

I am pleased and honored to do so at this time.

CONGRATULATING THE
RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ridgewood Public Library on its just-completed renovation, a major project that has nearly doubled the size of my hometown library and will help this outstanding facility better serve Ridgewood residents well into the next century. Completion of this project comes as the library marks its 100th anniversary of service.

Libraries are more than just a repository of books and other media. They are centers of information and ideas, places to inspire thought and innovation. They serve the young and old alike, from pre-schoolers imagining the world ahead at story hour to seniors re-reading the history of their youth. They are an essential, indispensable part of every community.

The Ridgewood Public Library has been a powerful influence on its citizenry for a full century. The library had its beginnings in 1898, when the Ridgewood Village Improvement Association opened the village's first circulating library of donated books in a rented room. The association's stated purpose in opening the library was to "further Ridgewood's social development."

The library quickly grew. By 1900, the expanding collection of more than 2,000 books prompted a move to larger rented accommodations. In 1916, Ridgewood resident Gertrude Pease Anderson, one of the founders of the Village Improvement Association, designated that \$150,000 from her estate be used to construct and maintain a library building. In 1923, that building, the George L. Pease Memorial Library, opened on Garber Square.

By 1962, Ridgewood's population had more than tripled and a new library costing \$367,000 was built on North Maple Avenue. More than 500 individuals contributed over \$50,000 for new furnishings, continuing the tradition of the community's philanthropic support for library service.

In 1988, the Library Board of Trustees again recognized the need for larger, more flexible library space and began planning for expansion and renovation. Fundraising for the project began in 1993. In April 1997, a groundbreaking ceremony signaled the start of construction.

The library has now been fully renovated and expanded from 20,000 to 34,000 square feet. The new library offers more bookstacks, media, study space with parkland views, a new community auditorium, and full access for the disabled. Computers offer multimedia information through the Internet and library networks, and staff will provide ongoing technology training.

New features include: A sky-lit lobby for reading amid art displays. A children's Department with story tower, project studio and study carrels. Circulation Center offering high-demand books, periodicals and media. Young Adult Area featuring lounge seats, computers

and paperbacks. Auditorium with stage, LCD projector, 160 seats for meetings and events. Reference level including rooms for silent study, local history, technology training, literacy tutoring, and health and career information centers.

The cost for construction, furnishings and equipment for the library will be close to \$4 million, funded half through private donations gathered in a 5-year, town-wide fund-raising campaign and half through a Village of Ridgewood municipal appropriation.

Augustine Birrell said, "Libraries are not made; they grow." The Ridgewood Public Library has been growing for 100 years. It will continue to grow for many more years, and as it grows, so will grow the minds of those it touches. I offer the Ridgewood Public Library my full support in all its endeavors and ask my House colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations.

The Ridgewood Public Library reflects the forward-looking enlightenment that has always typified the residents of this community—one of the most outstanding communities in all of New Jersey.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY,
CLARE AND BETTY HERRIMAN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a very special day for two very special people. Tomorrow two high school sweethearts, Clare Herriman and Betty Brown, will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with friends and family who have had the privilege of sharing in their lives.

These two lucky individuals became a couple who are a model for so many young people who wonder whether or not two people can sustain a lifetime commitment to one another. They met when they were students at Tawas City High School, graduating a year apart. And one year after Betty's graduation in 1947, they were married.

Clare worked at the US Gypsum Company for 42 years, having retired on October 1, 1990. During that time, Betty raised four children, Harold, Sherry, Craig and Harvey. The stability of their relationship, the influence of a positive home life, and the example of two parents who are devoted to one another and to their children is truly something to be celebrated. I have had the specific privilege of knowing their son, Craig, who has taken those most valuable lessons he learned at home and has successfully applied them as the Sheriff of Iosco County.

Clare and Betty have also been very active in their community as members of the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners of Tawas. They have given to each other, to their family, and have still made time to give to their community.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all of us pray that we can be as fortunate to have a life as fulfilling and happy as Clare and Betty Herriman. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing them the very best on their 50th anniversary, and many more anniversaries together to come.

INTRODUCTION OF "HELPERS"
LEGISLATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation that will help create thousands of jobs for low skilled laborers across this country. This legislation will allow a class of construction workers called "helpers" to work on federal construction projects.

