

QUEENSBURY CENTRAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, anyone who visits my office can't help but notice the display of fire helmets that dominates my reception area. The main reason for this is the fact that I learned firsthand the true value of fire companies. One fire company in particular, the Queensbury Central Fire Co. is especially close to my heart. While serving as Queensbury town supervisor, and a New York State Legislator, I had the privilege of being an active member of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. It was this experience that gave me a tremendous respect for those who provide fire protection in our rural areas.

In a rural area like the 22nd District of New York, fire protection is often solely in the hands of these volunteer companies. In New York State, as elsewhere, they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property. That is why the efforts of people like those fire fighters in the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. is so very critical.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Queensbury in Warren County is certainly no exception. The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors, and their strong civic pride. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make places like Queensbury great places to live. This concept of community service and pride is exemplified by the devoted service of the members of their volunteer fire department. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for their neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, it has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. For the members of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company, however, this is a day to day occurrence. Our young people would do themselves right by emulating the selfless service of these noble individuals. On Saturday, September 13, 1997 the fire company will be holding a ceremony to commemorate this milestone. This will provide the ideal opportunity for the residents in and around Queensbury to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. are great Americans. I am truly proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of voluntarism which has been such a central part of American life. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co. on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THOMAS WORRELL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the growth of our communities is accomplished through the good works of those people who give of themselves so earnestly and so well, whose contributions cover so many areas that they permeate the whole community. One of these rare people is Thomas Worrell who has been named the 1997 Heritage Celebration Grand Marshal by the Yonkers African-American Heritage Celebration. The reasons for his selection are obvious. Mr. Worrell is Great, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Terrace City Lodge of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World which has a long tradition of serving lunches for senior citizens and teaching responsibility to youngsters. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, being discharged in 1949. He married Gloria Dias and together they have six children.

Mr. Worrell, who worked for a local trucking company, was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, serving for 15 of his 47 years in the union as a shop steward. He also joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to fight segregation. In his years with the Terrace City Lodge, Mr. Worrell helped it to grow from a storefront to the eminent institution it is today.

He has passed his passion for helping to his two sons. Robert serves the Elks as Chief Antler of Council 57. Thomas III serves as president of the Samuel H. Dow Fire and Drum Corps.

There are few as worthy as Mr. Worrell to be named Heritage Grand Marshal.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LESHER

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Richard Leshar has been a singular voice for America's economic interests for more than 20 years. He is stepping down at the end of the summer. The Nation's political debate has been significantly changed—for the better—through his singular input and perseverance.

Dick Leshar was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of Ronald Reagan's 1980 supply-side program, which cut taxes across the board and initiated the largest peacetime economic expansion in history. This was a bold gesture and a perfect example of the kind of vision and leadership that we have come to expect from him.

And it is fitting that Dick now leaves the chamber as Congress produces and the President is about to sign the first broad-based tax cuts in 16 years—since, in fact, Ronald Reagan's first term.

Dick Leshar has been instrumental in developing and implementing the Chamber's grassroots action information [GAIN], a service that has led to more effective legislative action through greater participation by the membership. In addition, he guided the chamber's

launching of BizNet, the American Business Network, which features two award-winning television programs—"First Business" and "It's Your Business." Dr. Leshar's newspaper column, The Voice of Business, is distributed weekly to more than 600 newspapers across the Nation.

After more than 20 years of Dick Leshar's leadership, the chamber's membership has grown to 215,000 members, 3,000 State and local chambers of commerce and 1,200 trade and professional associations. Membership also includes 72 American chambers of commerce abroad in 65 countries. Programmatic achievements in this remarkable tenure include the Center for Workforce preparation and the Quality Learning Services, which delivers quality management seminars throughout the country.

Other significant highlights include:

The creation of one of the most advanced and effective communications networks of any business organization with television facilities producing daily and weekly syndicated business programming, satellite training seminars and televised town-hall meetings;

The creation of an extensive political program including How They Voted—the principal ranking of the pro-business votes of Members of Congress, a comprehensive endorsement process based on the rankings;

The chartering of the National Chamber Litigation Center, a public policy legal arm, that widely represents business interests in the Federal courts with great success.

Dr. Richard Leshar's reputation as a legitimate groundbreaker actually began with his tenure at NASA where as an assistant administrator he contributed to the first Moon landing.

On a personal note, over the last two decades—and particularly the last couple of years as a member of the majority—it's been a true honor to have had the opportunity to work with Dick Leshar and gain from his insight and experience. He has been a good ally, a good friend and a great American. I know I speak for many Members in sincerely wishing him well in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES—DORIS MCCRAY-CRANK

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow evening in my district a reception hosted by the Newark Tenants Council [NTC] will be held honoring Doris McCray-Crank. Mrs. Crank is being recognized for her election as chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of the Newark Housing Authority [NHA].

Mrs. Crank has been an advocate for the less fortunate for most of her life and for all of her adult life. She has been active in the public housing arena as a tenant, a tenant leader with the NTC, and a member of the NHA board of commissioners. She has used available opportunities and resources to help make life better for those often shut out.

In 1972 while attending the U.N.-sponsored World Health Conference in Paris, France, Mrs. Crank learned of the children starving in Biafra because of the country's civil war. Completely dismayed, Mrs. Crank interrupted a