

has worked diligently with severely and multiply disabled individuals and has become a strong community advocate as well, developing effective partnerships with other community agencies. Her selfless and pleasing manner was responsible for her being named Michigan Rehabilitation Services Counselor of the Year in 1989.

Mr. Gerald Grantner is leaving after almost 30 years of service to the citizens of Michigan. Beginning in 1968 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, Mr. Grantner became district manager of the office in Flint, MI, in 1970. In addition to his working tirelessly on behalf of the public, he has also developed affiliations with groups such as the Bentley School Board of Education, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, and the Burton, MI, Planning Commission, among others.

Mr. Marvin McLaughlin also began his career with the State of Michigan as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, first in 1965, and then again in 1969 after receiving further education. In the nearly 30 years, he has worked with the jobs commission, the citizens he has worked with have benefitted greatly from his determination and ambition. To those close to him, Mr. McLaughlin has been called a man of high professional and ethical standards, qualities that he has exhibited time and time again in both his professional and personal life.

Mr. Speaker, it seems only fitting that these three, who have practically begun their careers together as a team, shall bring their careers to a close together as well. I am exceptionally proud of the service they have provided to many throughout the State, and I am sure that their deeds shall provide a worthy example to emulate.

HONORING OUR PROTECTORS

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of police men and women across this country. This week the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service will be held on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. This memorial service is a tribute to peace officers who have put their lives on the line for the safety of our neighborhoods and communities. I wish we didn't have to have these memorials—I wish that we never had to mourn the loss of a single police officer. But sadly we do.

Unfortunately, we seem to be losing more officers each year. In our Nation's capital, we have lost three officers in just a few months.

Almost 2 years ago, my district lost a true hero. Jimmy Wilson Jr. was on duty with the Omaha Police Department and was shot while he was in his patrol car, still restrained by his seat belt, and in a position where he could not defend himself. Jimmy Wilson Jr. was killed in cold blood. He gave his life defending me, defending my family and friends, and defending all those who make Omaha their home. I honor him today and all of the other officers whose lives have been taken prematurely and without cause or warning.

When will this senseless killing come to an end? It won't end until we start making the penalty fit the crime and get rid of the antipunishment mentality that exists.

If I have learned anything over the past year in Congress, it's that there are two opposing views on crime in our country. There are those who believe that crime is not necessarily an issue of personal responsibility, but of environment. They tend to believe that the criminal lawyers, liberal jurists, and endless death penalty appeals have been a good development for our criminal justice system. They advocate rehabilitation, lenient sentences and legal loopholes, often in the name of compassion.

Then there are those like myself—those who are sick and tired of criminals preying on our police officers, our families and children. We're tired of our kids being afraid to walk to school alone. We're tired of the illegal drugs that are poisoning our youth and eating away at their futures. We're tired of seeing our prisoners treated better than the working men and women in this country.

If we are to rebuild the American dream, it is here where we must begin. Stone by stone, brick by brick—we must rebuild the foundation of this great Nation to ensure freedom from fear, freedom from drugs, and the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

This isn't a battle that we can win overnight. But, we must begin to rebuild our foundation before it is too late. How many more senseless killings must occur before we realize that our current criminal justice system is not working; before we realize that crimes that go unpunished send a message of tolerance to criminals and do nothing to help our Nation rebuild its foundation; before we realize that leaving criminals in our community fails to protect our citizens and neighborhoods.

We must act now. The sooner we take action the sooner we can make the law of the land actually mean something again.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUGELLO, ITALY, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy, who have provided civic and humanitarian services to their community for the past 20 years.

Established in 1977 in the town of Mugello, nestled in the beautiful hills of Tuscany in Italy. Its members from Firenze, Scaperia, and Borgo San Lorenzo represent business and professional leaders of Tuscany, Italy. They include, physicians, dentists, architects, engineers, high fashion clothing designers, heavy machinery manufacturers, publishers, government officials, cattle ranchers, and businessmen.

This club has established twin-club relationships in France, Greece, and Philadelphia. Through Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Mugello has established scholarship funds for Italian graduate students to study at graduate schools in the United States of America.

This club has close ties to America through Judge Joseph C. Bruno and his wife, Kathie of Philadelphia, U.S.A. Judge Bruno, past governor of Rotary International District 7450, is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of

Mugello and along with his wife, Kathie, visits with the club members every year in Tuscany. He reports that the humanitarian services rendered internationally by the Rotary Club of Mugello, are admired by rotary clubs around the world.

