

give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." He had the light, you could see it in his eyes and in his actions. One of those actions was his work at the Sheppard Clinic. He loved the patients and they loved him, despite the fact volunteerism is a trait lost on most bachelors. In short, he didn't spend his time talking about his faith, he lived it. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control are what the Bible calls the fruit—the byproduct—of the spirit. He had it in abundance. He would have given love and more generously to Marilee, who he was to have married two weeks after his death. Love was the easiest word to describe him, and I suppose what I will most miss. Good-bye.

IN HONOR OF JUAN CARLOS RUIZ,
OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself to improving the lives of those around him. Mr. Juan Carlos Ruiz is a fine member of my home community of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his good work with the nation's most distinguished citation for community health leadership: the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Award.

Mr. Ruiz has been committed to social justice since he was politically active in his home country of Peru. Fourteen years ago, Mr. Ruiz discovered that his life may be in danger because of some work he was doing in opposition to "Shining Path" and was forced to flee his homeland. Four years later, he arrived in the United States where he secured political asylum. Mr. Ruiz quickly returned to community activism and leadership, helping develop a community nursing center at Riverwest Elementary School while working at the East Side Housing Action Coalition (ESHAC). He also coordinated a crime prevention campaign to identify and close down 50 suspected drug houses, as well as mobilize over 300 city residents behind a liquor license reform.

And, in his spare time, Mr. Ruiz helped to create and continue to run a neighborhood group, the Cleaning Out Riverwest Committee (CROC). CROC has redeveloped Gordon Park and provides recreational activities to youth.

For the past several years, Juan Carlos Ruiz has led the fight against childhood lead poisoning in inner-city Milwaukee. Ruiz is a community organizer for the Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund's Community Lead-Safe Zones project. He directs the Parents Against Lead Task Force (PAL) which focuses on inner-city low-income neighborhoods where over one-half the children tested have elevated levels of lead in their blood and lead poisoning rates are estimated at five times the national average. PAL recruits parents, and trains individuals to become community organizers and provide door-to-door and community-wide education forums. There are now over 50 active PAL members working in partnership with federal, state and local health departments, schools, churches, health centers, and parents to fight childhood lead poisoning in Milwaukee.

Mr. Ruiz has coined a rallying cry for parents and others concerned about childhood lead poisoning: "Stop Using Our Children as Lead Detectors." Under this banner, Ruiz scored a major victory for children when his group pushed an ordinance through City Hall that will make rental properties lead-safe homes for children. The program he championed also provides financing to help landlords in targeted neighborhoods assess and eliminate the problem. This initiative is the result of years of work, and Juan Carlos Ruiz built an effective partnership to get the job done. He worked with the Milwaukee Health Department and key members of the Milwaukee Common Council to build public awareness of childhood lead poisoning and support for the ordinance. He also helped me to get involved in the effort to help secure HUD funding that the City will use to implement the ordinance.

Juan Carlos Ruiz is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He was selected as one of ten out of more than 300 nominated for this honor. Juan Carlos Ruiz is a credit to Milwaukee, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live and a safe place to grow up. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues and the Community Health Leadership Program in congratulating Juan Carlos Ruiz on a job well done.

HELP US TO PRESERVE THE
HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about legislation I am introducing today to help preserve the history of the House.

Every time we pass through Statuary Hall, which is the old House chamber, we are reminded by the statue of Clio that our actions as members of the House should be recorded for the benefit of future generations. Unfortunately, however, we do not have an updated narrative history of the House of Representatives, especially one arranged chronologically. Moreover, it seems that the only time we take stock of the history of the individual members of the House is either when they retire, such as the recent tribute to Representative Robert L. Livingston, or when they die, such as the recent memorial service for Representative Mo Udall. These events, however, are fleeting snapshots of the rich portrait that is the House and its members, which is why we need a more comprehensive history.

My bill, the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, would authorize the Library of Congress to commission eminent historians to assemble a written history of the House. The history is intended for Members, staff, and the general public. Copies will be provided to each Member and will also be sold to the general public by the Library of Congress. It is expected that there will be no cost to the federal government for this book. The bill lets the experts at the Library decide whether the cost of this book should be paid for by selling it or through the raising of private funds.

The bill would also allow the Library to update and expand the collection of oral histories

of members given to the Library by the Association of Former Members of Congress, and it is hoped that the oral histories will be made available in digital format so they can be downloaded from the Library's Internet Web Page. Additionally, the bill contains two sense of the Congress provisions, which state that orientation programs for freshman members of the House should contain a seminar on the history of the House, and that the Speaker of the House should conduct a series of fora on the history of the House.

I am introducing this bill with over 240 original co-sponsors, including the Speaker of the House, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, and the Democratic Leader, the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT. I sincerely appreciate their endorsement and encouragement.

I am including a copy of a letter in support of this bill from the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, for which I am very grateful. I would like to urge the rest of my colleagues to support this bi-partisan effort in order to ensure that we do our best to preserve the history of this great body in which we serve.

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

June 22, 1999.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LARSON: I very much appreciate the opportunity to review the final version of your draft bill authorizing the Library of Congress to oversee the preparation of a written history of the House of Representatives. I believe the legislation you have developed allows the Library to bring together a number of necessary elements to produce an authoritative publication that will fill a void in the annals of the Congress, and I support both the bill's goal and substance.

Your legislation will allow the Library's publishing office and curatorial staff to work together to develop the project, identify primary source material in our collections, and explore various options for its publication. As I indicated in my comments on an earlier draft of the legislation, I envisage appointing a scholarly advisory board, including historians as well as current and former Members of Congress, to assist in the selection of one or more historians to provide the text of the book, and to continue to be involved through the publication stage. The legislation provides sufficient discretion for the Library to work out the details of funding, publication, marketing and distribution in a manner consistent with the best interests of the House of Representatives.

The legislation also reflects the appropriate roles of the Library of Congress and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in the collection and preservation of oral histories of the Congress. These will undoubtedly prove invaluable to some future historian in continuing the narrative begun by your legislation.

I would like to extend again my offer to hold a lecture series on the history of the House of Representatives in the Members' Room, as a way of both stimulating interest in the published history and drawing together Members, former Members, historians and the Library's incomparable collections for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. BILLINGTON,

The Librarian of Congress.