

RECOGNITION OF MT. VERNON  
ELKS LODGE 819

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819. This year marks their 100th year of service to the people of Jefferson County. I am very proud of their milestone and that they are part of the 19th Congressional District, which I serve.

The Elks is a national fraternity involved in a variety of charitable work involving children and veterans. Members also uphold their longstanding tradition of patriotism and spirituality. Locally, they regularly disperse funds to help charitable causes and to provide scholarships. Several of their activities include assisting crippled children, volunteering at veteran's hospitals, organizing blood drives, providing learning opportunities for local students, and supporting the Jefferson County Sports Authority. The Mt. Vernon Elks have also been nationally recognized as the finest lodge in America.

I thank them for all the work they do and will continue to do in the future. Their commitment to their country and to their fellow citizens is very commendable. The selfless services they provide on a daily basis are an example for us all to follow. There is no question that their community, their state, and their country are better because of them. I wish the lodge the very best as they enter into their next 100 years of service.

HONORING CARL G. HARTMAN ON  
HIS RETIREMENT AS THE  
CLERMONT COUNTY ENGINEER

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl G. Hartman who has served as Clermont County Engineer for the past 11 years and who retired on May 31, 2003. In his tenure, Carl has excelled as the Clermont County Engineer, accomplishing much for the county's roadways and infrastructure.

When Carl was elected as the County Engineer in 1992, Clermont County was one of the fastest growing counties in Ohio presenting him with a variety of challenges. Carl faced those challenges and became the "transportation engineer" of Clermont County, expanding the role of county engineer beyond just the maintenance of the bridges and roadways. He had many accomplishments. He was able to secure funding and rebuild 75 bridges throughout the county. By working with local officials, he was able to pinpoint dangerous areas of the roadways and implement safety measures to secure the safety of travelers. In addition to his duties as county engineer, in 1996 Carl took on the role of Sanitary Engineer for the Clermont County Water and Sewer Department where he was responsible for handling over \$5 million of capital improvement projects. His success is well known, and he has been honored by many of the industry's leaders for his outstanding work on the county's roadways and infrastructure.

Carl grew up in Anderson Township and graduated from Anderson High School in 1956. He continued his education at the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering. After receiving his degree, Carl worked for various engineering companies including Sun Oil Company, and in 1970 started his own engineering and surveying firm that served the Greater Cincinnati area. Starting with only two employees, Carl's successful business grew to 25 employees before he was elected the Clermont County Engineer.

His service goes beyond his elected office. Carl is an active volunteer with the local 4-H Club, and helps the local Cub Scouts earn their Engineering Achievement Awards. He is devoted to his wife, Barbara, and they have three children and six grandchildren.

All of us in the Greater Cincinnati area congratulate Carl on his service. We appreciate his outstanding leadership and dedication to the betterment of Clermont County, and we wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CHRISTINE  
REED

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a magnificent individual and dedicated member of both her community and church, Mrs. Christine Reed, affectionately known as 'Grahams'. Born in Summit, New Jersey, Mrs. Reed has been an active member of the Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God for over 35 years.

On July 13, 2003, the members of the Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God's Usher board will proudly recognize Sister Christine Reed with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout her many years of membership, Mrs. Reed partook as a member of various choirs, the Missionary Department, Sunday School Teacher and the Usher Board. Mrs. Reed served as the President of the Usher Board for over 25 years. Also serving as the Vice President for a time, Mrs. Reed was a dedicated member, a hard and reliable worker, always willing to teach and lend a helping hand in any possible capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in saluting Mrs. Christine Reed for her many years of dedicated service to Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God.

RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND  
FLOWERS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mr. Raymond Flowers of Centralia, IL. Upon his death at the age of 100, Raymond held the status of oldest retired firefighter in the state of Illinois.

Towards the end of World War II, the Centralia Fire Department faced a significant shortage of firefighters. Many of Centralia's

men had enlisted in the military and were serving our country in Europe and the Pacific. To help alleviate this shortage, Raymond decided to leave his job as a truck driver and in 1944 became one of many who filled in for the firefighters who were deployed overseas. He stayed with the Fire Department for another 20 years, until his retirement in 1964.

Raymond received little formal training or instruction in firefighting. Instead, he learned on the job, fighting fires with the members of the east side fire station in Centralia.

The Centralia Fire Department and many of the citizens of Centralia honored Raymond at his funeral.

Raymond's career as a firefighter is just one example of the thousands of contributions to our nation made by members of the "Greatest Generation." It is my prayer that all Americans would learn to make the same selfless sacrifices made by those citizens.

TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR  
CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER  
TO AWARD BILL EMERSON  
AND MICKY LELAND HUNGER  
FELLOWSHIPS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2474. Mickey Leland, our former colleague once said "I cannot get used to hunger and desperate poverty in our plentiful land. There is no reason for it, there is no excuse for it, and it is time that we as a nation put an end to it." But, according to USDA statistics, there are 33 million children suffering from pangs of hunger and poverty and nearly 300 million in the world. Hunger is still rampant.

The Congressional Hunger Center founded in 1993, successfully educates leaders to fight hunger globally. It is through this entity that the Emerson-Leland Fellowships are administered, and I stand strongly in support of this legislation.

H.R. 2474 authorizes the use of funds already appropriated for the Emerson-Leland Hunger fellowships for fiscal year 2003 and 2004. However, these funds were appropriated in The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which created an independent agency in the legislative branch. The act established an endowment in the Department of Treasury and a board of trustees to supervise and direct the program that is not yet operational. This presents a barrier to the foot soldiers of compassion, who are primed and ready to fight hunger both here and abroad while fulfilling the vision of Mickey Leland and Bill Emerson.

