

for her perseverance in meeting many personal and professional challenges, for her accomplishment in winning NIB's Testimony to Work Essay Contest, and for setting an example of excellence for others.

Linda Overmoyer's submission to NIB's Testimony to Work Contest embodies the pride and accomplishment that results from pursuing excellence in her everyday life. Ms. Overmoyer, 47 and the mother of four grown children, and her husband Robert Overmoyer II, recently purchased their own home. Her employment at North Central Sight Services, Inc., in Williamsport, PA, has provided Ms. Overmoyer with full-time employment and benefits such as medical insurance and a retirement plan.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act was created by Congress to provide job opportunities for Americans who are blind. Through this act, Linda Overmoyer, who has been legally blind for 20 years and totally blind for 13 years, now has the satisfaction of helping other people who are blind. Ms. Overmoyer is a member of the Williamsport Lion's Club, through which she received her guide dog, and travels throughout central Pennsylvania speaking to other Lion's Clubs and youth groups about the ways in which her job and guide dog have increased her independence.

The following is Ms. Overmoyer's winning Testimony to Work essay:

PARTICIPATING IN THE "AMERICAN DREAM"

In May of 1983, my husband and I entered into a new phase of our lives. That was the time we began our employment with North Central Sight Services, Inc. It was also the beginning of something we had thought would be beyond possibility for us.

Some people in our society do not look upon this as anything great or beyond an everyday occurrence. Much like getting a glass of water. But when you're visually impaired, this becomes a challenge much like climbing that last great mountain.

Before our employment, we were like so many who are always on the receiving end of things and never able to fully participate in the natural flow of life. We were living in government housing, participating in the food stamp program, and dependent on government medical assistance.

Since our employment, and especially since the involvement of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB), life has become more concrete and provides more of a purpose. We are no longer in government housing, we are no longer in the food stamp program and we no longer partake of the medical assistance we once did.

When NIB became a part of our production facility and work became more secure, we felt the freedom to invest in the purchase of our own home. Also, benefits have come to us such as: paid holidays, sick leave, medical coverage (Blue Cross/Shield), bereavement days, and retirement plans. All of which have improved our present life and hopes for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRE SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the American fire service who answered the call

when fire threatened my district in Long Island. In a situation that could have been catastrophic to the people of Long Island, I learned firsthand the skills and generosity of the American fire service.

As everyone knows, the recent drought in New York led to the terrible wildfires which swept across Long Island this fall. The local fire service, aided by colleagues from across the country, fought heroically to fight the fires. Despite arid conditions and a heavy fuel load, the terrific firefighters were able to protect the residents of Eastern Long Island from any loss of life.

I am extremely pleased to report that all is now quiet on Eastern Long Island. The raging fire is no more; thanks to the determination and hard work of 3,000 firefighters who came from all over Suffolk and Nassau Counties, New York and even Connecticut; along with county, State and Federal fire experts.

Tired and exhausted, our firefighters dug deep to find the strength to carry on the face of such an ominous foe. They put the health and welfare of an entire Eastern Long Island community ahead of their own safety to stop the raging flames. The perseverance, determination, bravery, and courage of some 5,000 firefighters, police, emergency medical and other personnel can be summed up simply with the words of Bruce Stark, a 24-year-old firefighter from East Islip: "Citilians are depending on us, and if they bail out we have no hope."

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every firefighter who selflessly worked for days to extinguish the mammoth fire.

In those few days we witnessed first hand the acts of Long Island's solid-gold, true blue American heroes and on behalf of all of us in the community, I express the utmost gratitude to all who worked so successfully to save our homes, our businesses, our schools, and our churches and synagogues.

It is a tribute to the hard work and training of the American Fire Service and the firefighters of Long Island that the fires on Long Island didn't do more damage than they did. It is my pleasure to use the occasion of Fire Prevention Week to thank all the firefighters for what they did for the people of Long Island.

NATIONAL DAY

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Taiwanese people in celebrating the 84th anniversary of National Day which commemorates the revolution and overthrow of the Ching Dynasty.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has a dynamic economy that is the envy of the world. Taiwan has the 19th largest economy in the world and it holds nearly \$100 billion in foreign exchange reserves. The United States, moreover, is Taiwan's main foreign investor and trading partner.

By any measurable standard, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse that has earned its rightful place in the world community. Taiwan has unequivocally demonstrated that it cannot be relegated to the ash heap of history.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan can no longer be treated as a pariah, as a second class citizen within the international community of states. The Taiwanese people, through their sweat and toil, have built a great democratic nation that shines like a beacon of hope throughout Asia. Taiwan is a thriving and bustling democracy of 21 million people who demand their rightful place on the world stage.

Recent developments such as Beijing's guided missile test off the coast of northern Taiwan represents nothing more than a crude attempt at intimidating the Taiwanese people. Such efforts will not succeed in cowering the indomitable spirit of democratic reform in Taiwan.

It is time for the United States to take the lead in actively supporting Taiwan's full participation in and representation on major international organizations like the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. A political and economic force as important as Taiwan deserves no less. Taiwan's participation in these international regimes would in no way diminish, prejudice or challenge mainland China's current international status.

Moreover, private visits by Taiwanese officials to America, such as President Lee Teng-Hui's historic visit this past June, should be welcomed by the United States Government. This does not mean we should disregard the legitimate concerns of the People's Republic of China. Nor does it mean the United States should kowtow to Beijing's unwarranted threats.

The ultimate fate of Taiwan must be the product of peaceful negotiations between Beijing and Taipei, between the Chinese and Taiwanese people. Military force is not and can never be a viable option to resolve the Taiwan-Straits question. There is simply too much at stake for both Taiwan and China, and for the geopolitical stability of the Pacific-rim.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute the people of Taiwan for their tremendous democratic and economic accomplishments. Taiwan deserves and has earned our respect, admiration, and steadfast support.

HONORING JOSEPH KAMANSKY

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Kamansky who on October 20, 1995, will be honored by the West End YMCA by being inducted into their Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kamansky was born in Ontario in 1914 and attended Euclid Elementary School, Chaffey High School, and Chaffey Junior College. In partnership with his brother Louis, he began ranching in south Ontario. Five years later, in partnership with Fred Beal he began a 21-year career as the owner of a service station and garage. In 1962 he and his wife Rosalie, whom he married on August 1, 1936, began their successful real estate career. Joe quickly became active on many committees for the Inland Empire West Board of Realtors, and in 1975 was presented their first Realtor