

CONGRATULATIONS BASEBALL
STANDOUT STEVE RUGGERI

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Steve Ruggeri who was recently invited to play in the U.S. Olympic Festival baseball competition held in Colorado Springs, CO. Now a senior at Johnston City High, Steve is considered one of the top baseball players in southern Illinois. He is known throughout the State for his commanding presence at shortstop, and played last season for the Herrin Thunderbirds American Legion team and the Herrin High School Tigers.

I trust that Steve's experience at the U.S. Olympic Festival was as memorable for him as it was for his family. Becoming an award winning baseball player takes more than simply raw talent. It takes a strong commitment to working hard, always doing your best, and most importantly it takes family support. Steve has been blessed with these precious gifts, and I wish him the best of luck in all he does.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Steve Ruggeri's determination to make his baseball dreams come true. Being selected to play in the U.S. Olympic Festival is a marvelous accomplishment, and I am proud to represent this outstanding athlete and his family in Congress.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS
EXPORT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 27, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS EXPORT

I recently held some meetings with 9th District businesses on ways to help them export, and I was impressed by the extent to which several are already involved in exporting. Local companies are exporting products ranging from chairs and machines to popcorn and sewer pipe. Hoosiers are sending their products not just to Canada and Mexico but also to Japan, South Korea, and Australia. For some companies, exports represent as much as half of their business. There is an increasing recognition among local businesses that much of their future growth lies in exports. Yet smaller businesses in particular need more information and assistance with how to pursue export opportunities.

IMPORTANCE OF EXPORTS

Exports are an increasingly important factor in our economy—both in Indiana and nationwide. Since 1988, exports have accounted for more than one-third of our nation's economic growth, and export-related jobs have grown eight times faster than total employment. Strong export growth is good news for our economy. Exports tend to support jobs that are higher-skilled and higher-paying—some 15% higher—than average U.S. jobs.

In Indiana, exports have nearly doubled since 1988, reaching a record \$9.2 billion last year. The leading export industries in Indi-

ana are transportation equipment, industrial machinery and computer equipment, chemicals, and electronic equipment. Nearly 80% of Hoosier exports are from the manufacturing sector, with the rest coming from mining (17%) and agriculture (4%). Indiana exports support roughly 180,000 Hoosier jobs. In the 9th District, more than 700 manufacturers are pursuing export opportunities. Despite these successes, I find that most Hoosiers are not fully aware of the extent to which current and future jobs in their communities are linked to exports. It is no exaggeration to say that much of our area's economic future—including our ability to create good-paying jobs—is linked to our ability to export and be competitive in the world market.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. export prospects look good for the remainder of this decade. World economic growth is expected to be strong over the next several years, generating increased demand for U.S. products and services. Recent international trade agreements are lowering trade barriers and opening promising new markets to U.S. companies. Continued low U.S. inflation will boost the price competitiveness of our products. Overall, U.S. exports are expected to grow between 8.5% and 10% annually for the rest of this decade. Increased exports mean business growth, greater profits, and more and better jobs for U.S. workers.

CHALLENGE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

I find that large corporations in the District are generally well-informed about the importance of exports. They often have employees who specialized in identifying and exploiting export opportunities. But many small businesses—those with 50 or fewer employees—still find the prospect of exporting daunting. Small businesses account for 24% of the manufacturing sector's total sales, but only 12% of its exports. Even when they have a product or service they believe will be attractive overseas, many small businesses do not know how to get started or how to explore potential markets.

Certainly companies can get help from the local business community and from business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce. And they can hire export management companies to help them establish overseas markets for their products. But government can also play a supportive role.

STATE EFFORTS

The Indiana state government has fourteen Small Business Development Centers located throughout the state to assist companies that are relatively new to exporting. These Centers help companies prepare international marketing plans and target certain foreign markets for their products. The International Trade Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce offers financial and technical assistance to small and medium-sized firms, and maintains seven foreign trade offices in Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia to help Hoosier companies enter new markets.

