

service on behalf of his brothers and sisters with the United Auto Workers.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CLYDE LEWIS

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Clyde Lewis of Plattsburgh, NY, one of the most outstanding patriots of the 24th District of New York and perhaps our Nation.

The residents of northern New York and leaders throughout the Air Force know Mr. Lewis as the Father of Plattsburgh Air Force Base. Mr. Lewis was instrumental in bringing the Air Force to Plattsburgh and over the years helped make Plattsburgh Air Force Base the best of the best. He has also helped the community endure the recent closing of Plattsburgh Air Force Base with grace, pride, and dignity.

Mr. Lewis formed the original Air Base Liaison Commission in July 1952. Its purpose was to represent Plattsburgh and help establish an Air Force based in the area. The commission succeeded in bringing the air base to Plattsburgh and on January 29, 1954, groundbreaking ceremonies were held. While the Air Base Liaison Commission changed its name to the Air Base Liaison Committee in 1958, its duties and firm support of the Air Force did not change. As chairman of the commission and committee, Mr. Lewis committed steadfast support for the men and women of the Air Force and their mission at Plattsburgh.

Mr. Lewis understood that Plattsburgh Air Force Base would be key to a strong national defense and that support from the community would be crucial to the success of the mission as well. Mr. Lewis, himself, had a long and distinguished career in the military. During World War II, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was appointed an aviation cadet. He earned his wings and was commissioned in March 1943 and served two tours less one mission with the 401st Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. Mr. Lewis served successively as a flight commander, operations officer and B-17 squadron commander.

Mr. Lewis received numerous honors throughout his military career, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster, France's Croix de Guerre with palm and the European Theater of Operations Campaign Medal with six battle stars.

Mr. Lewis has also been involved in numerous civic activities and professional organizations. In 1948 the New York Chamber of Commerce honored him as Outstanding Young Man of the Year and in 1949 he was named National Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the first World War II veteran to serve in that position. He continues to be active in the VFW on the national level. He served as chairman of the Plattsburgh Air Base Liaison Commission from 1952 to 1959 and from 1959 on, he served as chairman of the Air Base Liaison Committee. In 1975 Mr. Lewis participated in the National Security

Forum, Air War College and in 1978 the Department of Defense Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. He is a member of the Elks Club, Knights of Columbus and the U.S. Strategic Institute and Defense Orientation Conference. He is also a member of the Clinton County, New York State and American Bar Associations.

Mr. Speaker, Clyde Lewis is an inspiration to every American. He is a true leader and an example to each and every one of us of what can be accomplished with persistence, faith and dedication. And for all that he has done, and will continue to do, we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION TONY F. SOZA POST 41

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the American Legion Tony F. Soza Post 41 in Phoenix, AZ, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and its history of service to the community. Since its original pledge at the inception of Post 41, originally named Thunderbird Post 41, to serve the disabled, the distressed, the widowed, and the orphaned, it has dutifully served those groups and far exceeded its mission. Post 41 has gone on to fund services and charities and provide a home for many organizations. It also has helped organize projects for the betterment of the Phoenix community.

In October 1945, Post 41 was organized with a membership of only 16 dedicated veterans. Largely, the founding group was of Hispanic descent due to geographical and cultural circumstances. By November of that year, it received its charter. The post's first Commander, Ray Martinez, soon asked some prominent citizens to serve as an advisory committee and began lobbying for the property to build the post's home. Soon, construction of the post was finished and, with patriotism and dedication in their hearts and souls, the group moved on to other goals.

They saw a great need for a baby clinic and in 1948, they set out to build one. It was the first baby clinic in the community. Post 41 also made commitments to children and youth programs like high school Oratorical competitions, baseball, Boys State, scholarship and school awards, Scouting, flag education, emergency assistance, and community service. They made holiday baskets for needy families and took on a city bond campaign to fund parks and recreation programs to help combat juvenile delinquency.

And the post continued to grow. In 1957, it constructed the Rhonda Room, exclusively for members, which quickly became a popular gathering place for veterans and their families and friends. In 1961, it dedicated the Frank Fuentes Hall, a spacious hall with a separate bar and stage. The post also became a local meeting place for other organizations such as the Unit 41 Women's Auxiliary, the Airborne Luciano Maldonado Chapter, the American GI Forum, and the Vietnam Veterans organization.

In 1990, the post built a new kitchen, dining room, and auxiliary quarters and since then,

remodeling and new additions have enhanced the building and its services to its membership of more than 1,000 veterans.

Throughout its history, Post 41 has undertaken huge and numerous tasks and accomplished them proudly. The organization has earned prestige and honor over the decades and earned an unparalleled reputation in the annals of American Legion history throughout the State of Arizona. Although most of its founding fathers have gone the way of old soldiers, they have left behind a strong inspiration that proudly drives the current members in their ongoing mission to serve their community.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the American Legion Tony F. Soza Post 41 and for these reasons I hope that my colleagues join me today in wishing the post the very best in its continued service to veterans and the community.

MAKING CHILDREN'S DREAMS COME TRUE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on behalf of a truly wonderful organization, the Children's Wish Foundation International. I cannot think of a cause more noble than the desire to grant a wish to a fatally ill child. We all look back on our childhood, reminiscing over happy, sad, and exciting events that helped shape the individuals we are today.

There are thousands of children who never reach their 18th birthday; they never have the opportunity to look back on their childhood. Often times their only memories are of chemotherapy, doctor visits, and hospital stays. The Children's Wish Foundation gives these children something to look forward to, a dream come true, a special event or gift to brighten their days.

The tragic loss of our innocent youth is not restricted to the United States alone. Many countries around the globe are coping with the loss of their children. The Children's Wish Foundation would like to recognize the courage of these young children and the volunteers who help make their dreams come true by designating November 26 to December 2 as International Children's Wish Week.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this body to provide its full support for this endeavor. It is unfortunate to lose a life at such a young age, one full of promise and potential; but even sadder when an opportunity to bring a smile and a special memory to one of these children is missed.

I am blessed with two healthy boys. Not all parents are so fortunate. I know that if there was one specific wish my child dreamed of, I would do everything in my power to make sure that wish came true. The Children's Wish Foundation International assists parents in fulfilling a dream, no matter how large or small, from buying pink hair ribbons for a little girl who is waiting for her hair to grow back after chemotherapy or sending a little boy to Disney Land to meet Mickey Mouse.

I would like to commend the Children's Wish Foundation on its heartwarming work on behalf of those children and families who need it