

Madam Speaker, I know Bob's colleagues would agree that he respected all people on all sides of an issue and dedicated himself to finding solutions. Whether serving on regional commissions, presiding over council meetings, or representing the city at civic events and in the halls of Congress, Bob did it with the grace, intelligence, and compassion that will be his lasting legacy. I will miss working with him, and I will especially miss his friendship.

HONORING THE LIVES OF MR. AND
MRS. JERRY AND JUDY RANK

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Judy Rank, an inspirational couple, upon reaching their 50th wedding anniversary.

Jerry and Judy were both brought up in Fort Dodge, Iowa and attended Fort Dodge High School. The idyllic duo began to date and became high school sweethearts. On August 10, 1958, Jerry and Judy exchanged vows and were pronounced for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rank. The Ranks relocated to Michigan when Jerry furthered his career with Ford Tractor. Mr. Rank's career with Ford lasted over 30 years, when he decided to retire and create new dreams with Judy.

Upon Mr. Rank's retirement, Jerry and Judy have spent time with the loving family they have built together including their children Kyle (Kris), Mark (Kim), and Beth (Hal) and their grandchildren, Joseph, Thomas, Jennifer, Andrew, and Halee. The beautiful pair continues their strong marriage in Beulah, Michigan on Crystal Lake. Jerry and Judy enjoy watching the sunset together, entertaining guests, and salmon fishing, which is their favorite pastime.

Madam Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Judy Rank are an extraordinary example of love, strength, and togetherness that families today should look to for guidance. The Ranks will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 10, 2008. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Ranks for reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring the couple's loyal service to the community and our country.

IN HONOR OF CHUCK ESTEP, WINNER OF THE 2008 CABLE'S LEADERS IN LEARNING GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chuck Estep for being chosen as a finalist for the 2008 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for General Excellence. This honor is bestowed annually by Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation which promotes the use of cable and technology in schools across the country. Every year, they honor those in the education field who demonstrate leadership skills by using technology to transform the way we

teach our students. Through his work as a Curriculum Resource Consultant in the Monroe County Intermediate School District, Chuck Estep certainly meets this criterion, and is worthy of such high praise.

We all know what an important role field trips play in our educational system. Not only do they expose children to new ideas and experiences, but they also promote a hands-on style of learning that is vital to keeping our children engaged in their schoolwork. Faced with a tight budget that was unable to accommodate expenses for field trips, Mr. Estep used his technological skills to overcome the problem. He set up a system of virtual field trips in conjunction with the Monroe County Historical Museum. This allowed students to ask questions in real time to an expert at the museum about the rich history of Monroe County. Specifically, one virtual field trip discussed the Battle of the River Raisin, which occurred in Monroe County during the War of 1812. Museum staff showed the students what dress from that period looked like and they discussed the positions of both sides during the war. Students in the district would not have been able to have such an enriching experience without the work of Chuck Estep.

The Battle of the River Raisin is arguably the most violent battle on continental U.S. soil outside of the Civil War, a fact many residents in Monroe and Michigan are unaware of. This virtual field trip paid special attention to the great role that this Battle played in the War of 1812, ensuring that the heritage and history of Monroe County will live on through today's students.

In this age of technology, we must strive to integrate all of the cutting edge tools that are available to us into our educational system. Doing so will create vibrant and engaging teaching methods that will keep our children interested in learning. Chuck Estep has certainly demonstrated this capacity for innovation, and for this he should be commended. I am proud to represent him here in Congress. I congratulate him on being chosen as a winner for Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for General Excellence Award, because he truly deserves it.

HONORING MICHAEL BIEBER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Bieber as he retires from the United Auto Workers. Mike is the Assistant Director of UAW Region 1-D. A celebration in his honor will be held in Bay City, Michigan, on July 14th.

As a third generation UAW member, Mike joined the UAW Local 167 when he started working at the General Motors Diesel Equipment Division in Wyoming, Michigan, in 1979. He transferred to UAW Local 2151 when he moved to the Rochester Products Division in Coopersville. He was the Alternate Committee Person on the B-shift and a Shop Committee Person for 4 years. Elected as President of the Local at the age of 27, he held that position for 6 years. In 1993 he was appointed to the International UAW staff serving in the Secretary-Treasurer's office until he was named

the Assistant Director by Director Donald Oetman in 2002.

In addition to his work with the UAW, Mike is active in the United Way of Ottawa County and serves on the Michigan Association of United Way Executive Board. He is a Democratic Party Precinct Delegate and the Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democrats. He is married to Jamee and is the stepfather to five children, and has five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Michael Bieber for being a diligent, conscientious proponent of the rights of working men and women everywhere. He has exhibited an abiding commitment to improving the workplace, the community, our country and our world. I wish him the best as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

BIO—MICHAEL BIEBER

Michael Bieber was appointed as Assistant Director of UAW Region 1-D in June of 2002 by Director, Donald Oetman. Mike is a 3rd generation UAW member.

Mike became a member of UAW Local #167 in 1979 when he went to work at the General Motors, Diesel Equipment Division in Wyoming, Michigan.

In 1981 Bieber transferred to the newly formed UAW local #2151 representing workers at the Coopersville, MI location of Rochester Products Division of G.M.

He served the Local as an Alternate Committee Person on the B-shift and as a Shop Committee Person for 4 years.

Despite his relative youth, Bieber was elected as President of the Local at the age of 27. He served in that capacity for six (6) years.

He was appointed to the International UAW staff in May of 1993 and served under the jurisdiction of the Secretary-Treasurer's office until he became Assistant Director.

Bieber has served on many community and labor organizations in Western Michigan. He has been very active with the United Way in Ottawa County and currently serves on the Michigan Association of United Way executive board.

He is active in the Democratic Party as a Precinct Delegate and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democrats.

Mike is married to his wife, Jamee. Mike is the stepfather to five (5) children and they have (5) grandchildren.

HONORING THE CIVITAN CLUB OF
WESTLAND

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Civitan Club of Westland, a distinguished service organization, upon reaching 30 years as a chartered international group.

Civitan Club of Westland is an organization open to all adult members in the community with the goal to improve the area, assist community members, and grow individually as better citizens. Civitan performs its services both locally, nationally, and internationally. Some of their local projects include, Turn off the Violence, Paws for a Cause Drive, and the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. Civitan targets many different careers, ages,