

lands and county open space surround it and therefore urban sprawl is not a concern.

According to Stewart, the Super IGA agreement is the culmination of years of hard work.

"I've been working on this for about the last three years," said Stewart. "Also, the city managers and administrators throughout the county have been very helpful in putting this together. Every city council in the county ultimately voted in favor of this. Our county attorney told me that by the time we got it done, it was on its 30th draft."

The City of Lafayette was the last county municipality to agree to be part of the Super IGA. According to Stewart, it was difficult to create a draft that would satisfy everybody.

"Lafayette simply had more concern about the agreement than other cities, and it took us longer than others to work those issues out," said Stewart. "After the drought last year, they wanted assurance that they could build new reservoirs for water storage."

Not all of Boulder County was covered by an IGA before Thursday, but the Super IGA contains a clause to "cover additional unincorporated areas not covered by any Underlying Plan."

"The Super IGA covers additional territory in the county that would have been outside the area of those agreements," said Stewart.

The Super IGA document is also designed to limit annexation plans of one entity from encroaching on another entity's Influence Areas, according to the document.

"The Super IGA says that everyone will respect each other's planning area, and that one town isn't going to be providing utility services in somebody else's planning area," said Stewart. "It's the kind of commitment to planning and to a shared vision that allows us to keep the quality of life that we have in Boulder County."

Stewart added that Boulder residents should not fear situations like the city of Jamestown trying to influence the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, since Underlying Plans would only be amended by members of the underlying IGA.

"No group or committee is created out of the formation of the Super IGA," said Stewart. "If anyone wants to change a land use designation, the various underlying IGAs would have to be amended. In our Comprehensive Plan, the city and county of Boulder could change it without the approval of the rest of the Super IGA."

Also, the Super IGA states that additional issues such as sales tax revenue sharing, affordable housing and library services could eventually become parts of regional agreements.

"There isn't any serious talk of revenue sharing right now," said Stewart. "That paragraph is meant to state that there is additional work that could be done in terms of regionalism."

James Burrus, Boulder County media information officer, called the signing of the Super IGA "truly historic." Burrus indicated that this is the only agreement of its kind in Colorado, and Stewart believes it has some national significance as well.

"There are places in America where they do this kind of planning, setting urban growth boundaries, but these are places where the law requires it to happen," said Stewart. "The historic thing here is that nobody required anybody to do this. It was done voluntarily."

"This is really a statement that even in a state like Colorado, where land use laws don't encourage a lot of cooperation, we were all able to get on the same page on a voluntary basis," said Stewart.

IN HONOR OF MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2003, Roman Catholics, humanitarians, and social justice advocates the world over celebrated the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta by Pope John Paul II in Rome. Beatification is one of the steps toward sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

It is impossible to encapsulate the life and work of Mother Teresa into one entry. Many know the basics of her story: born in Albania in 1910, she turned from a comfortable existence when she decided to become a Catholic nun in 1928. Assigned to a convent school in Calcutta, she taught geography and history. Feeling the need to serve God and her fellow human beings in another way, Mother Teresa founded a religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, in 1948. The order was based on reaching out to the poor, the suffering, and the dying wherever they were: streets and alleys, shacks and hovels. From that first mission there are now more than 400. The work has expanded to hospices for AIDS patients so that these sufferers, along with the least among us, enjoy comfort and some measure of peace in their final days. Though 5,000 sisters are now members of the order, thousands more volunteer for periods of their lives in the Missionaries of Charity. So many of these are inspired by the diminutive foundress herself. "My vocation is love" she said. "There is joy in transcending self to serve others."

Celebrated throughout the world for her works, honored with many awards including 1979's Nobel Peace prize, Mother Teresa is already considered a saint by many of those whose lives she touched. No one who met her, who shook her strong hands, who looked at the deeply wrinkled face, who spoke to the dark eyes which penetrated into one's soul, who listened to the deep and powerful voice, came away from the encounter the same person. Even people who saw her only casually were moved by her graceful strength and quiet dignity. I am reminded of a leader in our own country recalling a story of a time on an airplane when people saw her and took out their checkbooks. She never said a word, simply her presence called them to help. In more dramatic ways, meetings with Mother Teresa changed the course of people's lives. Still, she eschewed such trappings of notoriety, gaining her greatest sustenance from her love of God and her work to alleviate the suffering in the world. More than anyone else in our time, Mother Teresa lived Christ's admonition "Whatsoever you do to the least among you, that you do also to me." She ignored the accouterments of affluence by admonishing, "God does not ask me to be successful, he only asks me to be faithful."

She wrestled within herself and struggled through daily hardships, yet she somehow transcended the difficulties and was cherished as a living embodiment of God's love for every human being. I close this recognition of Mother Teresa's beatification with her own summation of her life's work: "My community is the poor. Their security is my own. Their heart is my own. My house is the house of the

poor—not just the poor, but the poorest of the poor: those who are so dirty and full of germs that no one goes near them; those who do not go to pray because they are naked; those who do not eat because they do not have the strength; those who collapse on the sidewalks knowing they are about to die while the living walk by without even looking back; those who do not cry because they have no more tears left."

In one's own lifetime, rarely does a person observe a living saint. Mother Teresa will remain for all time such a living legend. May her selflessness inspire a world beleaguered by war, affluence, and ancient hatreds.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the conference report on H.R. 1588 today, we have taken a great step forward in the defense of our homeland and the support of our military forces. Not only are we equipping our military with the tools and resources they need to carry out their missions today, we are also providing for the research and development necessary to meet future threats.

I am particularly pleased to see that the House and Senate have seen fit to include a long-awaited agreement regarding concurrent receipt for our disabled veterans. While I regret that we could not provide the full benefits for all of our disabled military veterans, I am encouraged that we are providing full receipt of both retirement and disability pay to more veterans than have ever been previously allowed by law. This Congress has achieved something that hasn't been seen in any previous Congress. I am hopeful that in the coming years we can expand this important benefit for our veterans.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged to see that the benefits of TRICARE have been extended to our National Guardsmen and Reservists and their families. All too often, many of these families are unable to meet their premium payments for private insurance when a family member is called away to serve his or her country. With this provision, we will be providing the health care that our soldiers' families need.

I am pleased to see that reform of the procurement and acquisitions process to the benefit of small businesses is also included in the conference report. It is certainly my desire to see our military receive only the best equipment and services, but not without allowing our nation's small businesses the chance to compete and to offer quality services or innovative products.

Mr. Speaker, our safety and freedom ultimately relies on our troops. I am glad that this legislation provides a strong across the board pay raise and other important provisions for our men and women in uniform and their families. I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices our troops make every day in the name of freedom, and am pleased the House was able to pass it today.