

H. Britton Gibbs, was a former teacher, principal and superintendent. His mother, E. Marie Gibbs, was a teacher and principal. In addition, Foster's wonderful wife, RaeAnn, and his two sons, Douglas and Stephen, have enthusiastically encouraged and sustained his commitment and dedication to the Saginaw Public Schools.

Foster, who holds three degrees from the University of Michigan—a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in educational administration and a doctorate in administration, supervision and instruction, has had an incredible tenure. His pioneering efforts and many innovative ideas earned the Saginaw Public Schools system a national reputation for progressive approaches to improving educational opportunities for all students. In fact, his own reputation for excellence propelled him to myriad leadership positions in professional and community organizations throughout his career, including Past President of the Michigan Middle Cities Education Association, a founding member and President of the Urban Education Alliance, founding member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saginaw County and board member of Saginaw's America's Promise.

Foster's deep sense of obligation to the future of young people has prompted his faithful adherence to strong educational standards of excellence and a relentless pursuit of better methods to achieve that goal. His service has been marked by exemplary staff development and curriculum improvement that has put the district on the right path for the 21st Century.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Foster my friend. During my time in politics, I have had many opportunities to interact with Foster and each and every occasion has provided more reasons to respect the man and the educator. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Dr. Gibbs for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in his endeavors.

THANK YOU TO GARY DAVID  
DEDMAN FOR SERVICE ON MY  
STAFF

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2001*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks and offer special recognition to an intern in my office, Gary David Dedman.

David attends my alma mater Middle Tennessee State University. He interned the entire fall semester in my office, working 35 hours a week.

Interns play an invaluable role in helping congressional offices function efficiently and effectively, often performing the most thankless but essential tasks required. David pitches in wherever and whenever he is needed, never complaining and always accomplishing his work on time and of the highest quality.

David loves interacting with our constituents. He truly goes above and beyond what is expected of him to ensure the satisfaction of our constituents. This high regard for the people of Middle Tennessee is reflected each and every day in his attitude and dependability.

David is a fine young man and has been an invaluable member of my staff. He deserves the highest praise for his dedication to a job well done.

It has been a pleasure to have Gary David Dedman serve in my office, and I join my staff in thanking him for all his hard work and invaluable contribution in serving the people of Middle Tennessee.

### HONORING NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

SPEECH OF

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Science Foundation on the 50th anniversary of this excellent and important agency. The NSF has been the central advocate for basic and applied scientific research in five decades of service to this country.

Before NSF came into existence in 1950, government-sponsored research system for the sciences was disjointed. Different government agencies had made advances in areas as far-reaching as medical research and atomic energy. Under President Truman, the NSF was directed, among other things, to forge a national policy for the promotion of basic research and science and math education. The success of the Soviet Union's space program, exhibited through the successful launch of Sputnik, focused new attention on the need to promote science research and education at all levels. This was done through a strengthened relationship among the government, universities and researchers, with the Foundation in the lead.

NSF built a project grant system that President Eisenhower found so effective he promoted it as a government-wide model. Proposals were widely solicited from all geographic areas and from all branches of science, including the social sciences. Scientific merit was the main criterion for award. The prestige of American scientists was encouraged through NSF's support of international travel by its project teams and by sponsoring scientific symposia and conferences.

In its early support for science education, NSF increased the number and quality of scientists nationwide that could be used as its research base. Many of today's leading scientists owe their training to the NSF. This was accomplished through a fellowship program for graduate students and post-doctoral scientists.

NSF took the lead in performing "big science," which eventually became a sizable percentage of their budget. The Foundation was able to conduct programs that required facilities and instrumentation so costly that only the government could afford them. These facilities were open to all researchers and led to major developments in atmospheric research and radio and optical astronomy. Big-science projects at NSF also led to major breakthroughs in the theories of the shape of the universe, continental drift, and sea floor spreading.

NSF's role has been essential in producing science that could enhance America's competitiveness. In an effort to improve science and math education, NSF received a big boost in its budget in the mid-1950s for teacher institutes, other educational projects and new curricula in physics, biology, chemistry, and mathematics. Although Congressional support for education at the NSF has wavered over the years, based on each Administration's commitment to science, the need continues to increase as we find ourselves in an increasingly technological society.

The environmental movement provided a context for the growing interest in applied science, and new legislation authorized the Foundation to support applied, as well as basic, research. As President Kennedy stated on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences, "scientists alone can establish the objectives of their research, but society, in extending support to science, must take account of their own needs." The science-government relationship is an essential one, both for the betterment of our society and for the advancement of mankind. NSF has been a leader in this area, and I am sure that we will be celebrating a full century of their contributions fifty years from now.

### HONORING DAN GERNATT, SR. UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE DEWITT CLINTON MASONIC AWARD

### HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2001*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both an extraordinary man and a dear friend. On Saturday, May 12, 2001, Dan Gernatt, Sr., will be honored with the prestigious DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Named in honor of former New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, this award recognizes those who have given "distinguished or outstanding community service," and "whose actions exemplify a shared concern for the well-being of mankind."

A dairy farmer who built the largest sand and gravel business in New York State, which today employs more than 200 people in seven plants, Dan Gernatt, Sr., has always worked to improve the quality of life in his community. He was not content simply to build a successful business, and believed strongly in giving back to those less fortunate. As the Dunkirk Observer noted, "Gernatt is a philanthropist by definition: one who practices good will to fellow men; one who is active in the effort to promote human welfare; a humanitarian."

Mr. Speaker, in "Song of Myself," Walt Whitman wrote "I do not give lectures on a little charity. When I give, I give myself." Throughout his life, Dan Gernatt, Sr. has given of himself time and time again, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting those philanthropic works upon his receipt of the DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award.