FEDERAL EFFORTS

At the most general level, the federal government gets involved by negotiating the reduction or removal of foreign trade barriers to our products and by working to maintain a stable international economy. By working to promote stability and prosperity in the world economy, U.S. policy creates new opportunities for U.S. firms abroad.

But the federal government also assists Hoosier companies more directly. U.S. officials act as advocates overseas for companies bidding on foreign contracts, especially on government contracts. Federal agencies such as the Export-Import Bank and the Small Business Administration help finance

projects in countries where private banks will not tread. The U.S. Department of Commerce—the lead agency for trade policy and export promotion—provides export counseling, country and regional market information, and overseas promotion services. It provides information to local businesses on the latest export opportunities and resources through newsletters, faxes, and on-line computer services. Export Assistance Centers have been set up to provide a single point of contact for all federal export promotion and finance programs.

BUDGET PRESSURES

The effort to balance the federal budget is forcing a reevaluation of many U.S. government programs that support business. The congressional budget plan passed earlier this year recommends eliminating the Commerce Department, terminating federal assistance for Small Business Development Centers, and reducing funding for the Export-Import Bank. Certainly some cutbacks can be made, and various programs could be streamlined or combined with others to make them run better at less cost. But we should not gut worthwhile programs that help create profits and jobs for American enterprises. It would be short-sighted to end export programs that are producing significant results and are helping to improve our country's long-term economic outlook.

CONCLUSION

Exports are critical to our nation's economic future and to the job prospects of many of our young people today. U.S. businesses both large and small need to think globally and try to tap into the vast and rapidly growing markets overseas.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT M. PICCIANO

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Vincent M. Picciano who is retiring as the director of court services for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Fairfax County, VA.

For the past 34 years Vince has served the court, first as a probation counselor, then as probation supervisor. In 1965, he became its director where he was responsible for a wide range of intake, probation, detention, and other residential services. At the court he has been instrumental in implementing an extensive management information system and has overseen the design and construction of a major juvenile courthouse renovation project plus four youth residential programs with several new ones planned.

In addition to his duties as director of the court, Mr. Picciano has served as chair of the Virginia Court Directors Association, the Virginia Juvenile Officers Association as well as other local and regional groups addressing the needs of youth and families in trouble. He is currently president of CASA, Fairfax County's Court Appointed Special Advocate program for abused and neglected children.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Vincent M. Picciano for his many years of service to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and his community of Fairfax, VA and wish him well in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYWAY CHEMICAL PLANT ON ITS 75TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Exxon Chemical Company's Bayway chemical plant as it celebrates 75 years of doing business in Union County. It will commemorate its platinum anniversary on September 27, in Linden, NJ.

The Bayway chemical plant has been a good corporate neighbor and has contributed a great deal to our community and our Nation. For 75 years, Bayway has done an excellent job in creating a good relationship between the plant and the community. The Bayway chemical plant is a vital and a responsible part of the community, creating well-paying jobs and providing benefits to the residents of Union County.

At the Bayway chemical plant, the petrochemical age began 75 years ago. By producing a chemical widely used in rubbing alcohol, the plant heralded the dawn of a new era. In the decades that followed, Bayway helped to meet the ever-increasing demand for petrochemicals. From the earliest efforts of marketing isopropyl alcohol to today's commitment to safe and environmentally-sound operations, Bayway has managed to answer the needs of a changing marketplace and to maintain leadership in the chemical manufacturing business.

The Bayway chemical plant should also be applauded for its safety procedures and utmost respect for the environment. In 1994, the employees earned safety through accountability certification, the top level of achievement in the U.S. Occupational and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program. Responsible care, the Chemical Manufacturers Association program, is committed to improving the industry's responsible management of chemicals. Since 1989, the Bayway chemical plant has reduced its emissions 66 percent. This has been accomplished through the careful updating and refitting of equipment.

The Exxon Chemical Company's Bayway chemical plant should be commended for its 75 years of invention and innovation in chemical manufacturing. I salute the employees for their outstanding service and dedication to fulfilling the needs of fellow Americans. I wish them the best of luck for the next 75 years.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MILWAUKEE COUNTY SHERIFF RICHARD E. ARTISON

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Sheriff Richard E. Artison on his retirement.

