

to members of the southeastern Pennsylvania community who have made a major contribution to the quality of life of the people of their community. Since October of 1988 the Founders' Bank Quality of Life Award has been awarded to one individual each year. This year however, two people have been selected.

Stella Gabuzda began her distinguished career in 1965 when she became a member of the Bala Cynwyd Board of Trustees and subsequently the Lower Merion Library Association Board. In 1976 she joined the township's library staff where she took charge of the fledgling film service at Ludington Library. She moved on to the Penn Wynne Library in 1980 as its head librarian. For 5 years, the Penn Wynne neighborhood reveled in her warm, personal approach, a hallmark of Stella's style. In 1989 she became Ludington's head librarian and met the challenges of running the township's biggest library with her customary zest. Stella's talent to combine professionalism with personal caring led to remarkable growth of special endowments and gifts to the library. Known for her wide-ranging knowledge, enthusiasm, energy, leadership and vision, her 20 years at Penn Wynne and Ludington Library spanned the pre-computer era to today's constantly changing and challenging world of computerized information technology. But she never lost sight of what mattered most to her; giving the residents the best possible library service to fulfill their reading, listening, and informational needs.

Robert Roche began his career of service in 1950 when he joined a Philadelphia fundraising consulting firm where he served such clients as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Saint Christopher's Hospital For Children, and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1958 he became the director of capital campaigns and later director of development of the University of Pennsylvania. There, he ran a \$93 million campaign and participated in the building of a truly professional development office. In 1968, he founded Barnes & Roche, Inc., a fundraising consulting firm, and since then has personally served some 250 clients. He is currently founding chairman of the firm. He has served the community in many ways. He was an active volunteer firefighter for 25 years and has served several terms as a member of the Merion Fire Company Board of Managers. He currently serves on the Quadrangle Board of Directors, the board of the Lower Merion Conservancy and the Campaign Committee of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps of Lower Merion and Narberth.

Each year the recipient of the Quality of Life Award chooses a charity of his or her choice to receive the donations made by the invited guests. Stella has chosen to support the Bala Cynwyd Library, Ludington Library, Penn Wynne Library, and the Lower Merion Historical Society. Bob has selected the Merion Fire Company, the Lower Merion Conservancy, and the Volunteer Medical Service Corps of Lower Merion and Narberth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Stella Gabuzda and Robert Roche on their receipt of the 1997 Quality of Life Award. Their numerous endeavors in the field of public service have left an indelible mark on the communities they represent. In addition, I

would also like to thank Founders' Bank and especially president Robert F. Whalen for initiating the award and, as a result, bringing to the forefront the courageous actions of these and many other fine individuals. Thanks to Founders' Bank and Robert Whalen, both Stella Gabuzda's and Robert Roche's contributions to the community will not go unrecognized.

HONORING THE SOUTH BRONX
OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. [SOBRO] is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a record of accomplishments that is inspiring. In the time it has been working to make the South Bronx a paradigm of development, it has stimulated more than \$120 million in investments, created or retained 30,000 local jobs, trained or placed more than 20,000 low-income residents into jobs, completed more than \$20 million in reconstruction projects to upgrade local commercial districts, and created a community development revolving loan fund with \$600,000 to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs to gain access to credit.

SOBRO is one of the principal reasons that the Bronx, so famous as a model of urban decay that it became a regular presidential campaign stop, was named this year as an all-American city. SOBRO also helped the South Bronx to grow as a regional business hub.

SOBRO was founded in 1972 by five prominent New York City banks and has received the help of city, State, and Federal governments, as well as philanthropic support. SOBRO has worked to create jobs which benefit residents of the South Bronx.

SOBRO has played a large part in the transformation of this area from one famous for being shown on television during the World Series as burning to a model of redevelopment. I congratulate SOBRO on its 25th anniversary for the great work it has done and I know will continue to do.

TRIBUTE TO NEW JERSEY STATE
SENATOR JOSEPH A. PALAIA

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the countless efforts that Senator Joseph A. Palaia has made toward children with disabilities. Mr. Palaia, a State senator from the Eleventh legislative district of New Jersey, has served in the State Senate since 1989. Prior to that he served as a New Jersey State assemblyman for 7 years. On October 25, 1997, the Search Day Program in Ocean Township, a non-profit private school

for children with autism, will honor Senator Palaia with a dinner-dance, a well deserved recognition.

Senator Palaia, a graduate of Rider College in 1949, with post-graduate work at both Seton Hall and Rutgers, has been a longtime voice for children with disabilities. Moreover, he has sponsored legislature to protect and fund school-based programs and services for students with disabilities. In fact, in 1987, Senator Palaia was honored by the New Jersey Association of Schools, and Agencies for the Handicapped as Legislator of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Palaia serves as an example to us all on how we as responsible legislators, can show compassion towards our disabled youth. Senator Palaia's lifelong dedication deserves our wholehearted thanks and I commend him on his years of loyal service to our State and to those who are sometimes forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE BAIRD

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the sacrifices and hard work which Mr. Bobbie Baird has so passionately executed for her community of New Lenox, IL. Bobbie Baird was recently named the New Lenox Citizen of the Year for 1997.

While many often wait passively for projects to be completed by others, Bobbie has led by example, consistently dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community where she has lived for 32 years. Bobbie retired in 1996 as executive director of the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce where she has made a career of involvement. For the chamber, Bobbie has helped engineer activities for past Citizen of the Year celebrations, Fourth of July fireworks events, the chamber's Business Expo, a Proud American Days community fair, and the Sunshine Committee which helps to put smiles on the faces of local seniors.

Understanding the importance of community involvement, Bobbie has served as an administrative board member, Sunday School teacher, member of the Old Campground Festival Committee, and as publicity chair for all events at the New Lenox Methodist Church. In addition, Bobbie has offered her time and energy to assist the American Cancer Society while still reserving time to volunteer for the Lincoln-Way High School band boosters. The local Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops have also benefited from her desire to help people of all ages in her community succeed.

Bobbie's family can certainly be proud of the fine example she has shown in her home. Bobbie, and husband Charles, have three children, David, Bill, and John, who have all benefited by the model Bobbie has set as an outstanding parent and community servant.

I salute Bobbie for her dedication and consistent commitment to her community and humanity. I wish Bobbie and her family continued success and happiness in all their future endeavors.