

the benefit of the free people of this Nation and so many others.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to the members of the Clinton High School/NYPRO Partnership in Clinton, MA.

It gives me great pleasure to salute and congratulate the Clinton High School students, teachers, and the engineers from NYPRO for their impressive accomplishments during the recent "FIRST Robotics Competition" at both the regional and national levels.

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology", is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to generate an interest in science and engineering among today's youth. The primary means of achieving this goal is through an annual robot competition, the FIRST Robotics Competition, which is a national engineering contest that immerses high school students in the exciting world of engineering.

Just as other students teamed up with engineers from businesses and universities, the Clinton High students continued their partnership with NYPRO, Inc., which dates back to 1992.

Through this project, the students are able to get a hands-on, inside look at the engineering profession. During an intense 6-week period which began in January, the Clinton High students, teachers, and NYPRO engineers worked together to brainstorm, design, construct, and test their "champion robot."

The teams then moved forward to regional tournaments—complete with referees, cheerleaders and time clocks. At this year's FIRST 2000 New England Regional Competition held in Hartford, Connecticut, the Clinton High/NYPRO "Gael Force" Team was declared Semi-Finalists out of 41 participating teams, and they were awarded the "Best Defensive Award."

The results at the national level were even more impressive, as the Clinton High/NYPRO team was named 2nd Place Finalists out of 268 teams at the FIRST 2000 National Competition held recently at EPCOT in Florida.

In addition, they were awarded \$7,000 in software animation from Autodesk, Inc., for outstanding animation created by the student team members, and won the prestigious Worcester Polytechnic Institute Design Innovation Scholarship, which is a full 4-year scholarship worth approximately \$12,000 for one of the team members.

Since the beginning of their partnership in 1992, the Clinton High School/NYPRO team has received national recognition and significant awards over the years. The students, teachers, and engineers can be justly proud of their trophies and awards which honor their dedication and prize-winning effort. However, their is something even more important to celebrate—their special relationship has allowed for an incredible exchange of resources and talent and has exposed students to new educational opportunities and career choices.

Superintendent of School Edward J. Philbin recently observed that Clinton is "a better school system and a better community because of FIRST. Effective education cannot be accomplished only in the classroom within the time limits of the school day . . . it takes the united effort of every constituency in the community to put common goals into practice by working side by side in a learning and sharing environment."

As the citizens of Clinton celebrate their community's 150th birthday, the Clinton High School/NYPRO success story represents the town's continuing winning attitude and tradition.

I sincerely commend everyone at NYPRO for the strong support given to this venture, especially the dedicated engineers who contribute so much of their time and themselves on behalf of the young people. I particularly applaud and salute the phenomenal students of Clinton High School's "Gael Force" team and their teachers—I share the great pride felt by Clintonians in their tremendous spirit and commitment to this year's FIRST success.

A TRIBUTE TO MYRA LENARD AND HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Casimira (Myra) Lenard, a monumental philanthropist and Polish-American activist, who sadly passed away on May 1st at Walter Reed Army Hospital. For nearly 40 years, Myra fought to find jobs for the meager, provide rations for the suffering, and promote democracy for the oppressed.

Myra Lenard was born in Poland and immigrated to Chicago with her parents in 1927. Seven years later, she became a United States citizen. In 1962, she moved to Washington, DC after her surviving husband Casimir (Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret.) was assigned to the Pentagon. Soon later, she began a very successful 20-year career in the private sector employment placement industry, overseeing 11 placement offices on the east coast. Myra was highly respected in her profession, serving in several leadership positions within the personnel services industry. As president of the Capital Area Personnel Services Association, she successfully lobbied for title 7, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and for equal employment opportunities. In 1975, Myra was widely acknowledged for her efforts to find "fee-free" work for several hundred Vietnamese refugees. In addition, she used her many offices to support the growing Solidarity labor movement in Poland.

In 1981, Myra left the private sector to become executive director of the Polish American Congress [PAC] in Washington, DC. She continued to support Solidarity by organizing record fundraising, including 22 railroad cars of relief goods, valued at \$7 million in 1981. To mark the first anniversary of Solidarity, she organized a "Solidarity convoy" of 32 large container trucks, valued at over \$10 million.