At the time he was appointed Milwaukee County sheriff in 1983, Richard Artison had already shown himself to be a multitasking law enforcement professional. Prior to his appoint-

ment, he had served as a special agent for the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps, a patrolman and detective for the Omaha Police Department, a criminal investigator for the U.S. Treasury, a special agent for the Secret Service, and a community relations specialist for the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission.

As the chief law enforcement officer for Milwaukee County, Sheriff Artison faced a difficult and challenging job. He has consistently and effectively risen to the demands of his office and has done so with grace and style. Following his appointment, Sheriff Artison quickly earned the respect of his coworkers and the general public. The esteem in which Sheriff Artison was held is evidenced by the fact that the voters of Milwaukee County reelected him to five terms as sheriff.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sheriff Artison on his years of outstanding service and dedication to the people of Milwaukee County. I wish him happiness and health in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of the San Bernardino County Community Services Department. In early November, an anniversary dinner will be held honoring the community services department as it celebrates 30 years of service to the low-income community.

In his first State of the Union Address in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared an unconditional war on poverty in the United States. Later that year, the Economic Opportunity Act was signed into law with the goal of eliminating the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty. Out of this effort emerged the dependency prevention commission in San Bernardino County. Committed to the elimination of poverty, the dependency prevention commission pioneered many original anti-poverty programs at the local level including Head Start, Job Corps, VISTA, Neighborhood Service Centers, and Neighborhood Youth Corps. The dependency prevention commission was renamed the community services department in 1975.

Over the years, the community services department has achieved national recognition for implementing creative, cost-effective programs to serve the poor and homeless. Impressive steps have been taken to provide these services through the San Bernardino County Food Bank, Nutrition for Seniors, Energy Conservation Program, Sure Steps Family Sufficiency Program, and Children's Learning Excursions and Summer Camp Program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the San Bernardino County Community Services Department for three decades of concern, service, and dedication on behalf of those in need. Having achieved an outstanding record of success, it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize them today.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. BONNIE WOLF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mrs. Bonnie Wolf of Pana, IL. Bonnie passed away September 12, and it is with sorrow that I speak here today of this fine woman.

Known throughout Christian County as "Mrs. Democrat," Bonnie faithfully served the people of her community. She was a member of the Christian County Zoning Board, was the first woman alderman in Pana, a member of the Democrat Women's Auxiliary, a former Christian County Democrat chairwoman, and a Democratic precinct committeewoman for 32 years. Her lifetime of service to the people of Christian County, and the Democratic Party, strengthened the belief that one person can make a positive difference in the lives of many.

Bonnie's passing is a great loss to all who knew her, and the community she worked hard to improve. Bonnie Wolf dedicated her life to helping the people of Christian County, and her never ending determination to help her neighbors will not be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, Bonnie was a wonderful woman who will always have a special place in the hearts of those who knew her, and it is with great sadness that I offer my condolences to her family.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA ERICKSON LONDON

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago, a remarkable woman stood on the deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Bremerton, WA. Our colleagues will recall that it was on the deck of that ship in 1945 that the Empire of Japan formally surrendered to the United States and our allies, thereby ending the Second World War.

Fifty years later, on September 2, 1995, that ship and that occasion was marked and honored with the presence of Barbara Erickson London, the only Women's Army Service pilot to receive the prestigious Air Medal during the Second World War.

Born in the Pacific Northwest and now a resident of Long Beach, CA, Barbara Erickson London entered the Civilian Pilot Training Program while a student at the University of Washington. She was 1 of 4 women in a class of 40, and quickly proved herself to be a natural aviator. So it was no surprise that by 1942, with the Nation at war, she would join the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron at Wilmington, DE.

Barbara Erickson London's technical skills and leadership talents were soon recognized, and she was named squadron commander of the 6th Ferry Group. At age 23, she organized and trained a cohesive group of 80 women to fly P-51 Mustangs, P-38 Lightnings, C-54 Skymasters, B-25 Mitchells, and B-17 Flying Fortresses from their Long Beach Airport base