

2003, the first major accident since the tragedy in 1982, there is no question about the value of this team. The earth will continue to tremble under the great wings of the Thunderbirds because of Bill Creech.

To Bill's wife, Caroline, I offer the condolences and admiration of Nevadans and Americans. The loss of Bill Creech is a loss for our great Nation. We all join together to express our gratitude for the service and sacrifice of a great man.

REOPENING OF BAILEY AND
BARCLAY HALLS

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge the reopening of Bailey and Barclay Halls on the campus of Urbana University in Urbana, Ohio, after extensive renovations to both buildings.

Founded in 1850 by the Swedenborgian Church, Urbana University is known for its strong liberal arts tradition and the solid moral education provided to its students. Bailey Hall is the university's oldest building, constructed in 1853 and named after Francis Bailey, who fought alongside George Washington at Valley Forge. Bailey also served as the official printer of the Continental Congress, and was a close colleague of his fellow printer Benjamin Franklin.

Barclay Hall, completed in 1883, was the third building constructed at Urbana University. It was named for Hester Barclay, an orphan taken in by Francis Bailey. Both Bailey and Barclay Halls appear on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Francis Bailey and Hester Barclay are considered to be the first male and female Swedenborgian converts in North America, and were themselves instrumental in the conversion of John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. Appleseed distributed Bailey's paper *The True Christian Religion* on his own missionary and apple-planting travels, and was a frequent visitor to the Urbana area. Bailey Hall houses the Johnny Appleseed Education Center and Museum, the largest known collection of the conservationist's memorabilia. The Center is devoted to promoting Chapman's vital role in helping to develop the Northwest Territory through spreading both apple seeds and his faith in God.

The \$1.8 million renovation to these two buildings provides needed improvements to the Appleseed Museum, as well as additional modern classroom space, meeting rooms, and faculty office space. These facilities will enhance the learning experience both of Urbana's students and visiting scholars to the Appleseed Center. I salute the hard work and dedication of everyone who has helped to make this project a success.

CONGRATULATING MS. JOANNE
STOCKDALE

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Joanne Stockdale on the great honor of being named Iowa Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration. It is because of the excellent reputation that she established since purchasing Northern Iowa Die Casting, Inc. in 1984, that she deserves this recognition. Small businesses are the backbone of Iowa's economy, and it takes true entrepreneurial spirit and determination to ride economic waves in order to remain successful. It is to her credit that Northern Iowa Die Casting, Inc. has grown from six to 100 employees, with sales soaring from \$225,000 to \$10 million. She is to be commended for bringing jobs and commerce to Lake Park, Iowa.

I also recognize her for the great honor of representing Iowa small business at the National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo held this week in Washington, D.C., while competing for the national Small Business Person of the Year Award.

As a small business owner for 28 years, I have great personal appreciation for both the struggles she faces and the joys of seeing the fruits of her labor. Since arriving at the U.S. Congress in January, I have made small business a legislative priority, and my work on the Small Business Committee has already enabled me to assist in creating legislation that will help small business leaders like Joanne Stockdale.

HONORING THE SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION ON ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's small businesses. Today we are marking the 50th anniversary of the SBA, an agency with the critical role in our country of supporting and promoting small businesses. Twenty-three million small businesses nationwide produce more than two-thirds of all new U.S. jobs; generate more than half of our Gross Domestic Product; represent 99.7 percent of all employers; and provide almost all workers with their first jobs. Small businesses in America form the backbone of the American economy and they are economic anchors in our communities.

In my home State of Illinois, close to 98.2 percent of our almost 280,000 employer businesses are small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Currently, there are an estimated 6.2 million women-owned businesses in the United States, accounting for 28 percent of all privately held firms. These firms generate \$1.15 trillion in sales and employ 9.2 million workers. Minority-owned businesses have quadrupled over the last decade. Minorities now own 15 percent of American businesses

and 99 percent of these firms are small businesses. The fact that small businesses make a substantial contribution to our economy is undeniable.

America's small businesses could also act as a driver for our weakened economy. But they are struggling. They are struggling to cover the soaring cost of providing their employees with healthcare and they are struggling to simply survive in the Bush economy. Only 3 percent of the benefits of the \$350 billion tax cut package that President Bush sold as a "job creation plan" went to small businesses. Instead of benefiting those companies that create the most new jobs, the President's tax breaks go into the pockets of the wealthiest Americans.