Myra Lenard's outstanding leadership of the Polish American Congress and its accompanying charitable fund [PACCF] allowed the organization to qualify for Federal funds, ad-

ministered through the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] and the Combined Federal Campaign [CFC]. In addition, the PAC's Washington, DC office administered a series of National Endowment for Democracy [NED] grants, helping to sustain a measure of hope for democracy in the Communist-controlled Poland.

Furthermore, Myra expanded the relationships of the PAC with the U.S. Congress, Executive Office of the President, Department of State, and several other governmental agencies. Through her many contacts, the Polish American Congress engaged in strong lobbying campaigns for the Immigration Reform Act of 1986, as well as the Support of Eastern European Democracy Act of 1989 [SEED ACT], containing needed appropriations for Poland. Some of Myra's later efforts included lobbying to secure to the present Oder-Neisse border with Germany and Poland's recent entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO].

For these many efforts, Myra Lenard was appropriately given numerous accolades, including Poland's highest award for foreign civilians. Today, I am pleased to offer my own words of praise to my colleagues about this great leader. While Poland was still suffering from the plague of Communism, Lech Walesa stated: "The supply of words in the world market is plentiful but the demand is falling—let deeds follow words now." Mr. Speaker, Casimira (Myra) Lenard followed these words with unending devotion and activism. Again, I thank her for over 40 years of tremendous service for two great nations.

HONORING THE LATE LEONARD JAMES KELLER

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding American who served his country with distinction both as a military officer and as an engineer who was dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of life of all our citizens. Leonard James Keller, a citizen of Bonham, TX, in the Fourth District, died on November 27, 1999, leaving behind a legacy of service to his country.

Born on February 25, 1925 in Duenweg, MO, Leonard Keller fought in both World War II and the Korean war. He was commissioned an officer and cited for heroism while serving with the 43d Infantry Division in Luzon, Philippine Islands. After the wars, Mr. Keller graduated with honors in mining engineering and geology at Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1955 and received the W.A. Tarr Award as the outstanding graduate in the earth sciences field. He also was honored in Who's Who of North America.

As a registered professional engineer, Mr. Keller was an inventor of record, with a remarkable 17 U.S. patents in his name. An expert in his field, he authored numerous technical papers, some of which have previously been entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Keller spent 15 years working for five major U.S. corporations in engineering, research, and technical services and management before cofounding the Keller Corp. in

1969. In 1975, he also cofounded the Methacoal Corp. of which he served as president. His coinventor partner, the late Austin N. Stanton, also of Bonham, TX, who died 5 years earlier to the day, was a renowned inventor who received numerous awards and is known as the inventor of microcircuitry—the precursor to the computer age—and the founder of Varo Corp.

Mr. Keller was a visionary in his field. His inventions likely will come to fruition in the coming years. These include a BiRotor device that will enable the direct methanol fuel cell to power automobiles, a water purification system that turns sea water into distilled water, an environmental oxygen system, the use of methacoal instead of coal to reduce smog and hurricane-proof, tornado-resistant homes. These are just a few of the technologies that Mr. Keller developed with his partner, Mr. Stanton—technologies designed to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Mr. Keller was a dedicated member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Bonham, where he served as an elder, and he was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4852 in Bonham. He also was dedicated to his family and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marjorie Maxine Keller; sons Jerry, Steve, and David; one grandson; two granddaughters; five great-grandsons; one nephew; and two nieces.

Mr. Keller will long be remembered for his many contributions to his country and community, and he will be sorely missed by his loving family and his many friends in Bonham. As we adjourn today, Mr. Speaker, let us pay our last respects to this outstanding American, Leonard James Keller, who envisioned a better future for all of us.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

MAY 8, 2000

Rollcall vote No. 146, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 296, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the necessity to expedite the settlement process concerning claims of racism against the Department of Agriculture brought by African-American farmers, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 147, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 3577, increased authorization for the North Side Pumping Division of the Minidoka Reclamation Project, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 18, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 89, recognizing the Hermann Monument as a national symbol of the contributions of Americans of German heritage, I would have voted "yea."

