

This tragic disease is a degenerative neurological disorder afflicting thousands of children and sadly is ultimately fatal. Niemann-Picks Type C is a rare disease, afflicting only one out of four children when both parents are carriers. The Parseghian family learned of this disease first hand, when despite the rarity of the disease, three of Ara's youngest grandchildren were diagnosed with Niemann-Picks Type C in 1994.

Unfortunately, the Parseghians' beautiful grandchildren are no longer with us. Michael passed away at the age of 9 in 1997, Christa when she was only 10 in 2001, and most recently Maria at age 16 in 2005. Surely no grandparent in this day and age should have to outlive three of their grandchildren. Yet, rather than succumb to grief and give up hope, Ara Parseghian and his family never let up in their fight to find a cure for this terrible disease. Together they founded the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation in 1994 devoted to researching and finding a cure for Niemann-Picks Type C. In 1997, scientists funded by the Parseghian foundation were able to isolate the gene responsible for causing Niemann-Picks Type C, and have since made tremendous strides towards finding treatments which may one day prevent other families from suffering the same tragic loss as the Parseghians have.

Ara Parseghian's commitment to scientific discovery did not stop with the disease that took the lives of his grandchildren. Mr. Parseghian, whose sister, brother-in-law and daughter have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, is also active in fundraising for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In honor of his many years of selfless devotion to the cause of medical research, Ara Parseghian will be honored at the Kate's Hope Michiana MS Luncheon on September 23, 2009, where he will receive the first Kate's Hope Award for "hope-inspiring humanitarian service." While Ara Parseghian has received numerous awards and accolades for his achievements on the football field, it is honors such as this—for his selfless devotion to others—which will truly define the "Era of Ara." And so once again, I wish to express my sincere admiration and respect for Ara Parseghian, and honor all he has done for children and families struggling with neurological disorders.

HONORING STEPHEN C. WHITE OF THE MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Stephen C. White, as the new president and chief executive officer of Mystic Seaport Museum, in my Congressional district.

The Board of Trustees of the Museum conducted a national search of many qualified candidates and found an individual capable of building on the Museum's many accomplishments during its 80-year history. Mystic Seaport Museum, the Museum of America and the Sea, hosts nearly 300,000 visitors each year, including 30,000 children attending with school or youth groups.

Prior to joining the Museum, Steve served 18 years as headmaster of Fay School, the country's oldest junior boarding school. During Steve's tenure, Fay School established a dynamic strategic plan and a comprehensive master plan for future campus development. Under Steve's leadership, Fay dramatically increased its endowment and, most recently, completed a \$20 million campaign designed to support key elements of the strategic plan, including compensation, scholarships, program development and campus expansion.

A native of Camden, ME, Steve has long enjoyed a connection to the sea, sailing wooden boats with his grandfather and father. He found his call to education through the sea as well, having spent summers as a director of junior sailing programs at Camden Yacht Club and Ft. Worth Boat Club. He's also made two trans-Atlantic crossings on a sloop from Connecticut. Steve is excited to get back to his maritime roots as he takes on the position of moving Mystic Seaport forward.

Steve has a B.A. in English and Education from Hartwick College. Additionally, he has completed coursework at Columbia University/Teachers College through a Klingenstein Fellowship. He currently resides on Cape Cod with his wife, Maggie, and is planning to relocate to Mystic soon.

As Mystic Seaport celebrates its 80th year, the team there continues to strive toward achieving the vision the founders laid out in 1929—that the Museum be educational in purpose, national in scope and an inspiring force for the future.

Based on my work with Steve White during his first few months in office, I am confident that he has been an excellent selection to continue working toward this vision, and I look forward to working closely with him as he does so.

CALL TO SERVICE HOMEBUYER CREDIT ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in June of this year, a constituent contacted me regarding an issue of great concern to his family. He and his wife had purchased a home in my district with the First Time Homebuyer Credit. Yet, because of a temporary government assignment overseas, they were being forced to repay the credit. This constituent eloquently expressed his frustration and asked my office to help him, and the thousands of Foreign Service families like his.

I'm proud to say that today we are doing just that by introducing the "Call to Service Homebuyer Credit Act of 2009."

This bill would allow members of the armed services, Foreign Service, and intelligence community to take full advantage of the 2009 First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit.

Currently, the credit provides up to \$8,000 towards the purchase of a home, from December 31, 2008 through November 30, 2009, provided that the home is a primary residence for 36 months afterward. The program has been so successful that the National Association of Realtors estimates 1.8 million families will file for the credit, and that 350,000

wouldn't have been able to purchase a home without it.

But for all its popularity, the credit is inaccessible to many Americans—like my constituent—serving our country in the military, Foreign Service, or intelligence community. These occupations often require time served abroad, or otherwise away from home, rendering a 36-month commitment to a primary residence a difficult proposition. Even now, hundreds of thousands of men and women are overseas serving our country on bases, embassies, or other posts, away from friends and family, and often in hazardous locations. Those serving the public should not have to choose between their job and their home.

This bill protects those called to service, now or in the future, by counting duty away from home as time spent fulfilling the primary occupancy requirement. It also gives a second chance to those who served away from home in 2009 by extending the credit for one year. This bill will give these men and women the same opportunity as other Americans to own a home.

I appreciate the engagement of the Ways and Means Committee on this issue, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact these thoughtful provisions.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BANK OF O'FALLON IN O'FALLON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Bank of O'Fallon, in O'Fallon, Illinois.

The Bank of O'Fallon was chartered in 1959 and opened its doors in a facility on the northwest corner of the new Southview Plaza. The original board of directors included; Matthias K. Schwarz, Russell V. Thoman, Sr., Dr. B.F. Tate, Arthur Huller, W. Wayne McKinley, Ray Richardson, and Jack Schwarz. The management team consisted of President, Matthias K. Schwarz, Vice-President, Russell V. Thomas, Sr., and acting cashier, Dr. B.F. Tate.

Responding to the needs of its customers, the Bank of O'Fallon opened an 8 lane drive through facility in 1973, across the "Shiloh Road," at 913 South Lincoln. Expansion continued in 1989 with the opening of a new, larger bank building next to the drive through. The Community Financial Center was built on the site of the original bank building in 2000. This center holds a conference room, dedicated to one of the founders, Russell V. Thomas, Sr. and his wife, Eleanor, where community groups can meet free of charge.

The Bank of O'Fallon has grown through the years and has earned a reputation as a sound, successful community bank. It is owned by Security First Bancshares, Inc., a locally owned holding company. With current assets of approximately \$255 million, the bank has been recognized by several independent bank research firms with their highest ratings.

The current president, Richard J. Thoman, stresses the joint contributions of the directors, officers and employees in the continuing success of the bank. O'Fallon and the surrounding area have been tremendous growth