

Eventually two of his older brothers enlisted in the service. One went off to fight in Europe, the other in the Pacific. At the age of 21, Oyster was working at Borden's Dairy in West Branch and met 17-year-old Marge.

Oyster worked with Marge's sister's husband, and Marge and her sister would often visit at the dairy. He would walk Marge home after he was finished with work because she was frightened to walk alone.

"That started it," Oyster said. "That is how we got acquainted, and from there she tried to rope me in, and she did."

In late 1942 Oyster was drafted into the Army. He could have been deferred because Borden made products for the government, but Oyster opted against deferment.

"I was no worse or better than anyone else," he said. Thirty days before he was shipped overseas, he received word that his brother had been killed in Europe.

His brother's death made him a bit uneasy about the future, but he still wanted to serve his country.

"I wanted to go over and finish the job," he said.

On Dec. 7, 1942, Oyster embarked on the first leg of his journey. He attended basic training at Camp Claibourne, La., and went on to Camp House, Texas, where he was trained as a machine gunner.

On his first furlough from the service, Oyster married Marge on April 21, 1942.

He was then shipped to New York. Three days later he boarded the U.S.S. Montacella for the long trip across the Atlantic.

"I went over to France on my honeymoon," Oyster said. His young bride stayed with her parents in West Branch while he set off to fight for his country.

"(The journey) was kind of hairy," Oyster remembered. "We would run into a storm and have to change course. One time we had to change course for an enemy submarine."

"There were close living conditions," he said, adding that he volunteered for duty with the Navy sailors in the PX to get out from below decks. "You can't realize—(below decks) it was three bunks high by two to eight bunks wide. Let me just say this—you didn't want to be on the bottom bunk."

The soldiers finally arrived in France and went directly across into Germany. For six months Oyster, assigned to Company E of the 103rd Infantry Division, served on the front lines as a machine gunner.

"The Germans didn't like machine gunners," he said, adding that the gunners were the first targets of the enemy. The battles were fierce and Oyster witnessed the deaths of many of his fellow soldiers and friends.

"When your buddies got killed right alongside of you, it makes you want to finish it," he said. "You really didn't have time to think. You do what you have to do, and that was it."

Oyster added that fear was always present. "Anyone who says they weren't afraid, they're nuts," he said. "You have got guns and artillery aimed at you."

In December 1944 as Allied forces were pushing their way into Germany, the Germans made a surprise counterattack and the Battle of the Bulge ensued.

During an artillery barrage, Oyster was showered with shrapnel. He was hit in the leg and a small piece of shrapnel struck him in the back.

He was taken to a field hospital for treatment. The hospital was located in the woods and consisted only of some tents. Oyster underwent surgery and lay there for several days. The battle was still being waged and he couldn't be moved.

By the time Oyster got to a hospital in England, gangrene had set in.

"They said they were going to take my leg," Oyster said. "I said no. At this time penicillin was just being introduced."

Doctors administered penicillin to Oyster. "The infection cleared up and I got to save my leg," he said.

On Dec. 31, 1944, as Oyster lay in a hospital in England, Marie gave birth to their first child, Nancy. Oyster was then put into limited service and transferred to the Air Force.

"I wanted to be in the Air Force in the first place," he said. "It (the Air Force) is the best place you can be, as far as I'm concerned. It was almost like sending me home, putting me in there."

For the remainder of the war, Oyster was stationed at the 8th Army Headquarters, located about 30 miles from London, taking care of three generals' vehicles.

"They were going to send our division to Japan," he said. "But before we got shipped out, the war was over."

Oyster sailed home, this time on the Queen Mary. Upon arrival back into the United States, Oyster was given a choice.

"They told me that I could go in the hospital for two to three months and get my disability. I wanted to go home," he said, looking at his wife of 59 years.

Oyster returned home to claim his bride, and the couple settled back into the Lupton area.

Two more daughters, Joyce and Susan, followed in 1946 and 1948. Oyster yearned for a son.

"You take them as they come," he said. "But I wanted a boy."

In 1950, Marge delivered their first son, Larry. Another daughter, Jean, arrived in 1951, followed by Russell in 1954, Linda in 1956, and finally Joe was born in 1957.

"I kept trying to have a good one," said Oyster teasingly. "If I couldn't do better than that, I thought I better stop."

The Oysters now have 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Years later Oyster traveled to the veterans' hospital to receive his medical benefits. He didn't realize that when he was discharged from the hospital in England, he was listed as an amputee.

"Veterans records showed that I had a wooden leg," he said, chuckling. "They wanted to know where my wooden leg was."

For many years, Oyster worked construction for Strand Steel Construction and also worked for himself for a time. At age 65, he retired on Social Security, but never stopped working.

In fact, at 79, Oyster still works full-time as a park ranger at the Rifle River Recreation Area in Lupton. He is expecting to finally retire later this summer after 20 years at the park.

