

Gordon Lau is truly a model of dedication to a community and to a cause. I join with his wonderful wife Mary, a public school teacher in San Francisco, their remarkable daughters, Stephanie, Diane and Carolyn, as well as the people of San Francisco and Shanghai in thanking Gordon for his devotion and hard work.

There are people in life who quietly go about the business of getting things done. Gordon sets a perfect example of what can be accomplished when you believe in what you do and work hard to achieve success. He has worked, year after year, with little fanfare to achieve one of the world's most productive sister city relationships in the world. It is time that we say thank you.●

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#### AWARD OF PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO WALTER REUTHER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. president, today the President is awarding, posthumously, the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Walter Reuther. I wish to add my voice to the chorus honoring this fine man, who dedicated his life to helping the working men and women of America. Walter Reuther, son of immigrants, tool and die worker, labor organizer and President of the UAW lived for the union movement.

My own father was a UAW member, so I know full well the many benefits working families gained from Walter Reuther's leadership. Higher wages, better benefits and safer working conditions all resulted from Mr. Reuther's tireless work on behalf of workers. My father achieved the respect he deserved and our family and our neighbors achieved a decent life in part because of Walter Reuther's efforts.

At one point Mr. Reuther was shot in the back for his positions and actions. Despite the dangers, and the pain, he carried on. He refused to be cowed by bullies or by anybody else. He would fight for the workers in whom he believed, no matter what the cost. His determination made him, more than any other man, the one responsible for unionization of the auto industry.

Committed to helping workers, he nonetheless avoided political extremism, purging his own union of its extremist elements and making it safe for good, honest Americans.

Walter Reuther died in 1970. He and his wife were victims of a plane accident. But his union survives, as does his vision of a society in which working men and women are given their proper respect.

On behalf of the people of Michigan allow me to express our gratitude to the President for bestowing this honor on one of our own, and to Walter Reuther for his inspiring contribution to our way of life; a contribution that makes him most worthy of this Presidential Medal of Freedom.●

#### LOREN TORKELSON

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, while we all have different people we admire and want to emulate, there are a few individuals that everyone can agree is a true hero and model citizen. Loren Torkelson was one such individual. Loren, a Billings, MT, native, passed away on September 17 in Lexington, KY. He was 54.

In 1966, after graduating from the University of North Dakota, he joined the Air Force and became a pilot. During his second combat tour, he was shot down and taken prisoner. He spent 6 years in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" suffering constant abuse until his release in 1973. He was a highly decorated officer, receiving two Silver Stars, three flying crosses, 16 Air Medals, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Yet for all the hardship he experienced, he acted like a hero in his private life as well. After the war, he earned a law degree from the University of North Dakota. After serving as a judge advocate, he joined and later became a partner in the law firm of Richter and Associates. He spent his legal career as a trial lawyer fighting for individual rights.

His foremost passion was his family. It always came first. He lived a private life, never seeking gratification for his numerous accomplishments. There are few individuals who can lead such an exemplary professional and personal life.

The way in which he lived his life will always be a model for others. He will be sorely missed.●

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#### FRANKENMUTH, MICHIGAN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am proud to rise to honor the 150th anniversary of the town of Frankenmuth, MI, which we have been celebrating throughout the year. October 6, 1995, which is officially designated as German-American Day, is an especially appropriate time to commemorate this historic milestone in Frankenmuth.

Frankenmuth is a unique community and one of Michigan's largest tourist attractions. It is a quaint Bavarian village which maintains a festival atmosphere year-round. Everything from its authentic architecture to the popular Frankenmuth Bavarian and Oktoberfest celebrations make this community a special place to live in and to visit. Frankenmuth has provided an experience to countless visitors over the years which is rich with history and ethnic culture.

In 1840, the German missionary, Frederick Wyneken, initiated the idea of the founding of Frankenmuth when he wrote an appeal to all the Lutherans in Germany. He asked for their help in teaching Christianity to the Chippewa Indians. Wyneken's call for assistance

appealed to Wilhelm Loehe, who was an influential pastor in a country church in Neuendettelsau, Mittelfranken, Kingdom of Bavaria. Loehe championed the idea of sending a mission to the Saginaw Valley to give spiritual comfort to the German pioneers in the area as well as teaching Christianity to the native Americans. Loehe approved a location along the Cass River in Michigan as the site of the mission and named it "Frankenmuth."

Loehe selected Pastor August Cramer, who at the time was teaching German at Oxford, England, to lead the mission. Thirteen people from Bavaria volunteered to be a part of the mission. Frankenmuth's first settlers were mostly farmers. Months before they were to depart for America, the colonists gathered to decide on the congregation's constitution. In it, they proposed to remain loyal to their German-Lutheran background and language.

The mission set sail on April 20, 1845, aboard the *SS Caroline*. The journey across the Atlantic was a treacherous one. The ship encountered violent storms, strong winds, and dense fog which altered its route considerably. By the end of the journey, with their food becoming stale, almost all of the settlers had contracted smallpox. The group reached New York Harbor on June 8, after 50 days at sea. The trip from New York to the Saginaw River would have the settlers travel on four more ships and a train.

When the settlers finally reached the Saginaw Valley, they selected a hilly area as the site of their future settlement because it reminded them of their homeland. On August 18, 1845, nearly 4 months after leaving Mittelfranken, the mission had arrived at its new home. The mission purchased 680 acres of Indian reservation land from the Government for a total of \$1,700.

The group quickly began building a combination church-school-parsonage in the form of a large log cabin. The church was named St. Lorenz after their mother church in Germany. The settlers then decided to divide the land into 120-acre farms and cleared the land in order to farm and build their houses.

In 1846 a second group of about 90 emigrants from Germany arrived at Frankenmuth. The new group bought land and built their own homes as well as St. Lorenz Church which was completed on December 26, 1846.

Immigration continued throughout the 1800's, as immigrants arrived to reunite with their relatives. As the town grew, so did its commerce. The new immigrants included woodcarvers, sausage makers, wool processors, millers, and brewers. The community continued its Bavarian heritage as it grew.

After World War II and the development of the interstate highway system, Frankenmuth became a national favorite for tourists. Its unique character as a traditional Bavaria town in the heart