

Jack was drafted as a professional football player after graduating from Fresno State University.

The late Rosa Kelley served the public as a Licensed Vocational Nurse and elementary school teacher. She was an active member in her church and many other civic activities in the community. She was known as a devoted wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose love, kindness, and encouragement touched the lives of many people throughout her life and allowed the Museum to be at the status it is today.

Mr. Kelley began his 12-year dream of creating an African American Historical museum of the pioneers of the San Joaquin Valley out of the trunk of his car. His perseverance to display the photos and artifacts from early African American pioneers to the public has led to his vision becoming a reality.

The African American Historical & Cultural Museum has promoted an understanding, appreciation, and awareness of African Americans historically and culturally throughout the San Joaquin Valley who have been pioneers and role models in their community. The Museum serves as a permanent home to remember the work of African Americans of the Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Jack and Rosa Kelley for their outreach in the community and their dedication to the African American Historical and Cultural Museum. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Kelley and the Museum many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE AND JIM
KEEGAN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Katie and Jim Keegan, Catholic Charities 2003 recipients of the Monsignor Thomas J. Reese award.

The award is named for the late Monsignor Thomas J. Reese, the long-time Director of Catholic Social Services (now Catholic Charities), for his commitment to serving those in need throughout our community. As a tribute to Monsignor Reese, each year an honoree is selected who is a leader in his/her field and in the community and who possesses outstanding integrity worth emulating. This year Catholic Charities has selected the Keegans in recognition of their service to others in the community both as individuals and together.

I rise today to praise Katie and Jim Keegan for their contributions to the State of Delaware and its citizens through years of helping the community and serving as advocates for community service in the State.

In addition to graduating from Chestnut Hill College and raising five children, Katie Keegan has been a tireless advocate for the young people and those less fortunate. Katie had demonstrated her faith by serving in various positions, including: Youth Encounter Leader, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) teacher and Board member of the Bayard House, a facility that assists single young women as they prepare for motherhood. Over the years, Katie Keegan has also served as a

committee member for the TEE-Off for Kids Golf Tournament benefiting Catholic Charities. She is in her own right a dedicated leader in the community, as she has touched the lives of so many in Delaware.

Jim Keegan is a graduate of Notre Dame. Following graduation, Jim spent two years in the U.S. Navy prior to joining the DuPont Company. In addition to his dedication at DuPont, Jim has been active and held leadership positions in a wide variety of church and educational efforts ranging from Chairman of the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal and membership on the leadership team for Bringing the Vision to Life Diocesan Campaign to various volunteer commitments in surrounding schools and parish councils.

On Thursday, February 20, 2003, at 6 p.m., Catholic Charities Inc. of the Diocese of Wilmington honored Katie and Jim Keegan at its Annual Tribute Dinner in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Katie and Jim Keegan for the time they spend giving back to the community in Delaware. They are fine examples of the generosity and compassion that is common in the Catholic faith and American spirit. Their selflessness, sacrifice of time and commitment to service, has already given them a permanent place in Delaware's history.

THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to correct an unfair restriction that is preventing some of our career military service members from using the Montgomery GI Bill.

Education assistance has been a cornerstone of military benefits for over 50 years. Congress recognized that military service often prevented young people from attending school and attaining higher levels of education. In 1944, Congress passed the original education bill for service members, the Serviceman's Readjustment Act. This World War II era legislation provided billions of dollars in education and training incentives for veterans and active duty personnel. The nation has reaped many times that amount in return investment from a well-trained work force and a more productive society.

Building on the success of the original GI Bill, Congress has passed several other pieces of legislation expanding veterans' educational benefits. The Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) was enacted in 1976 as a recruitment and retention tool for the post-Vietnam era. This was the first program requiring payment contributions from military personnel while they were on active duty and was available to people who entered active duty between December 31, 1976 and July 1, 1985.

In 1984, Congress passed the All volunteer Force Educational Assistance program; more commonly call the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). This expanded program provided better benefits that offered under VEAP and last year Congress passed legislation to boost MGIB by a record 46 percent over two years. With the

enactment of this legislation, an estimated 409,000 veterans and service members will receive assistance under MGIB for education and training in 2003.

In 1996, Congress passed Public Law 104-275, allowing VEAP participants to transfer their education accounts to MGIB and 41,041 veterans and servicepersons took advantage of the opportunity. The opportunity to convert to MGIB is very important because the benefits available are much greater. Unfortunately, those individuals who were on active duty before 1985 and did not participate in VEAP were not eligible to sign-up for MGIB, leaving a gap in available coverage for certain career military personnel. Congress has voted several times in the last decade to allow VEAP participants opportunities to transfer to MGIB, but there has not been an opportunity for those who did not have VEAP accounts to sign up for the new program, excluding them from taking advantage of great educational benefits.

This unjust situation can easily be remedied. My legislation provides a one-year open enrollment period for individuals falling into the gap to attain the benefits that they deserve. This is a matter of equity. We cannot neglect our career military personnel; they have served bravely and honorably for decades and their experiences are crucial to the security of our nation. Now is the opportunity to ensure that they are provided for and have the same benefits that are available to other members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING THE NATIONAL BASS
GUIDE SERVICE AS THE MOUNT
VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE HOME-BASED BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR, 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate National Bass Guide Service on their recognition by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce as the Home-Based Business of 2002.

Founded by Steve Chaconas, National Bass Guide Service is a fishing charter operation on the Potomac River that specializes in largemouth bass. Since its foundation two years ago, National Bass Guide Service has tripled the number of fishing charters it provides. In addition, Mr. Chaconas has expanded into outdoor writing for four publications, giving more exposure to the sport of fishing.

In addition to the numerous services they provide along the Potomac River, National Bass Guide Service is dedicated to contributing to the community. Mr. Chaconas has served as chairman and Master of Ceremonies for the St. Jude Children's Hospital Annual Bass Fishing Tournament, raising nearly \$100,000 for the hospital. National Bass Guide Service has also donated fishing trips to the Hollin Hall Senior Center, the Recreation Boating and Fishing Foundation, as well as to churches and organizations for fundraising auctions.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is an honor to extend my warm congratulations to National