In addition to working full-time, he also takes care of Marge, who is now confined to a wheelchair.

"My day starts at 5 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m., seven days a week," he said. "I just do it."

A couple of years ago, Oyster was reading a VFW magazine and remarked that he wished that he would have stayed in the service and received his medals.

His son, Joe, went home and told his wife. They contacted the Veteran's Affairs office in West Branch to determine how they would go about acquiring his medals.

They filled out a medal request form and mailed it to St. Louis, Mo. After six months, they heard nothing. Joe then mailed in a second request and still received no satisfaction.

A representative at Veteran's Affairs suggested they contact Camp, and within just a matter of a few months the medals were in Camp's possession.

Camp hand-delivered those medals to a surprised Oyster at Joe's home on June 4.

Joe had invited his father to his home on the pretense of having a pizza party. Oyster

patiently waited for the pizza to arrive. He was getting hungry and also a bit suspicious.

"You don't very often surprise me," Oyster said. "But they did surprise me. It felt good."

"I didn't expect to get them. There are a lot of soldiers who deserve the same thing," he added. "I was just defending my country. I didn't do any more than anybody else did."

"I would do it again before I would send my grandsons to do it," he added.

KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT PARK CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 75th anniversary of the formal beginning of one of Northeastern Pennsylvania's primary tourist destinations, the Knoebels Amusement Park near Elysburg, which is also Pennsylvania's largest free admission amusement park.

In those 75 years, Knoebels has grown from a small local park to hosting more than a million guests each year. At the same time, the Knoebel family maintains a strong sense of tradition and family.

The land has been owned by the Knoebel family since 1828, when it was purchased by the Reverend Henry Hartman Knoebel. His grandson and namesake was the one who first envisioned the land's recreational potential. The younger Henry, better known as H.H. or "Ole Hen," farmed the land and pursued a lumbering business operating saw mills at several locations on the property.

Around the start of the 20th century, the Knoebel farm began to be visited by "tally-hos," Sunday afternoon rides to a destination, in this case people who came to sit by the creek banks, picnic in the woods and jump from the covered bridge to the swimming hole below.

As the site became more popular, the family installed picnic tables and benches, hired a lifeguard to protect the swimmers, and began selling food and soft drinks. The formal beginning of the amusement park was July 4, 1926, the opening of a concrete swimming pool. That same year, the family opened the first ride, a steam-powered merry-go-round, and the first restaurant.

Since that time, Knoebels has grown tremendously. Today, in addition to 50 rides and great food, the park offers the award-winning Alamo Restaurant, unique gift shops, numerous games, a miniature golf course, two campgrounds, picnic pavilions and the large Crystal Pool with its 900,000 gallons of mountain spring water. Knoebels is a major contributor to the economy of the region, employing 1,400 seasonal workers.

Voted "America's Best Park for Families" two years in a row by the National Amusement Park Historical Association, Knoebels is also known as "Pennsylvania's Hometown Park." The park is managed by the third generation of the Knoebel family, and members of the fourth generation are coming on board and taking their places. Brothers Dick and Ron Knoebel serve as co-general managers of the park.

Mr. Speaker, the Knoebel family continues to do a fine job of carrying on their trademark tradition of "fun, food and fantasy," and I wish them all the best.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT I. WEHLING,
UPON ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE PROCTER &
GAMBLE COMPANY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Robert L. Wehling, a good friend and community leader, who will retire on August 10, 2001 from the Procter & Gamble Company in Cincinnati. Bob started with P & G on June 27, 1960 exactly 41 years ago today.

Bob Wehling currently serves as Procter & Gamble's global marketing and government relations officer. He joined the company as a brand assistant, and during his long and distinguished career, held various positions including brand manager, advertising manager, and vice president of public affairs. Bob has been a true leader and innovator, developing new approaches to marketing and responsible advertising.

A long-time advocate for quality family entertainment, he co-founded the Family Friendly Programming Forum in 1999, a consortium of major advertisers dedicated to increasing family oriented shows on network television. Bob believed it was possible to have positive programming choices for multigenerations to watch together—and for all to be entertained. In 2000, he was named the most powerful person in marketing by the trade journal Advertising Age. He was recognized for his work in making advertising more efficient as audiences become more fragmented.

His volunteer involvement in the Cincinnati community is legendary. He is particularly well known for his advocacy on behalf of children and his passion for education. His public service has taken him from president of the Wyoming, Ohio School Board in 1986 to more recent positions as Co-Chair of the Ohio Education Improvement Council and membership on the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Bob has capably led numerous local organizations, including the Greater Cincinnati March of Dimes, the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the National Advertising Council Board, and Beech Acres For the Love of Kids Parenting Conference.