#### KENTUCKY NURSES WEEK

### HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a group of Kentuckians who are truly dedicated to serving others. The qualities of our nurses are not limited to their medical skill and quick thinking, but also include their reassuring and comforting manner. Day after day, in endless settings, nurses are expected to be energetic, efficient, and attentive. This week is Kentucky Nurses Week, and we should all remember the nurses across the Commonwealth who have committed their careers to helping others feel better.

Each medical area has a network of nurses who devote long hours to offering quality care to people from each walk of life. It probably isn't difficult to remember a time when a nurse's skill eased our pain, or when a nurse's kind words or smile eased our apprehension. From simple to very technical procedures, nurses are prepared to help and offer service in one of the most healing fields.

The nursing profession is vital to our well-being and survival. I am proud to call your attention to Kentucky Nurses Week, May 6–12, and hope you will join me in thanking nurses sincerely for their hard work.

#### HONORING THE LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY HOSPICE

### HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, this is National Hospital Week, when communities across the country celebrate the people that put a human face and human touch on health care. This year's theme sums it up nicely: "Touching the Future with Care." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring, for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the hospice at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Circle of Life Award, which recognizes innovation and improvement in end of life care.

The hospice at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the largest maximum security prison in the United States, provides a humane and caring environment to the terminally ill. Inmates dying in the prison hospital can now spend more time with their families, be comforted by specially trained fellow inmate volunteers, and have their pain managed in a setting that is especially wary of the use of drugs. This innovative program not only gives the dying their dignity, it gives the inmate volunteers an unusual opportunity to connect with another person and give their own life some purpose. The program has also become a model for other prisons in Louisiana and across the nation.

Mr. President, I congratulate the hospice at the Louisiana State Penitentiary for its award-winning program.

#### HONORING POLICE CHIEF RICHARD POLZIN OF RACINE, WI

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dedicated public servant and an accomplished law enforcement official. After 36 years of unwavering service to the city of Racine, WI, Police Chief Richard Polzin will retire on May 13, 2000.

Chief Polzin joined the Racine Police Department in 1964 and served in numerous capacities and was continually promoted to elevated positions until he was chosen in 1992 to head the entire department.

Chief Polzin has presided over much change in the department during his tenure. His focus on community policing and outreach is largely credited with the dramatic decreases in crime rates in Racine. He is a man that has earned great respect from those who have served with him and from the residents of Racine for whom he has dedicated his life.

On a personal note, Chief Polzin has served as a valuable resource for me in representing the people of the first district. Throughout his career he has had an open door policy and has participated in public events to further his involvement with those he has served. He has done so not for glory or praise, but rather to better serve as an effective and appreciated officer of the law.

Chief Polzin has maintained a unique personal sense of decency and common sense that has carried over to his professional career. It is with great sadness that the community bids him farewell.

I wish Chief Polzin and his family the best of success in the future and thank him for his 36 years of dedicated service.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BOB DYER AND HIS BRAVE ACT OF HEROISM

### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 2000, a powerful natural gas explosion rocked a home in the Village of Justice, a southwest suburb of Chicago at 4:00 a.m. In a matter of seconds, the home of two distinguished senior citizens became engulfed in a blazing fire.

Luckily, their new next-door neighbor, "Bobby" Dyer, was quickly awakened by the loud concussion. Barefoot, Dyer rushed to the scene to see his neighbors trapped in their rapidly disintegrating house. Blocking their exit was a pile of debris from the former eave over the front door. Heroically, Dyer pushed aside the heavy aluminum/wood roofing material and helped the couple through their heavily damaged front door frame. After dialing 911, he supplied his neighbors with initial first aid and clothing.

By virtually all accounts, Bob Dyer's actions thankfully saved the lives of his two neighbors. Valentine and Eileen Michalowski received second and third degree burns, as well as heavy smoke inhalation. However, I understand that they will fully recover from their serious injuries.