Substantial progress has been made to feed the hungry in the United States and abroad, yet much is still needed, and I am in full support of equipping the willing in this fight with whatever means are necessary to do so. This bill allows those funds to be used by the Congressional Hunger Center for hunger fellowships.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2003*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

We're hearing a lot about the year 1965 today. Let me remind my colleagues of some of the other things from that year. Herb Alpert and Tijuana Brass won a Grammy for 'Album of the Year' and Tom Jones earned one as 'Best New Artist'. Sonny and Cher had a hit song in 'I Got You Babe' and 'Bonanza' was the top show on television. A postage stamp cost a nickel and a gallon of regular gasoline was 31 cents. And the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a high of 969 points.

We've come a long way since then.

Also in 1965 Medicare, which has provided health care security for millions of Americans for almost 40 years, was created. When it was launched, the program was designed to focus on a different set of needs, needs that did not include prescription drug coverage and preventive care. It was designed to fit the needs of 1965.

Well my friends this isn't the mid-sixties anymore. Just as a postage stamp is no longer a nickel, the Medicare program which doesn't provide a prescription drug benefit doesn't work in today's world.

My friends, times change.

In 2003, we must honor our commitment of health care to seniors by ensuring that seniors have access and when needed assistance to prescription drug coverage. Additionally, H.R. 1 allows for other modernizations by adding an entry physical, cholesterol screening and offers disease management.

I am pleased that this bill works to address the needs of our rural communities. Long overlooked, H.R. 1 provides a permanent fix to formulas that have discriminated against health care providers in mid-Michigan and other rural areas. This is a policy change that goes to the heart of the problem and its benefits will be multiplied for years to come.

This legislation will increase to every small urban and rural hospital, equalizing their base payment rates with that of large urban hospitals. Additionally, H.R. 1 adds a five percent bonus for primary and specialty care physicians working in areas where such care is scarce; creating a new category of hospitals that are the primary hospital in the community to receive payments covering costs plus two percent; allowing rural and small-town hospitals that provide graduate medical education to receive additional direct medical education and indirect teaching hospital funds by moving unused residency slots to these hospitals; and adding a five percent increase for all rural home health agencies for two years.

Put simply, it is past time to modernize and improve the Medicare system. H.R. 1 will be able to better serve the needs of seniors. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1.

RECOGNITION OF EDITH JAMES  
AND SARAH LOCKHART

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Edith James and Sarah Lockhart of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Edith and Sarah recently led the Jefferson County African-American Heritage Committee's Research Committee in publishing the booklet, *We The People—Past Present and Future*, a look at local African-American history.

I thank and commend them for their tireless work in preserving and documenting history. Their work will lead to a better understanding of those who have come before us. It will also help to better educate us on one of the most divisive and shameful periods of American history; slavery and racial discrimination.

Edith and Sarah have spent much of their lives giving back to Jefferson County. I am honored to take this occasion to recognize them for their devotion and commitment to their community. We are grateful.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2555, the FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The National Security Subcommittee, which I chair, has examined port security and found the volume of containerized cargo and the openness of our massive, complex port areas represent inviting vulnerabilities that must be secured.

Our ports are key commercial entry points, serving as the gateway for 95 percent of international cargo. Each year, nearly 10,000 vessels make 68,000 port calls and unload more than six million containers in the United States.

But, according to a GAO report published in August 2002, "Ports are inherently vulnerable to terrorist attacks because of their size, generally open accessibility by water and land, location in metropolitan areas, the amount of material being transported through ports, and the ready transportation links to many locations within our borders."

H.R. 2555 includes \$100 million for Transportation Safety Administration port security grants and \$61.7 million for the Container Security Initiative, which will help DHS protect what could be one of our Nation's most vulnerable access points—our ports. It is imperative that we adequately fund efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to scale-up port and container security.

I also support the funding in this legislation for State and local first responders. H.R. 2555 will provide \$4.4 billion for the Office of Domestic Preparedness, which includes \$1.9 billion for domestic preparedness formula grants and \$750 million for firefighter grants.

Before September 11, the firefighter grant program was funded at \$200 million, but the changes our nation has undergone since that horrific day have made clear the need for a dramatic increase in funding. This bill provides that increase.

The bottom line for me is our ports are still vulnerable and our first responders need strong financial support to protect our Nation. This bill provides significant assistance in both areas and strengthens national security.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this vital funding bill.

MR. JIM WITT

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise Jim Witt of Meridian, Idaho, for his steadfast commitment to safety. Mr. Witt is a professional truck driver who recently celebrated a remarkable career achievement: driving 1 million miles without a preventable accident. That's the equivalent of driving safely around the world 40 times.

Fatal accidents involving large trucks occur most frequently in rural areas like those throughout Idaho. On U.S. Highway 95—the major north-south route through my district—the long and tragic history of traffic fatalities is a constant reminder of the need to make highway safety foremost among our public policy considerations.

The U.S. Department of Transportation cites the danger posed by trucks on our highways as a growing concern for citizens. Professional, safety-conscious drivers like Mr. Witt provide an important public service as they navigate our corridors of commerce by helping to alleviate those concerns and setting an example for everyone who gets behind the wheel. I hope my House colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Witt and encouraging others to follow his lead in helping to make our roads safer.

RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL  
DAVID HARRIS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Major General David Harris, The Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. Major General Harris will be retiring from his position after more than thirty-three years of military service.

Maj. General Harris was appointed Adjutant General in 1999. During his service as leader of the Illinois National Guard, he oversaw its largest mobilization since World War II. The military operations in Iraq saw more than 2,600 soldiers and airmen mobilized or alerted