

to study at a private music school in New York.

As a teenager, Mr. De Bellis performed in Newark, New Jersey, in various bands comprised of musicians from the American Federation of Musicians (Local 16). He continued his formal musical training at the Pietro Deiro Conservatory of Music in New York, while pursuing independent studies in piano performance with Professor Ulysses Senerchia, and Music Theory and Harmony with Professor Otto Cesana and Professor Joseph Biviano of NBC in New York City.

In 1948, Mr. De Bellis began attending Seton Hall University. His tenure there was short-lived, however, and he left Seton Hall after a mere two years to be inducted into the United States Army. While in the United States Army, Mr. De Bellis attended the 9th Infantry Division Band School, and graduated to become a training officer for the Field Army Corp and a member of the prestigious United States Army Band.

Upon leaving the Army, Mr. De Bellis returned to New York to pursue a bachelor's degree in Music Education at New York University. His desire to instill an understanding and love of music in other young artists led to his decision to organize his own private school. In a response to the great need for a school of music in Newark, New Jersey, the De Bellis School of Performing Arts opened its doors in 1952. Fifty-one years later, the De Bellis School of Performing Arts continues to offer courses to students of Instrumental Music, Dance, Voice, and Drama.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of individuals like Eugene De Bellis. His passion and commitment to music education and the community of Newark is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Eugene's family and friends, the faculty and students at the De Bellis School of Performing Arts, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Eugene De Bellis.

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TRIBUTE TO GERALD V. PIERARD

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2003*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend and constituent, Gerald V. Pierard, the Mayor of the Village of Coal City, whose untimely death occurred on July 9, 2003.

A native of Coal City and graduate of Coal City High School, Mayor Pierard spent much of his adult life serving the citizens of Coal City. Serving a term as Commissioner and then 2 terms as Mayor, the citizens of Coal City displayed their esteem for Mayor Pierard by reelecting without opposition earlier this year to yet another term as their Mayor.

Mayor Pierard also served his country as an officer and fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. He will rest with honor in the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

After his graduation from the University of Illinois and military service, Mayor Pierard returned to the community he loved and began his career of service to Coal City. Largely be-

cause of his strong leadership, the Village of Coal City is today well positioned for future growth and prosperity. Displaying great vision, Mayor Pierard expanded the boundaries of Coal City and made major infrastructure improvements such as new streets, a new water system and a new sewage treatment system his priorities. The citizens of Coal City and their families will clearly benefit from the new jobs and higher standard of living which will come about as the result of Mayor Pierard's dedication to his home town.

I am proud to recognize Mayor Gerald V. Pierard as a veteran, family man and progressive community leader—a truly fine example of an outstanding American citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize outstanding citizens in their own districts whose actions have so strongly benefited and strengthened their communities and our great Nation.

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TRIBUTE TO THE PATERSON  
ROTARY CLUB No. 70

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2003*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding organization, Paterson Rotary Club #70 that, on Wednesday, June 18, 2003, celebrated 90 years of service.

As a lifelong resident and former mayor of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that has dedicated itself more to serving the special needs of the city's diverse community. It is only fitting that Paterson Rotary Club #70 be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Established in 1913, Paterson Rotary #70 held its first meeting of civic leaders and professional businessmen on February 25th at Crawford's Restaurant in Paterson, New Jersey. Over the ensuing 90 years, the members of the Paterson Club have exemplified the Rotary's time-honored motto "Service Above Self."

From its inception, Paterson Rotary #70 has dedicated itself to assisting the local youth of Paterson. One of its earliest projects was the establishment of the Rotary Student Loan Fund which has enabled numerous young men and women to continue their education in colleges and universities around the country. While still in its formative years, the Paterson Rotary similarly chose to support the Paterson YMCA and, in the 1940s, the club assumed an instrumental role in the construction of a large social hall at the YMCA's summer camp at Silver Lake in Sussex County.

Over the years the Paterson Rotary has expanded the scope of its service to include regular support of the Memorial Day Nursery, the Gift of Life Program, and the Salvation Army. Yet its initial focus on the youth of Paterson has not been forgotten. Acting in the spirit with which it was founded, the Rotary Club currently sponsors various self-help programs for local students, High School Interact Clubs, and numerous Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, while providing support for the local PAL, the Boys and Girls Club, the Boy Scouts, the Paterson Education Fund, and the Nathaniel Lieberman Scholarship Fund for Paterson students pursuing careers in music.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing organizations such as the Paterson Rotary that give so much to their community. Paterson Rotary #70's long history of leadership and service to the city of Paterson is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Rotary, the city of Paterson, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Paterson Rotary Club #70.

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TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JAMES  
"CHOCKS" EWALD

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2003*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery of one of Michigan's fine Air Guardsmen. Major James "Chocks" Ewald of the Michigan Air National Guard 110th Fighter Wing made courageous decisions when his aircraft was hit by a surface-to-air missile while flying over Baghdad, Iraq on April 8, 2003.

On April 8, 2003, Major James "Chocks" Ewald took off from Al Jaber Air Base Kuwait on his second mission of the day. He and his wingman learned that they would be among the first Close Air Support aircraft to fly over the city of Baghdad. His aircraft was shot at numerous times during the next 30 minutes, while he provided vital intelligence about Iraqi ambush positions. The flight was low on fuel and leaving Baghdad when it was suddenly struck by a surface-to-air missile. Major Ewald flew the wounded-bird for about 12 minutes, while preparing for an injury-free ejection. Before ejecting, he and his wingman managed to complete several battle damage checklists, identify critical aircraft system operations, make tentative plans for aircraft recovery, and gather important information about threats affecting future Close Air Support operations. A friendly U.S. Army forces rescued Major Ewald 15 minutes after his parachute landing. Following a physical examination, he returned to active duty.

Major James "Chocks" Ewald entered the active duty Air Force on January 15, 1989 and served in the active duty until July 1, 1998 when he joined the Michigan Air National Guard. During his active-duty career, he flew in support of contingency operations over Bosnia, Operation Deny Flight, in support of the United Nations Forces in the Republic of Korea, and over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. In 1998, he separated from active-duty and joined the 110th Fighter Wing where he has served as Flight Instructor and Squadron Weapons Officer. Since his transfer to the 110th, Major Ewald has deployed with the unit to numerous stateside training exercises and recently returned from a four-month tour of duty in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he flew over 30 combat sorties.

With the heroic example of Major James "Chocks" Ewald, I would also like to laud all 1,500 members of Michigan Air and Army National Guard who are now serving their country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.