

Award for 2003. As the latest recipients of the prestigious 54-year-old award, these communities embody the spirit of American democracy by demonstrating how cooperation between citizens, businesses, volunteer organizations, and local government leads to the resolution of the critical problems facing America's cities.

I am extremely proud to represent the Greater Racine Area, an All-America city and a tremendous asset to Wisconsin's First Congressional District. Over the past few years, the citizens of Racine and the surrounding area have worked diligently to implement multiple initiatives that have positively impacted the lives of those who live in Racine County. For example, the Racine Area Intergovernmental Sanitary Sewer Service, Revenue Sharing, Cooperation and Settlement Agreement is an initiative that uses revenue from Racine's outlying communities to make improvements to the city's wastewater treatment infrastructure and enhance the city's cultural attractions such as its zoo, fine arts museum and library. A second initiative, the West Sixth Street Revitalization effort involves the participation of citizens, local businesses and government to help rebuild run-down homes in the inner city. Finally, the Racine County Youth As Resources (YAR) program is an exemplary project that encourages young people to take an active role in improving their own neighborhoods. This program provides grants for youth-led community service projects such as neighborhood cleanup programs, educational programs and services for the elderly.

I commend the citizens of the Greater Racine Area for their dedication to improving their community and applaud their willingness to employ innovative methods and basic American ideals toward the achievement of that goal. Racine, Wisconsin is truly a role model for other communities to follow and a deserving recipient of the 2003 All-America City Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 230, honoring the Greater Racine Area and the other nine communities that symbolize America's strong tradition of embracing civic responsibility and upholding the tenets of democracy.

CONGRATULATING DOROTHY  
KONICHEK FOR DISTINGUISHED  
CIVIC SERVICE

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to honor Dorothy Konichek for her commendable service to the community of Prairie du Chien. Mrs. Konichek is celebrating her 80th birthday and has been a citizen of Prairie du Chien for 64 of those years. As we celebrate this special day, we must also honor Mrs. Konichek for her distinguished citizenship and service.

She has an unbelievable dedication to serving her community and has extended her goodwill to many organizations. Mrs. Konichek has given countless hours to the seniors in her community by volunteering at the Care Center. She eagerly offers her generosity and kindness of heart to ensure that the well-being of the senior members of Prairie du Chien is

met. She has tirelessly given her time at the Meadow Lane Group Home for the developmentally disabled and has eagerly taken on leadership positions in her church and community that have contributed to the welfare of Prairie du Chien's youth.

I am proud to congratulate Dorothy Konichek on the celebration of her 80th birthday. It is important that we all recognize and commend her for her remarkable character and distinguished citizenship. Her commitment to service has supported the community of Prairie du Chien for 64 years. Mrs. Konichek embodies a standard of service that can be appreciated by all who live in the State of Wisconsin.

*Alma Center, WI, June 22, 2003.*

Representative RON KIND,

*House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KIND: My mother, Dorothy Konichek, long time resident of Prairie du Chien, will be celebrating her 80th birthday on July 28, 2003. She has been a valuable citizen of Wisconsin for about 78 years and a resident Prairie du Chien for 64 of those years.

I am requesting from your office a Letter of Commendation for her years of giving to the people of Prairie du Chien, making it a better city in which to live. No, these are not the types of things that will get you in the local paper but people doing these types of things are what make for healthy communities.

Here are the reasons why I feel such a commendation is in order.

Den mother with the Boy Scouts; Girl Scout leader; Sunday School teacher in her local church; her many hours of service to the developmentally disabled at the Meadow Lane group home; volunteering at the Care Center; looking after many elderly persons throughout the years, cleaning their homes and providing meals; being there with a listening ear for more people than I could count; and taking people for groceries who do not drive.

The list could go on and on. My mother is truly a person who loves and cares for the people around her never asking for anything in return. I'm sure you will agree that people like this are what make for a strong community. I feel she has helped to make Prairie du Chien a better place to live.

Thank you for considering my request. Her five children are hosting an open house for her on July 19th, at the Faith Evangelical Free Church, in Prairie du Chien, from 1:30-4:30, with a special program being held at 2 p.m. If you feel you can honor my request, the letter would be presented at that time. You may write me at the above address or e-mail me.

Thank you for your response.

Sincerely yours,

MARY (KONICHEK) MANDIGO.

SALUTING BEN CURTIS, BRITISH  
OPEN CHAMPION

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, up until yesterday, when golf fans spoke of "Ben," they probably meant Ben Hogan, one of the game's legends. But today another "Ben" stands atop the world of golf—Ben Curtis, the 2003 champion of the British Open.

Ben is a 26-year-old rookie on the PGA Tour who learned the game at the Mill Creek

Golf Club, built by his late grandfather north-west of Columbus in Ostrander, Ohio, which his family still operates. Obviously, he learned well.

Ben, who has yet to win on the PGA tour, entered the British Open, in his words, "just trying to play the best I could." His best turned out to be good enough to beat some of golf's best, including Davis Love III, Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods. His one-under-par, 283-stroke total for the four-day tournament made him the first player since Francis Ouimet at the 1913 U.S. Open to win a major championship on his first try.

I had the opportunity to become acquainted with Ben's grandparents, Bill and Myrtie Black. Bill, who died this past February, taught Ben the game. Ben's father is the golf course superintendent at Mill Creek. Family and friends were on hand at the clubhouse yesterday to watch Ben play on television. His victory was one that anyone from small town America, or who grew up with parents that instilled values and work ethic, can appreciate.

An impossible dream? For Ben Curtis, obviously not. Instead, his improbable British Open victory was a dream come true. I join with Ben's family and friends and the entire golfing world in saluting his outstanding accomplishment. It definitely will not be his last.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: July 17, 2003, rollcall vote 382, on agreeing to the Gallegly Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 383, on agreeing to the Rahall Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 384, on agreeing to the Udall Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 385, on agreeing to the Holt Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 386, on agreeing to the Inslee Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 387, on agreeing to the Bereuter Amendment, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 388, on agreeing to Taylor Amendment to the Udall Amendment, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 389, on passage of the FY 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 390, on the motion to instruct conferees for the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act, I would have voted "no." July 18, 2003, rollcall vote 391, on agreeing to the Andrews Amendment, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 392, on agreeing to the Udall Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 393, on agreeing to the Hefley Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 394, on the motion to recommit the FY 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 395, on passage of the FY 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 396, on the motion to instruct conferees for the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 397, on the motion to table the resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House, I would have voted "yea."