

never-ending spiral of the rich remaining rich and the poor remaining poor.

ON BEHALF OF RUTH BLAKE  
REGARDING STRAIGHT TALK VERMONT  
(April 8, 2002)

RUTH BLAKE: Straight Talk Vermont is one of the programs run out of the Community Justice Center, and some of the things they are involved in is Arts are Wonderful, a group of high school students getting together and working on art projects and learning different types of art. They have a Team Reaching In, which is like a song-poetry kind of group. They have Art from the Inside Out, which is a group of UVM art majors who are teaching majors, teaching middle schoolers and young students art. And the Teen Expressions, which is what I'm part of. It is a group of high schoolers from around the area, and they get together, and plan different events, and fun things to do, as something else to do besides drinking and drugs and that kind of stuff.

Straight Talk Vermont is the overall thing. They help people at high risk, and it—they just help build and become better. What I'm involved in is the Teen Expressions Dance Company, and they're putting on a dance performance. It is a group of young amateur performers. We are just getting together and choreographing and dancing, performing.

GRIMES TO BE HONORED BY  
GREATER PITTSSTON CHAMBER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 30, 2002*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the well-deserved recognition that the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce will provide to Mr. John F. Grimes, a good friend of mine, at its 80th annual dinner meeting on May 1.

It is with good reason that the Chamber refers to Jack as its "secret weapon" for attracting quality businesses to sites in the Pittston area. He was instrumental in the recently announced agreement to bring 1,200 jobs to the area at the new TJ Maxx distribution center to be located in the Vogelbacher Industrial Park. In all, the Chamber credits Jack as being responsible for bringing 4,500 jobs to the Greater Pittston Area since his involvement began with the Chamber.

Jack has deep roots in the community—he was born in Pittston and has lived there all of his life. In 1942, after graduating from St. John the Evangelist High School, Jack began a 21-year career with the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Within just a few years of beginning his career with the railroad, Jack was appointed assistant division engineer and became the youngest person ever to be assigned to that position of responsibility. During his career, Jack earned two professional licenses: surveyor and civil engineer.

Although Jack remained very committed to his job, he has also made community service a major part of his life. He served as the president of the Lions Club of Pittston, and has been a lector and usher at St. Mary's Church. He has also contributed to the city of Pittston by serving as a member, secretary and president of the planning commission over a period of more than 30 years.

Knowing of Jack's commitment to his community, his colleagues called on him to be the executive director of the Pittston Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure, Jack reactivated the Pittston Area Industrial Development Authority as a subsidiary function of the chamber. He has aggressively campaigned to bring new industry to the region, and he has helped publicize Pittston's strongest assets to companies seeking to relocate in the city. Jack Grimes has become a valuable partner with local, county, and State officials who diligently work to revitalize the Greater Pittston area. For all of these reasons, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick rightly honored Jack as their Man of the Year in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Greater Pittston area, I extend my deepest appreciation to Jack Grimes for his lifetime of commitment to promoting industrial and business development throughout his community. I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives his service to the community and the well-deserved tribute he will receive on May 1, and I wish him all the best.

THE MARTIN'S COVE LAND TRANSFER ACT (H.R. 4103) SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 30, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4103, the Martin's Cove Land Transfer Act, introduced in this House by our distinguished colleague from Utah, Mr. HANSEN, the Chair of the Committee on Resources. The legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to offer to convey to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints federal lands in the state of Wyoming known as Martin's Cove. The Church would be required to pay the fair market value for acquisition of the land and any improvements.

Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, I have strongly supported the acquisition of lands by the federal government. During the time I have served in this body, I have introduced and supported a number of bills which have provided for the addition of new lands to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California and the acquisition of other lands for preservation and protection by the federal government.

It may appear to be an unusual step that I support this legislation which would provide for the sale of federal lands. The land at Martin's Cove, however, is unique. Clearly the transfer of this parcel of land from the federal government to the Mormon Church makes good sense for all concerned.

Mr. Speaker, this site is a particularly important historical site for Latter-day Saints. At or near Martin's Cove in 1856 some 150 emigrants of the Willies and Martin handcart companies lost their lives in an early fall snowstorm. Those who perished were buried where they died, and many were placed in common graves because of the difficult and trying conditions.

Many members of these two groups had begun their trek to Salt Lake City in Europe, and others joined the group in the eastern

United States. They sought a new life in the American West and the freedom to practice their religion. This loss of life was one of the most tragic events in the entire westward migration on the Oregon and Mormon trails in mid-nineteenth century America.

It is obvious that this site holds a special significance for the many descendants of those who survived this ordeal, many of whom are Latter-day Saints. But it is also a holy place as well for other members of the church who give special honor to their pioneer heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the church's interest in acquiring this site is consistent with the federal government's interest in public access and preservation of this location. The church has an interest in preserving this place as an authentic historic site. It has an interest in maintaining relics and evidences of the Mormon, Oregon and Pony Express trails that pass through the area. The church also has an interest in making the area accessible to visitors in a way that will preserve the historic significance of the place. Furthermore, I believe that the church's commitment to this site in care, concern and funds is likely to be much greater than that of the federal government, and as a result the area will be better preserved under Latter-day Saint stewardship than under federal control.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I do not see this legislation for the transfer of this particular piece of land to be establishing any precedent for the sale or transfer of other federal lands. Clearly this is a unique situation. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has an interest that is very similar to the federal interest to preserve, protect and provide public access to the site. This land transfer makes eminent sense, but it clearly does not change any federal policies or practices regarding the protection and preservation of public lands.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Utah, Mr. HANSEN, for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER SKY MARSHALS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 30, 2002*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, after the tragic events of September 11th, many dedicated Americans served our nation as volunteer Sky Marshals. I recently received a piece of correspondence from one of my constituents, Bob Dremann, whose son John served as a volunteer Sky Marshal after September 11th. I have included a copy of Mr. Dremann's correspondence, and agree with him that volunteers like his son John deserve Congress's recognition for their service.

Rep. MOORE: My son, John S. Dremann, just completed his detail as a volunteer Sky Marshal. He volunteered shortly after the 9/11 attacks. They were looking for persons who had federal law enforcement training and those who carried a handgun as a part of their jobs. He is now being relieved by persons who were hired and trained to be a Sky Marshal after 9/11. John is now going back to his previous job as an Aviation Specialist with the U. S. Customs Service. He flies in a