We should do more than mark the 50th anniversary of the SBA. We should take immediate action to help our small businesses and their employees. We should pass this resolution today, but we must then follow through with real relief to small businesses. Our small business owners and employees know that if you expect to succeed, you don't keep your customers waiting. We can't allow President Bush to keep our small businesses waiting much longer.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the valuable work of the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. Established in 1978, EBRI is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization committed exclusively to data dissemination, policy research and education on economic security and employee benefits.

Few issues are as complex and important as those involving retirement security policy. For the past quarter century, EBRI has provided Members of Congress and other policymakers with objective, unbiased information on this critical issue. EBRI helps provide a context for our debates, and because it makes no policy recommendations, EBRI's facts can be comfortably used by all participants in debates.

The information provided by EBRI has served Congress well for the past 25 years. During this time, we have seen some significant changes and improvements to our nation's retirement system. EBRI consistently illuminates the real issues and clarifies the key questions about retirement, which helps us to provide a better future for America's workers and retirees. I am certain that EBRI will continue to be an invaluable resource to policymakers as we continue to strengthen our nation's retirement security laws.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the contributions of EBRI. As it celebrates its 25th anniversary, all of us congratulate EBRI for its commitment to advancing policymakers' knowledge and understanding of retirement security issues and their importance to our country.

MIEASHA HICKS NAMED NATIONAL
YOUTH OF THE YEAR BY BOYS &
GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce to our colleagues that Mieasha Hicks, 18, a member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo, Ohio, was named National Youth of the Year by Boys & Girls Clubs of America at its annual Congressional Breakfast held today in Washington, D.C. As noted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America national office, sponsored by the Reader's Digest Foundation, the Youth of the Year program recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. She competed against four other regional finalists, Kewanna Daniels (Gulfport, Miss.), Ambrosia Hafen-Hayes (Las Vegas), Yamarie Negron (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.) and Luis Vasquez (Greeley, Colo.).

In their announcement of this award, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America describe Mieasha Hicks, as a survivor. Her parents were 13 and 15 years old when she was born. Periodically, she was shuffled between households as the family grew. Being the oldest of seven children, Mieasha had no choice but to mature quickly.

Today, she helps her brothers and sisters with their homework and prepares them for tests. She often takes them to the library, the movies, shopping and out to dinner. Thanks to Mieasha, all of her younger siblings have become honor students.

Her father died when she was 12 and her mother left the state when she was 11. Despite these traumatic occurrences, Mieasha's visits to the East Toledo Boys & Girls Clubs gave her a reason to stay positive.

For the last 10 years, the Club has given her a place to belong. There she served as vice president of the Keystone Club, a group which gave her the opportunity to lead community service projects. She has also learned marketing and sales skills while organizing bake sales and candy sales as fundraisers. Among other activities, Hicks assists with Power Hour, her Boys & Girls Club's after-school homework help program.

Mieasha Hicks was an academic standout at Central Catholic High School, where she has been a member of the National Honor Society and the school choir, a cheerleader, and student council representative. She is also actively involved with the African-American Culture Club.

She began attending Bowling Green University this fall where she will study medicine and science.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure to commemorate this accomplishment by one of the first leaders of tomorrow's generation. For the next year she will have the opportunity to represent the Boys and Girls Clubs of America throughout the nation, and be an inspiration to thousands of young people who will see proof that success is possible when young people are willing to commit themselves to life's important goals. Congratulations, Miesha!

IN HONOR OF THE PIONEER
MOTHER MONUMENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on April 23, 2003, in my hometown of Lexington, MO, a dedication was held on the Pioneer Mother Monument, known as the Madonna of the Trail.

In 1928, the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) erected 12 duplicate monuments known as the Madonna of the Trail paying tribute to the pioneer motherhood of the covered wagon days. The monuments were placed along the Old Trails Memorial Highway in twelve states across the United States. Statues are located in Springfield, Ohio; Wheeling, West Virginia; Council Grove, Kansas; Lexington, Missouri; Lamar, Colorado; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Springerville, Arizona; Vandalia, Illinois; Richmond, Indiana; Washington County, Pennsylvania; Upland, California; and Bethesda, Maryland.

At the original dedication of the Pioneer Mother Monument, 75 years ago, my father Ike Skelton III, spoke as a representative from the Lexington Legion Post. Also speaking that day was the Jackson County Court Judge Harry S. Truman.

