

Ewing was appointed by Governor Warren Hearnes to serve on the Missouri Land Reclamation Commission and by Governor Mel Carnahan to serve on the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, where he served as chairperson. He was a member of the Missouri Academy of Squires. He was a member of the Missouri Savings and Loan Association and the U.S. League of Saving and Loan Associations. He received a Faculty Alumni Award from the University of Missouri. He served on the Missouri Law School Foundation board of directors and was a member of the University of Missouri-Columbia Jefferson Club. He was a charter member of the University of Missouri-Columbia Law Society and Mosaic Society.

Mr. Speaker, Lynn Ewing Jr. will be missed by all who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Peggy; his brother, Blair; his two daughters, Margrace Buckler and Melissa Arnold; his son, Lynn M. Ewing III—and his grandchildren.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BEN BARKIN

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share my admiration for my longtime friend and constituent, Mr. Ben Barkin, who passed away recently at the age of 85.

Ben Barkin is fondly remembered as the father of Milwaukee's Great Circus Parade. The parade features circus wagons from the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin, some more than one hundred years old. It celebrates America's history of the circus by recreating old-fashioned circus parades in an authentic manner, along a three-mile route through downtown Milwaukee.

In 1963, Ben Barkin and Charles "Chappie" Fox organized Milwaukee's first Great Circus Parade. Ben convinced the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company to be the parade's exclusive sponsor. In 1973, Schlitz was no longer able to sponsor the parade, and the parade shut down for twelve years, but in 1985, Ben was able to bring it back. The Great Circus Parade was made an annual event the following year, after Ben raised more than \$900,000. Mr. Barkin retired as the chairman of the Great Circus Parade in 1995, but he remained its guiding light. His greatest accomplishment was promotion of the parade at a national level, and securing funding to keep the parade free to the public.

The Great Circus Parade now brings in hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the United States. It is also shown on 200 public television stations nationwide and worldwide on the U.S. Information Agency's Worldnet System and the Armed Forces Television Network.

A Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article describing the 2000 Great Circus Parade captured the parade's magic for children of all ages. Seven-year-old Terry Parks told the newspaper, "I got to see a real lion, not something on TV." Sixty-two-year-old Richard Czaja

said, "I love the horses, and the wagons were unbelievable the way they restored them and kept them up." Circus Parade fans come to Milwaukee and camp out every year near the city's lakefront. The resulting tent city is affectionately known as Barkinville, and each year Mr. Barkin would go down and meet the people camping out for the parade.

Throughout his life, Ben focused his endless energy to other things other than the Great Circus Parade. During World War II, Ben volunteered with the U.S. Treasury to sell war bonds, and he helped make Milwaukee the standard for war bond fund raising. He was invited to Washington to present the model that was soon adopted by the rest of the country. After the war he founded the nationally recognized public relations firm of Barkin, Herman, Solochek, and Paulsen. In 1970, he was named as the "best publicist in the country" by 100 of the nation's largest newspapers. That same year he helped Bud Selig bring the Brewers to Milwaukee.

Ben Barkin was an advocate for civil rights by looking past religious and racial differences. He was the chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission, and spoke out advocating better race relations. He also supported religious causes, whether they were Catholic, Jewish, or Protestant. Ben was also a devoted husband to Shirley for more than fifty years, and a loving father to his son Coleman.

On February 2, 2001, Wisconsin lost one of its greatest citizens, and children lost a friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this great American and in celebrating his life and his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL HURRICANES—STATE GROUP AAA DIVISION 5 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Newport News, Virginia who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Heritage High School Hurricanes football team had a remarkable season and I believe the Hurricanes deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On December 2, 2000, the Heritage High School Hurricanes won its first state Group AAA Division 5 Football Final at the University of Richmond Stadium. The Heritage Hurricanes completed the 2000 season with a truly impressive record, 14–0. It was the only unbeaten team in the AAA.

Established in 1996, Heritage High School is a magnet school specializing in engineering and technology. Heritage High School was named in honor of five former high schools located in Newport News. Students must meet rigorous academic requirements, take responsibility for academic progress, behavior and attendance, and they are expected to participate in school and community activities. This drive for excellence has now been extended into the field of athletics.

To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press,

[s]ome high school defenses have big kids. Some have fast kids. Some have smart kids. Once in a blue moon a Heritage comes along. A team with kids who are big, fast and smart.

Their remarkable 2000 season carries on the tradition of championship football in Newport News, started by Newport News High School in 1931, and continued by Carver High School in 1961 and our last state champion—the 1966 Huntington High Vikings.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to the Heritage High School Hurricanes—the Group AAA Division 5 2000 Virginia High School League State Football Champions.

THE SSI MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2001

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I support "The SSI Modernization Act of 2001," for which I am an original cosponsor. In 1972, the Congress passed legislation to create the Supplementary Security Income (SSI) Program to help the most vulnerable in our society. The SSI Program provides a base level of a support to the elderly, disabled and blind who do not qualify for Social Security or whose Social Security benefits are inadequate. Currently, about 6.6 million of these individuals rely on SSI to provide income for the basic necessities of food, clothing, and shelter.

Unfortunately, Congress has done little since the creation of SSI to ensure that the program serves the recipients in the 21st century as well as it did in the 20th century. As a result, the program now serves a population living at a level of 70 percent of poverty and does not serve those at or near the poverty line. This bill does six items to modernize SSI:

1. It rewards SSI recipients who want to work by increasing the amount of earned income excluded from reducing the SSI benefit from \$65 to \$130 a month and indexes it to inflation in future years. This limit has not been increased since 1972 and would be \$260 a month if they had kept pace with inflation.

2. It increases the General Income exclusion from \$20 to \$40 of income per month and would index the amount to inflation in future years. This exclusion means that the first \$40 of income received by an SSI recipient will not be used to reduce their benefit check. For recipients who have a significant work history and receive a Social Security benefit, they will be able to retain more of their Social Security benefit. This limit has not been increased since 1972 and would be \$80 if it had kept pace with inflation.

3. The bill increases the amount of resources that recipients are allowed to own from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for an individual and from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for a couple and then indexes it for inflation in future years. If these resources limits had kept pace with inflation they would be \$6,000 for an individual and \$9,000 for a couple.

4. The amount of infrequent or irregular income that recipients are allowed to earn before benefit reduction is increased from \$10 to