in the 1970s. Many were installed in lower income, rural residences with ample access to free or low-cost wood fuel. The installed cost of new, certified stoves can be as high as \$2,000 to \$3,000, which is out of reach for many users of the old, uncertified units. To encourage users of old, dirty-burning units to trade up to new certified stoves, strong incentives must be provided. Local regulations prohibiting the use of uncertified woodstoves are politically unpalatable unless financial assistance is provided to enable homeowners to abide by such prohibitions and keep their families warm in the winter with low-cost, renewable wood fuel.

According to the EPA, "Helping areas of the country reduce pollution and meet national air

quality standards for fine particles is our top priority . . . By combining local programs like clean wood stove installation with tough new federal regulations on power plants, cars, trucks and diesel equipment, we can dramatically reduce fine particle pollution and improve public health across the country."

Our legislation to provide a federal tax credit for the replacement of uncertified wood stoves is an important way to reach consumers who otherwise may never replace their old stoves. This credit would only be available to consumers who live in areas designated as out of compliance with the fine particle and total particulate standards. A \$500 tax credit would give consumers living in poor air quality areas an immediate incentive and necessary financial assistance to remove their old stove now. By using the cleaner stoves, consumers will save on fuel costs by burning one-third less wood and reduce fine particle pollution in their area thereby improving their health and the health of their families and neighbors.

The need to encourage consumers to burn cleaner, more efficient woodstoves is an urgent matter. The record-high costs predicted for home heating this winter will likely push many consumers to choose more affordable wood heating. With nearly 10 million old, conventional, dirty wood stoves still in use today, it is imperative that consumers have an incentive to change out their old appliances for clean, more efficient, and EPA-certified wood stoves.

Representative HART and I are introducing this bill to coincide with an EPA event in Pittsburgh on September 29. That will be National Wood Stove Change-Out Day, where EPA encourages owners of old stoves to trade them in for new, certified units. The incentives in this bill should help accomplish this goal.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to recognize the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This week we will also be considering legislation that will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. It is my hope that we will strengthen and improve measures to ensure safe homes and communities for children and families.

Congress must continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and the devastating effects violence has on too many of our American families. We must also ensure that the organizations working to end domestic violence in our communities have the resources they need to provide services to the survivors of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These families and organizations deserve our commitment.

In my own State of Minnesota, VAWA funding went to programs and services for battered women and their children. Some of those projects in my own District include:

The St. Paul based Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, which provides legal