The Rotary Club of Mugello, under the leadership of its President, Paolo Collini, and its incoming President, Alvaro Baglioni, will celebrate 20 years of "Service Above Self" which is the motto of Rotary International.

The following are members of the Rotary Club of Mugello: Agostini Alfredo, Ariani Lamberto, Aspesi Pierangelo, Azzurri Gianfranco, Baglioni Alvaro, Bartolini Riccardo, Berretti Alessandro, Beretti Antonio, Bertetti Luciano, Berti Leonardo, Bettini Franco, Billi Carletto, Borgioli Adriano, Cafulli Felice, Calo Armando, Catini Marino, Cerchiai Umberto, Chelazzi Giovannino, Chini Ferdinando, Collini Paolo, D'Agliana Giancarlo, Diani Pier Francesco, Fiorentini Giorgio, Fronticelli Paolo, Gambi Siro, Grazzini Massimo, Greco Giuseppe, Guandalini Carlo, Guarnieri Giuliano, Lapucci Enrico, Livi Daniele, Lorenz Rudolf, Malhotra Chandra Parkash, Manini Angiolo, Maini Benito, Manneschi Luca, Margheri Mario, Mercatali Luifi, Michienzi Pasquale, Muraro Giovanni, Naldoni Desiderio, Nencetti Mario, Nencetti Roberto, Niccilai Giancarlo, Niccolai Raffaello, Paladini Guseppe.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE I.A.M.A.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 17, 1997, the Italian American Memorial Association [IAMA] of Long Branch, NJ, will celebrate its Golden Anniversary—50 years of serving the community. As a life-long resident of Long Branch and the son of a World War II vet, I am indeed proud to pay tribute to this great center of civic and social life in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the IAMA was established as a living memorial to Italian-Americans who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, giving their lives in World War II. Its prime purpose is to promote physical fitness, build good character in our youth, and aid in the development of the mind and body through civic, social, recreational, and athletic services in the city of Long Branch.

On April 19, 1947, a certificate of incorporation for the IAMA, drawn up by Attorney Theodore Mirabella, was approved by the New Jersey Secretary of State. Its charter members were Joseph Tomaine, Leon Giordano, Angelo Francese, Philip Tomaine, and Joseph P. Tomaino. Membership was originally limited to men of Italian descent, although the membership has since been opened up to other ethnic groups.

Association meetings were at first held in members' homes, but as the membership grew the organization moved to several different locations until 1953, when the members purchased Temple Beth Miriam on North Bath Avenue. Two years later, a youth baseball league was established by IAMA. But in 1958, disaster struck: the IAMA hall burnt to the

ground as members were preparing for a New Year's Eve Gala. But the members did not let this tragic incident stop them. They went back to meeting in basements, homes, and businesses until they purchased from the city of Long Branch, in 1959, a piece of land on West End avenue. The facility was later physically moved to the corner of West End and Indiana avenues, with IAMA members pitching in to do the construction, carpentry, and other work.

Into the 1990's, IAMA continues its work of promoting social, cultural, and recreational activities for the citizens of Long Branch, especially the young people. In addition to starting the baseball league, the IAMA organized a Pop Warner football team and the Long Branch Boxing Association, and holds drug and alcohol-free dances for high school students. Each holiday season, the organization donates to the Long Branch Middle School Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas food baskets, as well as the school's Operation Sleighbell project, which distributes toys to kids who might not get Christmas gifts otherwise. IAMA has raised money for children in need of special medical attention at Ronald McDonald House. It supports forensic and debating teams at Long Branch High School, as well as special programs for disabled athletes. The IAMA building also houses a variety of athletic facilities and equipment. The association always comes up with a variety of exciting and enjoyable activities to raise funds for these worthy goals.

Albano Hall was dedicated last November in memory of Anthony Albano, a life member who was noted for bridging the gap between the new and the old organization, and the man responsible for restarting the memorial services after a 25-year lapse.

As a recent article in the Atlanticville newspaper of Long Branch put it, the IAMA is an organization that has become part of the identity of the community it serves. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of the IAMA, and I look forward to participating in the celebration of this momentous occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO ALFRED AND
DARYL SAUNDERS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a remarkable couple, Alfred and Daryl Saunders. Their work as educators, entrepreneurs, parents, and community leaders has been a model of civic duty within our community. This commitment to their community is not a recent trend, rather it is a lifelong pursuit.

