

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN  
LEGION ROOSE-VANKER POST 286

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 1995*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend congratulations to the Roose-Vanker Post 286, American Legion as it celebrates 75 years of service to the community with a celebration on April 23, 1995.

Post 286 was organized on April 20, 1920, received its charter 2 months later, and has been in continuous service to the community assisting veterans' and their families, and helping preserve our American heritage.

The Post is named after two men, Roose and Vanker, who were killed defending our Nation in France during World War I. Like them, most past and present members of the Post are of Belgian descent and reside in the metro-Detroit area. Members of the Post have admirably served our Nation in every conflict from World War I to the Persian Gulf.

I commend the members of the Roose-Vanker Post 286, American Legion, for 75 years of dedication to their fellow members and their community. I congratulate them on this joyous occasion with best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE DAVIS

**HON. PAT WILLIAMS**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 1995*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to share with you and my colleagues a remarkable essay written by a talented young Montanan. This essay, authored by 17 year-old Stephanie Davis of Livingston, MT, was selected as our State's lone winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest. Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter this prize-winning essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not only to celebrate Stephanie's important personal achievement, but to draw your and my colleague's attention to a young woman's sincere vision of what makes our country great.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

The band played an off-key rendition of a favorite patriotic song, the crowd cheered wildly, and everything was dotted with red, white, and blue! As Old Glory passed by, a young girl put her hand across her heart, and her daddy, in his faded brown army uniform, removed his hat. People from all walks of life watched in silence. Some even had tears in their eyes as the national anthem rang out from a solo bugle.

Many people, one America! It is filled with millions of people working individually. . . . diligently in pursuit of their own dreams. Yet, they somehow know that the total is more important than the sum of the parts. Their undying patriotism holds our society together, a large organization, strong and proud.

However, there is a segment of the American population that has forgotten what America truly means. It is our responsibility as citizens to inspire the 'love of country' which once filled this great land. My vision . . . anyone's vision of America's future begins by remembering the vision of the First Americans.

Over two hundred years ago a group of people had a vision. They saw a very large land, not measured by area, but by the generosity and dedication of its people. Their common dream of equality and justice was so strong that it led these people to turn against the only system they had ever known, and forge a new life, relying only on each other. Their undying perseverance became the American Dream. It is found in the wondering eyes of a child, in the drive for success of a college student and young professional, and in the reflective thoughts of a wizened adult.

The American Dream unites today's citizens with the first visionaries: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Molly Pitcher, and many others. The American Dream shines through in great men and women such as Woodrow Wilson, Janette Rankin, Neil Armstrong, and Sandra Day O'Connor. The American Dream has created and will continue to create an American Heritage that is uniquely our own.

That unique heritage has molded and shaped us into 250 million individual American citizens. Learning what that heritage is and who created it gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Our heritage is the first American's gift to us.

Unfortunately, too many people know little or nothing about our history. Preserving the American Dream begins at home. Parents and grandparents often tell the most fascinating stories about their lives and those of others. Taking the time to listen opens up a world of curiosity and knowledge. In school, we can continue the fascination by teaching history in new and different ways. I will always remember the story of Betsy Ross, because in the sixth grade, I gathered my friends together, and for fun we created a radio program from her story. (I played Betsy.)

Even when we reach adulthood we preserve the ideals of our heritage simply by fulfilling our responsibilities as American citizens: voting representing the public in office and out, serving on juries, and standing up for our rights. Attending Girls' State this summer taught me that one person can make a difference, but when we all work together we can start a revolution—Just remember 1776!

Preserving our heritage only takes a small effort from every person. In fact, just taking a few minutes each day to honor America is enough to keep us moving through the next 200 years!

"I have a dream \* \* \*", exclaimed civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Well, I also have a dream, that we will not forget what our ancestors fought and died for, that we will not forget the vision written in the Declaration of Independence, and that we will remember to continue striving for the American Dream—liberty, equality, and justice for all! Only then will we be able to walk in the footsteps of our forefathers and say, "I AM AN AMERICAN!"

IN TRIBUTE TO MILT JACKSON

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 1995*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to bring to the attention of my colleagues the distinguished cultural achievements of Milt Jackson.

Milt Jackson was born in Detroit, MI, in 1923. Milt started playing the guitar when he was 7 and by the time he was in high school he was proficient in a number of instruments,

including drums. He played in both the marching band and symphony orchestra.

As a young man in 1941, Milt Jackson heard Lionel Hampton at the Michigan State Fair and decided he wanted to play the vibraharp. Milt started playing with Clarence Ringo and the George E. Lee band. In 1942, he met Dizzy Gillespie. Through Dizzy, he got an opportunity to join Earl Hines' big band, with whom Gillespie was playing. Later, Milt was drafted and served in the Air Corps.

Milt returned to Detroit in 1944 and organized a group called "The Four Sharps." The Four Sharps performed for about a year until Dizzy came to Detroit, sat in one night, and persuaded Milt to go to New York.

Explaining why Jackson has such a fine sense of rhythm, Gillespie once exclaimed, "Why man he's sanctified!" Ironically, like Gillespie, Milt had grown up in a sanctified church.

In 1952, he joined John Lewis, Percy Heath, and Kenny Clarke, all members of the Gillespie band, to form the modern Jazz Quartet, a group with a unique collective sound which, in the words of Whitney Balliett, "recused jazz from the banality of the endless solo and the rigidity of conventional arrangements."

Milt Jackson is the perennial winner of practically every popular poll taken by jazz fans and critics—he has gotten used to being described in superlatives. Because he has performed in so many contexts, both within and without the Modern Jazz Quartet, he is now among the five most recorded artists in jazz history.

Milt's unique sound on the vibraharp gave it an entirely new direction and style—distinct from the contributions of other players such as Red Norvo and Lionel Hampton. He also became one of the principal proponents of bebop almost from its inception, and was one of the fathers of modern jazz while working with the famous sextet which included Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, pianist Al Haig, bassist Ray Brown, and drummer Stan Levy.

Mr. Speaker, during the 100th Congress, the House passed a resolution I authored, House Concurrent Resolution 57, which declared jazz "a rare and valuable national American treasure." On the occasion of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Tribute Concert to Milt Jackson on April 8, 1995, I am honored to call to the attention of the Members of the 104th Congress, a living testament of this national treasure, Milt Jackson.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE MARBLE-  
HEAD, OHIO VOLUNTEER FIRE  
DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION  
OF THEIR CENTENNIAL YEAR

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 5, 1995*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding organization located in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, the Volunteer Fire Department of the Village of Marblehead, OH, celebrates its centennial.

The village of Marblehead is a community renowned for its civic pride and commitment to