"Helpers" are construction workers with little or no previous training who perform lower skill tasks to assist higher skilled workers. These are good first jobs for young or inexperienced workers—just the kind of workers we are attempting to encourage to work with welfare reform.

Now you would think that the government would do what it could to encourage work for these folks. At the very least you would hope that the government would not put any obstacle in the way of these folks finding good work. Well as I have learned in my 4 years up here you and I might hope this but it is probably unwise to rely on the government to do this.

And sure enough the Department of Labor has put some obstacles in the way of "helpers" who would like to work on federal construction projects. The Department refuses to recognize these workers as a legitimate and "prevailing" job classification under the Davis-Bacon law. This prevents many "helpers" from obtaining jobs on federal construction projects.

Today I am introducing legislation which will recognize "helpers" under the Davis-Bacon law and thereby allow them to work on federal construction projects. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation. Let us remove this obstacle to jobs. Let us expand the Davis-Bacon Act in order to create jobs for our lower skilled workers.

ARTS EDUCATION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the importance of arts education—music, dance, visual arts, and theatre—to learning and development. Art as an academic discipline has long been seen as an essential component of education. From the dawn of western culture, through the Middle Ages, to the education of our own forefathers and the great schools of today, the western tradition relies on the use of arts education to enhance the cognitive and cultural development of children.

Recent scientific studies confirm what teachers of old have always known—art and music stimulate higher brain function. Referred to now as the "Mozart Effect," researchers have demonstrated that classical music enhances spatial-temporal reasoning. Moreover, music education elevates test scores in other academic disciplines.

In light of this information, the arts education community under the leadership of the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations is working to shape education policy in a

way that maximizes the benefits of the arts for all children. Recently, they produced a Statement of Principles which states seven basic concepts for successful arts education.

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

First, every student in the nation should have an education in the arts.

Second, to ensure a basic education in the arts for all students, the arts should be recognized as serious, core academic subjects.

Third, as education policy makers make decisions, they should incorporate the multiple lessons of recent research concerning the value and impact of arts education.

Fourth, qualified arts teachers and sequential curriculum must be recognized as the basis and core for substantive arts education for all students.

Fifth, arts education programs should be grounded in rigorous instruction, provide meaningful assessment of academic progress and performance, and take their place within a structure of direct accountability to school officials, parents, and the community.

Sixth, community resources that provide exposure to the arts, enrichment, and entertainment through the arts all offer valuable support and enhancement in an in-school arts education.

Seventh and finally, we offer our unified support to those programs, policies, and practitioners which reflect these principles.

These principles should serve to guide education policy by providing an approach to arts education which is practical and consistent with western traditions.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUDGE PATRICK SHEEDY

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Judge Patrick Sheedy retired, last month, after eight years as Chief Judge of Wisconsin's First Judicial District and eighteen years on the bench. I appreciate this opportunity to tell my colleagues about Judge Sheedy and his remarkable service to the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County.

Attorney Patrick Sheedy began his practice fifty years ago, and he earned a distinguished reputation as a civil lawyer. He also made the advancement of the legal profession a personal priority and held several leadership positions in the Bar Association.

Patrick Sheedy was elected to the bench in 1979. Over the next decade, he served in the Circuit Court's children's, civil and family divisions, winning the admiration of his colleagues and Milwaukee's legal community, not only for sound decisions from the bench, but also for his determination to ensure that justice was served with expediency, as well as with prudence.

In 1990, Wisconsin's Supreme Court named Judge Patrick Sheedy Chief Judge of Wisconsin's First Judicial District, giving him responsibility for the administration of the county's entire judicial system. Today, that system includes over fifty circuit judges and court commissioners, and it receives over 100,000 filings a year.

Patrick Sheedy excelled as Chief Judge. He remained steadfastly committed to the ideal that cases should be heard and resolved as quickly as humanly possible. He always did it

in good humor with a smile on his face, but he did not shy away from making the tough decisions and fighting the tough fights. He acted with creativity and determination, assigning reserve judges to handle the overload, limiting "judge shopping" by defendants, and cajoling funding out of legislators in Madison. And it paid off. On his last day of work, the Milwaukee County courts were acting on misdemeanor cases in less than 98 days and on drug cases in only 63 days, and his system ranked fifth in the country in handling felony cases. Another of his priorities as Chief Judge was making the judicial system more accessible and inviting to County residents. He secured grant funding for a study of the system's actual and perceived access barriers, and he involved ordinary people in the process of eliminating those barriers. When he retired, he left the residents of Milwaukee County a more effective, more responsive, judicial system than when he arrived.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Judge Patrick Sheedy has earned an honor to which those of us in public service aspire more than any other: he has earned the right to look back on his career and know that he has made a difference for his community. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering congratulations to Chief Judge Patrick Sheedy and thanks for a distinguished career in service to the people of Milwaukee County.