The rededication of this monument was under the direction of the Missouri DAR. The moving force behind this event was LaVeda Cross, of Lexington, MO, with the help of her devoted husband Bill. However, without the support of the Lafayette/Lexington Chapter DAR and all the local citizens, the day would not have been possible.

I was privileged to deliver the rededication speech which is set forth as follows:

RE-DEDICATION OF THE PIONEER MOTHER
MONUMENT LEXINGTON, MO—AUGUST 23, 2003

Thank you for inviting me to take part in this special ceremony to rededicate the Madonna of the Trail, the Pioneer Mother Monument, here in Lexington. This event could not have taken place but for LaVeda Cross and her devoted husband, Bill. A special thanks to the Lafayette/Lexington Chapter DAR and local citizens for their efforts to make this day possible.

To be able to participate in this event is very special to me, and not just because my wife Susie has been an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Seventy-five years ago, when this very monument was dedicated, many prominent people participated: Mrs. Benjamin L. Hart, the Missouri DAR's State Regent; Edward J. White, Vice President of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company; Mrs. John Trigg Moss, Chairman of the DAR's National Old Trail Committee; Mrs. Henry C. Chiles, Regent of the Lafayette Lexington DAR Chapter; and Judge Harry S Truman, President of the National Old Trails Road Association, to name a few.

But according to the program, and according to history passed down in my family, my father, Ike Skelton, III, Lafayette County's young Prosecuting Attorney, was allowed to give remarks while presenting a memorial flag and flag pole at the monument site. He was acting as the representative of the Lexington American Legion Post.

On that day, my father first made the acquaintance of Judge Harry Truman, the "Man From Independence", the man who

would later become President of the United States. Because of the lasting friendship that was formed at the inaugural dedication of this monument, my wife and I in later years came to know President Truman as well—and he was a genuinely nice person.

But imagining that Monday afternoon, September 17, 1928, it's unlikely anyone dreamed that among them stood a future President—a man whose decisions would set the course for the second half of the twentieth century and alter the future of the world. Makes you want to look around a bit at the crowd gathered here today, just in case.

The Pioneer Mother Monument in Lexington has been a landmark in this city for my entire life. As you may know, there are twelve duplicate DAR monuments known as the Madonna of the Trail paying tribute to the pioneer motherhood of the covered wagon days. The monuments have been placed along the Old Trails Memorial Highway in twelve states across the United States.

According to an article in the DAR Magazine written some years ago by Helen Bartlett of the Samuel Huntington Chapter in Huntington, Indiana, the idea of a monument to pioneer mothers came to Mrs. John Trigg Moss of St. Louis after she saw a picture of a statue in Portland, Oregon, dedicated to Sacajawea, the Shoshone Indian woman who guided Lewis and Clark from Fort Mandan, North Dakota, to the mouth of the Columbia River. That Sacajawea was the inspiration of this statue seems quite appropriate.

Lexington sits on the bluffs overlooking the river Lewis and Clark traveled, not quite half-way through their trek across the unknown continent. And like the pioneer mothers who followed, Sacajawea also knew what it was like to care for an infant while leading a party of travelers through the wilderness.

In this world of 24-hour news channels, satellite dishes, thousands of newspapers, magazines, and internet sites, it is difficult to overstate the leap of faith it must have taken for the pioneers who bravely ventured into largely uncharted territory as participants in the Westward Movement. In many respects, it was a jump into the great unknown. And in some cases, what the pioneers thought was true—from pamphlets, from books, from word of mouth—was far from it.

A verse that pays tribute to the covered wagon people goes like this:

The coward never started;
The weak died on the way;
Only the strong came through.

The women and men who pioneered the West built this country, but the role played by the women who built this country deserves special attention and recognition. This statue, symbolizing all of the women who settled the West, is larger than life—just as the women we celebrate led lives that were larger than life.

With a baby in her arms and another child at her side, the Madonna of the Trail glorifies the value of family. We can see her sturdy boots, visible as she strides Westward, but we also see that the Pioneer Mother carries a rifle. Looking at her, there is no reason to doubt that she would be able to use it.

The women who endured the trip West were tough, sturdy and strong. They traveled the mountains, the hills, and the plains, crossed rivers, fought heat and cold, wind and rain. They cared for their husbands, bore children, and protected their families. They tended their animals, hunted and prepared their food, repaired their wagons, camped under the stars, and staked out homesteads.

While men and women together built new communities in a new, strange land, it was