As a young man, Al followed his dream and became a baseball umpire, after several years of umpiring he returned home to his family in California. A short time later he was called to serve his country and did so as a supply sergeant in the Korean war. Upon completing his tour of duty he entered the publishing business and he later established Newcastle Publishing Co. where he now serves as president and chief financial officer.

Daryl's family moved to southern California when she was a young girl. She graduated

from California State University-Northridge and went on to teach at the elementary school level. After years of teaching she elected to use her skills to assist low-income families by helping them find quality child care. She currently assists Al in the family's publishing business.

In the Saunders' 30 years of marriage they have volunteered their time to several charitable organizations. The Shriners, Valley Jewish Business Leaders and City of Hope just to name a few. They also have served as volunteers and leaders in their local temple, the Temple Ner Maarav. In their 20 years at the temple, they have each served as president and vice-president on various committees and have been involved in virtually all aspects of the temple. Their dedication to their local community through their leadership and voluntarism is truly remarkable.

It is an honor to represent Al and Daryl. In their hard work, close knit family and spirit of voluntarism they exemplify those characteristics that make this Nation great.

COMMENDING THE HUMAN INVESTMENT PROJECT FOR OUTSTANDING WORK IN PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Human Investment Project, Inc. [HIP] for its outstanding efforts to provide affordable housing opportunities to low-income persons who wish to reside in San Mateo County, CA. I am enormously proud of HIP's record of accomplishment and am honored to be able to praise its good work.

In these times of budgetary constraints, when Federal, State, and local governments are forcing the most vulnerable members of our society to fend for themselves, we inevitably turn to private, nonprofit organizations to step in and help. HIP meets that challenge by serving the housing needs of the community with an emphasis on those with special needs including single parent families, seniors, and the homeless.

Founded in 1972, HIP set out to assist the disadvantaged and disabled living in San Mateo County. As times changed and new housing challenges arose, however, HIP developed new and innovative responses. HIP began with the homesharing help and information program, a service linking people with housing to share with others needing a place to live at an affordable price. Since its creation, HIP has made more than 7,000 homesharing placements and has become the largest provider of shared housing in the Nation.

In 1985, HIP created the lease-a-home program where it leases properties on the open market and then sublets them to people with special needs at an affordable price. HIP also manages properties through its property development program where it manages group share homes and apartment units for low-income and homeless persons and developmentally disabled adults.

In 1987, HIP established the home equity conversion program to assist seniors in turning their home equity into cash that allows them to keep living at home. Due to this program's outstanding reputation statewide, lenders and services providers have been referring clients to HIP for counseling.

HIP's efforts to help low-income single-parent families—undoubtedly the most underserved segment of the population in terms of affordable housing—resulted in several programs aimed at self-sufficiency for single parents. The group share program established in 1988 provides shared living for single-parent families with two or more children. In 1991, HIP began its self-sufficiency program to subsidize rent and utilities for single parents who live in HIP owned or managed property so that they can continue their education or job training and find employment. HIP's mentor program supplements the self-sufficiency program by matching participants with volunteer mentors. Mentors provide guidance and support for professional growth and career advancement.

Most recently in 1993, HIP embarked on its homelessness prevention program. This effort targets those who are homeless or at the greatest risk of homelessness: the disabled, persons with special needs, single parents, the working poor, and others in affordable housing. The program matches these candidates with very low rent opportunities or opportunities to provide services in lieu of rent.

As a result of its commitment to the citizens of San Mateo County, HIP has received well-deserved recognition. The 102d U.S. Congress cited HIP for its "innovative solution to vexing housing problems." In addition, the American Society on Aging granted HIP its Best Practice Award for its work with the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Human Investment Project for making a tremendous and lasting contribution to the citizens of San Mateo County. Standing out among the myriad activities and projects that occupy our daily lives, HIP struggles to keep homelessness at bay for thousands of people. In its perseverance and dedication, the Human Investment Project humbly reminds us that we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

FRANKLIN COUNTY WELCOMES
NISSAN

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, this is a proud and happy day for the citizens of Franklin County, TN. Today, Nissan will formally dedicate its all-new \$80 million powertrain assembly plant in Decherd, TN.

This new plant—Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp.'s first expansion site outside of Smyrna, TN—will assemble 200,000 engines and 300,000 transaxles annually. The engines will be installed on Nissan's Altima passenger sedans manufactured in Smyrna, and the transaxles will be placed on Nissans/Quest/Mercury Villager minivans built in Avon Lake, OH.

Nissan's expansion means that over 400 new jobs will be created in middle Tennessee.