HONORING THE CARLOW COLLEGE WOMEN OF SPIRIT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Carlow College "Women of Spirit" for the past year.

Founded in 1929, Carlow College has dedicated itself to the spirit of involvement and making a difference. The Woman of Spirit award highlights the achievements of Pittsburgh area women who exemplify competence and compassion in their communities, professions and personal lives. The Woman of Spirit Award recipients can be found in almost every profession in the region. Both the Woman of Spirit Award recipients and Carlow College embody the values that we wish to foster in our children, and they provide admirable role models for young women in Allegheny County and around the world.

Each year, an annual gala is held to honor the award recipients of the previous year. This year's gala will be held on September 19, 1998. I wish to speak about each of these remarkable women today.

The October 1997 recipient of the "Woman of Spirit" award is Suzanne Broadhurst. After graduating from Penn State University, Ms. Broadhurst became a teacher in the Baldwin-Whitehall school district. After giving birth to three sons, Ms. Broadhurst decided to stay home to raise her children and devote time to volunteer activities. Much of her volunteering deals with education. One of her largest commitments is the Allegheny Policy Council, which is dedicated to bringing educational reform to the Pittsburgh metropolitan area. She is also a broad member of the Phipps Conservatory and a trustee of the University of

Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

November's recipient of the "Woman of Spirit" award is Ruth Donnelly Egler. Though she is the mother of eleven children, Ms. Egler has served on the boards of a number of prestigious Pittsburgh institutions. These have ranged from the boards of the Oakland Catholic School and Duquesne University to the International Poetry Forum and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Her numerous volunteer activities stem from her belief that one term is enough. She believes that others, especially the young, can offer new perspectives to such boards, and should be given the opportunity to serve.

The president and CEO of S. W. Jack Drilling company, Ms. Christine Toretti, is December 1997's winner of the "Woman of Spirit" Award. Ms. Toretti's business associations include a position as the director of the International Association of Drilling Contractors, among others. She has been named to the Pennsylvania Honor Roll of Women and Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business. However, she also spends time out of the office. She is a strong force in the Republican party, having been named the Republican National Committeewoman for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Ms. Toretti also dedicates her time to the Alice Paul House Domestic Violence Shelter.

Carlow College is honored to give the "Woman of Spirit" award for January to Sally Wiggin, a WTAE-TV anchorwoman. Ms. Wiggin spends much of her off-air time reading to children about things she believes are important, like tolerance, family, and conservation. She also volunteers at places that promote these beliefs. Ms. Wiggin is involved with the Pittsburgh Zoological Society, the Women's Center and Shelter, the Grieving Center for Children, the City Theater, and Animal Friends.

Marva Harris, February's winner of the "Woman of Spirit" award, uses her position as senior vice president and manager of community development for PNC Bank Corporation to help others who are less fortunate in Pittsburgh. Her work focuses on community reinvestment and the economic revitalization of low- and moderate-income housing. Her volunteer activities target these same goals. She helped to found the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, and has served as the vice president and secretary of Pittsburgh Action Housing. She has received a number of awards for her dedication to the affordable housing cause, including the Cecile M. Springer Award for Womanpower 1997, a conference for African-American women. In recognition of her "Woman of Spirit" award, PNC Bank has created a scholarship to Hill College in Ms. Harris's honor.

Sister Mary Paul Hickey is the winner of the March, 1998 "Woman of Spirit" Award. Sister Hickey has made a life of educating both children and teachers. She has, in conjunction with Carlow College, created an innovative elementary school that benefits from being affiliated with a college campus. The college's resources enable students to realize their own potential, while creating a nurturing, compassionate environment. She has also served as an instructor of elementary curriculum and methods and has chaired the Department of Education at Carlow College.

The April, 1998, winner of the "Woman of Spirit" award is Dr. Joanne White. Dr. White