All of us in Cincinnati congratulate Bob on his outstanding career with Procter & Gamble, thank him for his many years of dedicated community service, and wish him well in the new challenges to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND MARY
KOLIMAS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John and Mary Kolimas who recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on June 16, 2001.

John and Mary represent the epitome of married life and family values. They have raised six wonderful children—Mamie, Chris, Bob, Barb, Rich, and Paul. I can attest firsthand to their ability as parents; their son Paul is a former employee of mine and a man I have great respect for. John and Mary have also been blessed with nine beautiful grandchildren: Nicole, Jordan, Kelly, Amie, Cathy, Samantha, Alexandria, Jesenia, and Michael. They also have one deceased grandchild, Elizabeth.

Friends of the couple fondly recall their meeting at a dance in 1948 at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Catholic Church. They were married at that same church three years later in 1951 by Mary's brother, Father Edwin Karłowicz. Their outstanding devotion to the Catholic Church has continued throughout their marriage.

Both John and Mary attended St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Catholic Grammar School. John graduated from Foreman High School, where he was class president. He served in the Navy for two years, and then attended Loyola University in Chicago under the GI Bill. Mary graduated from Holy Academy High School.

The couple was surrounded by seventy-five relatives and friends for mass and a joyous reception at the Rosewood West Restaurant on Saturday, June 16. Mary's brother, Father Edwin Karłowicz, presided over the mass along with Father John Sayaya. In attendance for the celebration were Mary's four sisters: Therese, Kay, Janet, and Jean; and John's sisters: Helen, Bernice, and Emily. The group enjoyed a video presentation of pictures and music from the couple's fifty years together.

I have the highest level of respect for devoted couples like John and Mary. Their ability to love and raise children serves as a model for all of us to follow. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fiftieth wedding anniversary of John and Mary and the strong family values they represent.

ARE PRODUCTION CONTROLS
DESIRABLE FOR AGRICULTURE?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the House prepares to consider the next Farm Bill, this Member commends to his colleagues the following analysis by Roy Frederick, a highly respected public policy specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Frederick's analysis examines the pros and cons of production controls for agriculture and provides helpful insights on this difficult issue.

[From the Nebraska State Paper]

ARE PRODUCTION CONTROLS DESIRABLE FOR
AGRICULTURE?

(By Roy Frederick)

LINCOLN—You can count on it. One of the more contentious items in the upcoming farm bill debate will be whether we should return to production controls in a new law.

Set-asides and other land-idling schemes were a part of most every farm bill from 1933 through 1990. But passage of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act in

1996 broke the mold. Under current law, farmers are not required to take land out of production as a precondition to receiving supports from the federal government.

Critics say that the lack of a supply-adjustment mechanism in the 1996 act is a serious flaw. Prices for all the major crops grown in Nebraska have been lackluster since mid-1998. Why not spur prices higher by restricting bushels offered to the marketplace? It seems like a logical question that deserves an answer.

Supporters of the current system respond that commodities are produced and marketed around the world. Any attempt to reduce U.S. production might be met by increased production elsewhere. Some livestock feeders also wouldn't be happy with the prospect of higher feed costs. Then there's the matter of how agribusinesses feel about it. Many survive on the basis of volume; the more acres in production, the better it is for farm-related businesses.

Recently, formal studies by agricultural economists at the University of Maryland and Iowa State University examined the land-idling question in greater depth.

In the first study, the focus was on inefficiencies caused by taking land out of production. That is, not only may land be taken out of its highest and best use, but other inputs, such as machinery and equipment, may be underused as well. The estimated cost to producers and consumers of a modest land retirement scheme is \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year, the study found.

The Iowa State study assumed that land planted to all major crops in the United States was reduced by 10 percent. Moreover, that reduction remained in place for eight years. At the end of the period, prices for corn and soybeans would be 13 percent higher and 6 percent higher, respectively, than if the idling had not occurred. So far, so good.

However, the authors of the latter study point out two big caveats. First, with 10 percent fewer acres, total revenue declines by whatever the revenue would have been on acres taken out of production. More importantly, if producers do what they've done in the past, they will attempt to increase production on the remaining 90 percent of land left in production. To the extent they are successful, price increases of the magnitude suggested above may not be realized. The authors conclude that the price impact of a 10 percent reduction in planted acreage is probably overstated.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LUIS
CENTENO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Luis Centeno, the founder of Proclaimers of Hope Ministries, a faith-based recovery and addiction prevention program in West Kensington, Philadelphia.

Reverend Centeno, who also is the pastor at Bethel Temple Church, was recently chosen to receive the nation's highest honor for community health leadership—a 2001 Community Health Leader award from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The distinction, conferred annually on only 10 people nationwide, includes a \$100,000 award to continue his work.

Reverend Centeno saw first hand the ravaging effects of addiction on individuals and