

three year career with one of the world's leading corporations. In recognition of his exemplary years of service with Xerox, as well as his contributions to his community, it is a pleasure to highlight just a few of his many achievements with my colleagues here today.

Vernon began his career with Xerox as an entry level technician. He honed his skills in several critical management areas and rose to become the manager of field services. Throughout his career, he has devoted his time to serving as a mentor to many young, aspiring African Americans within the Xerox family. His selfless contributions led to his appointment to the corporation's Affirmative Action Development Task Force. From that position, Vernon went on to become the Founding Member of the Xerox "Corporate Few," the organization of Xerox's African American corporate executives.

Vernon's concern for equal opportunity and community involvement extended far beyond the confines of the Xerox Corporation. He has served as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus Corporate Braintrust; executive director of the Federation of Corporation Professionals; the Montgomery County, Maryland Sensitivity Task Force, and the Montgomery County, Maryland Police Community Relations Task Force.

Vernon Ricks' civic involvement has also been impressive. From 1972–1980 he was a councilman on the Takoma Park, Maryland City Council and from 1980–82 he served as Mayor Pro-Tem of Takoma Park. In addition, he has been a member of the Maryland Municipal League, the National League of Cities and a regional director of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

As he begins a new chapter in his life, Vernon will continue his community involvement, serving as president of the Coalition for Equitable Representation in Government; the Montgomery County, Maryland Mentoring Task Force; Democratic Precinct Chair; and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. A Life/Golden Heritage member of the NAACP, Vernon will certainly maintain his extensive involvement with the nation's oldest and most distinguished civil and human rights organization.

In recognition of his brilliant career, Vernon has received numerous awards and citations from Xerox as well as from civic and communications organizations. Among the many awards commending his achievements in support of corporate and community endeavors is the 1st place-vocal group award he received in the Air Force Worldwide Talent Competition.

Prior to joining the Xerox Corporation in 1965, the third generation Washington, D.C. native and McKinley Technical High School graduate was a well known local entertainer and singer. He went on to become a missile technician and teletype/crypto specialist in the United States Air Force. He was honorably discharged in 1965.

He is married to the lovely and equally civic minded Janet Lee and he has one son, Brian, who is a real estate agent in the Washington, D.C. area. Vernon and Janet reside in Potomac, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to use this opportunity to salute the career and accomplishments of a true American role model, proud father and loving husband—Vernon H. Ricks, Jr. He is a man whom I have known and respected for many years. He is a friend

and a gentleman; someone who has worked unselfishly on behalf of others. I know that his family and friends are proud of him, and I join them in congratulating him on a distinguished career with the Xerox Corporation. As he prepares to set course on yet another chapter in his illustrious life, I ask that you join me in extending our best wishes to him and Janet on a future abundant in the riches of God's love, good health, and much happiness.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Borough of Hawthorne on its 100th anniversary as an independent borough in the State of New Jersey. The people of Hawthorne this year are celebrating the many virtues of their wonderful community. Hawthorne is a good place to call home. It has the outstanding schools, safe streets, family oriented neighborhoods, civic volunteerism and community values that make it an outstanding place to live and raise a family.

On this occasion of its Centennial Celebration, I want to specifically acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Hawthorne's elected officials. Hawthorne has always enjoyed a history of good, sound local government—a tradition carried on today by Mayor Fred Criscitelli, Council President Joseph Metzler, Council Vice President John Lane and Council Members Marge Shortway, Lois Cuccinello, Richard Goldberg, Patrick Botbyl and Eugene Morabito. Indeed, the U.S. Congress should pay special respect to this community for having the wisdom and farsightedness to have elected Mayor Louis Bay 2nd in 1947. Mayor Bay, who retired in 1987 after 40 years of continuous service, set a record for consecutive terms as Mayor.

Today's leaders of Hawthorne draw upon nearly three centuries of heritage. Hawthorne was officially incorporated as a borough in 1898 but the area was first settled around the beginning of the 18th Century. Among the earliest settlers of Hawthorne were the Ryerson brothers, who purchased 600 acres of land in 1707. Their property extended from the Passaic River to what is now Diamond Bridge Avenue and from the crest of Goffle Hill to Lincoln Avenue. One of the Ryerson's homes, built in 1740 and destroyed by fire in 1950, served as General Lafayette's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. A monument erected by the Passaic County Park Commission marks the spot at 367 Goffle Road. Another Ryerson home survives as a restaurant.

Saw mills were the earliest industrial operation in Hawthorne, as trees cut to clear land for farming were turned into lumber for construction. Grist mills followed to process the grain raised by the farmers.

Located in Passaic County, Hawthorne originally was part of Manchester Township, which also included communities now known as Totowa, Haledon, North Haledon, Prospect Park and part of Paterson. Hawthorne was established as an independent borough on March 24, 1898. The other communities eventually declared their independence as well as Manchester Township ceased to exist.

There are two theories on the origin of the borough's name. One is that it was named for the profuse growth of the thorny Hawthorne bushes early farmers had to clear from their land before cattle could safely graze. The other is that it was named for the author Nathaniel Hawthorne. The true answer is lost to history. Nonetheless, the name is honored and revered and deserves the good reputation it has enjoyed for a century. It is one of the finest communities in our state.

Hawthorne's first Mayor, Dr. Sylvester Utter, was elected April 12, 1898. Adam Vreeland was chosen as assessor and William H. Post as tax collector. The councilmen were Albert Rhodes, Frank Post, Daniel Van Blarcom, Martin Marsh, John V.B. Terhune and Arthur F.J. Wheatley.

At the turn of the century, farms were already disappearing to make room for housing development and Hawthorne's population stood at 2,500. By 1908, large tracts of land were being developed for homes. The Arnold Brothers Co. developed land from Elberon to Tuxedo Avenues. The Rea Land Co. developed the northern end of town and Hawthorne Parks Estates developed the eastern section. By 1910, the population totaled 3,500.

One of the new government's first steps was to secure \$19,000 in loans to renovate school buildings, including the Lafayette School, the Washington School and a one-room schoolhouse on Goffle Road. The Franklin School was built in 1910. The Lafayette School eventually became the borough municipal building but was destroyed by fire in 1979. A new municipal building was constructed on the same site.

The post-World War I boom of the 1920s brought more new homes, a variety of industrial and commercial enterprises and two new schools. Goffle Brook Park was established in 1927 by the Passaic County Park Commission, quickly becoming the setting for band concerts and baseball games. The park remains a setting for community events to this day. The First National Bank of Hawthorne, the Hawthorne Public Library and the Masonic Temple were all opened in 1928. The same year, the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce was established and local chapters of the American Legion, Rotary Club and Veterans of Foreign Wars were opened.

The 1930s saw construction of Hawthorne High School, the beginning of the Hawthorne Women's Club and the Hawthorne Child Welfare League. The population in 1930 soared to 12,000—a 13 percent increase from 1920 reported to be the second-highest increase in the United States. Hawthorne today has a population of more than 17,000 and plays an essential role in the active economy of the region.

My colleagues, I am sure you would agree with my conviction and assertion that Hawthorne is one of the finest communities in the State of New Jersey. This community is symbolic of traditional American values. The residents work hard, are dedicated to their families, support their schools and volunteer to help their neighbors. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all its residents continued success as their borough enters its second century.