

RECOGNITION OF FRY METALS OF
ALTOONA, PA

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the major employers in my district, Fry Metals of Altoona, PA. An employer of over 210 men and women, they specialize in the production and sale of solder and Aquaclean non-lead metal used for pewter statues and figurines. In fact, Fry Metals is the largest tin-lead fabrication center under one roof in the world. Annual sales exceed \$40 million. Founded in 1979, it has come to represent the highest quality workmanship in its field with the ability to service the entire U.S. solder market.

While it is a leader in the field of metal production, Fry Metals is also leader in the community as well. Understanding the need to service more than its customers, Fry Metals has gone out of its way to service the community. Fry Metals is a company of the highest integrity whose commitment to public service is a tribute to itself and to my district.

Recently Fry Metals showed us that it is also a leader in our Nation. Inola Casting Works designed a pin commemorating the tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The intent of this project was to sell the pins and donate the funds to the 75 children who lost parents in this tragedy. As Inola Casting Works is one of Fry Metals largest clients, the company stood to make a sizable profit from this venture. Instead, Fry Metals selflessly donated all the metal involved in making these pins to Inola Casting. To date, the sale of these pins has raised over \$100,000 for the victims of this tragedy.

I applaud the actions of Fry Metals. It is a company that continually works to improve its standing in the marketplace, in the community and in the Nation. I thank Fry Metals for its efforts in response to the Oklahoma City tragedy, and wish the company best of luck and continued success in the future.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF UNION
COUNTY, NJ, RESIDENTS WHO
SERVED IN CONGRESS, 1833-1911

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, with Representative Erza Darby's passing in 1808, no natives of Union County were sent to either body of Congress until the 23d Congress in 1833. While greater Elizabeth may have qualified for its own seat by modern standards of apportioning congressional districts by population, under New Jersey's method of electing its House Members at-large, it was entirely a hit-or-miss proposition. This method of electing House Members statewide was abandoned by New Jersey in 1843 pursuant to the Congressional District Act, which passed Congress on November 11, 1842.

Union County's dearth of citizens in Congress ended with the election of Thomas Lee

of Port Elizabeth—now a part of Elizabeth—in 1832. Representative Lee was the third top vote-getter in the State with over 24,000 votes, entitling him to 1 of New Jersey's 5 congressional seats. Born in Philadelphia in 1780, Representative Lee moved to Port Elizabeth in 1805 and became a merchant, ship-builder, and landowner. His public life began in 1813, when he became judge of the court of common pleas. In 1814, he was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly and served one term. Elected as a Jacksonian Democrat to Congress when that party swept every seat in the New Jersey delegation, he rose after his reelection in 1834, this time coming in fourth place, to chairman of the Committee on Accounts. He returned to Port Elizabeth after his service in Congress and founded the Port Elizabeth Library and Academy. He died in Port Elizabeth in 1856.

Serving briefly with Congressman Lee in the 24th Congress was William Chetwood, a member of the Whig Party from Elizabeth. Representative Chetwood won a special election to fill the vacancy created by Philemon Dickerson of Paterson, who was elected Governor of New Jersey in 1836. Representative Chetwood was sworn in to the House on December 5, 1836. His tenure in Congress was extremely brief, lasting less than 3 months. During his service in Congress, he served on the House Committee on Public Expenditures. Because of his short tenure in the House, and also because it was customary at this time for freshmen not to make speeches on the House floor, Representative Chetwood did not participate in floor debate or introduce legislation.

Before coming to Congress, Representative Chetwood was a lawyer, and served in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 as an aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Henry Lee. After Representative Chetwood's short service in Congress, he returned to Elizabeth to resume his law practice. He died in 1857.

With the departure of Representatives Chetwood and Lee from Congress, Union County was again without a favorite son in either body of Congress until 1873. During this period of 36 years, House Members who represented the Union County area tended to be either from New Brunswick to the south, or Newark or Jersey City to the north.

One notable House Member who was not a resident but represented Union County during this time was William Pennington of Newark. Elected in 1858, Representative Pennington took the seat previously held by his cousin Alexander Cumming McWhorter Pennington. Representative Pennington has the distinction of being both the last Speaker to represent Union County in the House, and also the last Speaker to fail to be reelected before Speaker Tom Foley's defeat last year—Pennington would lose after one term of Nehemiah Perry in 1860 by 398 votes. Apparently, Representative Pennington's main qualification for Speaker was his unknown position on the top issue of the day, slavery. On the eve of the Civil War, Representative Pennington was elected Speaker as the least objectionable compromise candidate. A deadlocked House spent 8 weeks debating and balloting before electing Representative Pennington on the 44th ballot by voice vote. As a freshman Member, he proved to be a less-than-adequate Speaker, and utterly ignorant of parliamentary procedure to the point of reportedly asking the advice of a page. He returned to Newark after

his defeat, and died in 1862 from an overdose of morphine evidently administered by mistake.

Union County sent its first resident in over three decades to Congress in 1872 with the election of Amos Clark of Elizabeth. Born in Brooklyn in 1828, Clark moved to Elizabeth and established himself in the real estate business, where he became one of the largest landowners in the city. He was also the founder of the First National Bank of Elizabeth. His first foray into politics was as a member of the Elizabeth City Council from 1865 to 1866. From there, he served in the State Senate for one term, 1866-69, before being elected 3 years later as a Republican to the 43d Congress.

Although he would only serve one term, he was defeated for reelection by Miles Ross, the Democratic mayor of New Brunswick, Congressman Clark's legislative record was not unremarkable. He introduced seven bills as a freshman legislator, but only spoke on the House floor once, regarding amending the National Currency Act. One of the bills he sponsored was to improve the channel between Staten Island and Elizabeth, an issue I expect to address as a member of the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Representative Clark did manage to get one bill he introduced passed in the House, a bill incorporating the Washington Market Co. Unfortunately for him, this legislation died in the Senate.

After leaving Congress, Congressman Clark moved to Norfolk County, MA, but retained business interests in Elizabeth. He died in Boston in 1912, and is buried in Elizabeth.

Union County's next native in Congress was John Kean. The Kean family name is familiar to all New Jerseyans, as the Keans have a long and distinguished history of service of their country. John Kean won election to the House in 1882 by defeating incumbent Miles Ross with 48.2 percent of the vote. Representative Kean was born in 1852 at Ursino, the Kean ancestral estate in Union Township. Ursino is now called Liberty Hall, and it was originally the home of New Jersey's first Governor, William Livingston.

Representative Kean was educated at Yale University and Columbia Law School. Although a lawyer, he was primarily interested in banking and manufacturing.

During Representative Kean's first term in the House, he was appointed to serve on the House Public Building and Grounds Committee, and the House Banking and Currency Committee. He spoke on the floor twice during his freshman term, on Chinese immigration and a rivers and harbor appropriations bill. The bills Representative Kean sponsored included eight private relief bills, as well as a bill to protect Atlantic fisheries, a bill regarding bankrupt municipalities, and a bill concerning pensions for prisoners-of-war.

Representative Kean's early congressional career was twice interrupted by his lack of success at the polls. In 1884, he was unsuccessful in his bid for reelection against Robert S. Green, garnering 46 percent of the vote.

Like Representative Kean, Robert S. Green was also a Union County resident. Born in Princeton in 1831, he attended Princeton University, studied law, and established his legal practice in Elizabeth, where he was active in Democratic politics.

While in Congress, Representative Green served on the Committee on Elections and the