

and pioneer in our country's strawberry industry.

Roy Parke virtually founded our country's strawberry industry. He moved to my district in the 1950s and, with his father, founded Parkesdale Farms, which today is a multi-million-dollar operation which produces most of our country's winter strawberries.

Roy was a farming pioneer. He oversaw the first successful shipment of berries to Europe in 1963. He was the first farmer to spray strawberries with water during the winter to protect them from freezing temperatures. He is considered one of our country's leading authorities on cutting-edge production techniques.

I am pleased to say that Roy has dedicated his life to more than personal success. He has for years actively supported and promoted local volunteer and civic organizations, as well as helping area schools and students. He also helped make the Florida Strawberry Festival the country's premiere event for strawberry lovers. He helped make it such a success that presidents, movie stars, entertainers, and everyone in between have stopped to visit Roy and eat shortcake with him.

Roy recently turned over the day-to-day operation of his company to his children and his wife of 60 years, Helen. Although he attributes all of his success to her, I know that his hard work, dedication, and perseverance also have helped him succeed in what anyone who knows farming will tell you is a very difficult way of life.

Mr. Speaker, Roy Parke is an outstanding husband, father, farmer, and American. I am proud to call him, and his wonderful wife, friends and constituents. They are, without question, national treasures who should serve as examples to us all.

IN HONOR OF SERVICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the hard work of some of our nation's oldest service organizations to improve global health. As described in a December 7, 2003 Washington Post article titled "Service Clubs Living Up to Mission," Rotary International, Lions Club International and Kiwanis International have each conunited themselves to bettering the quality of life for people around the world.

I represent the city of Chicago where Rotary International, our oldest service organization, was founded and Evanston where it is currently headquartered. The organization, in the early 1980s, made a commitment to eradicate polio and immunize children against infectious diseases. Rotarians have exceeded all expectations. Through the years, Rotary International has given \$500 million to the polio-eradication effort and has sent thousands of volunteers abroad to work on the campaign. Partly based on the strength and success of Rotary International's campaign, the World Health Organization announced its intent to eradicate polio worldwide. I commend the commitment that Rotary International and its members continue to make to improving world health.

Lions Club International, which was also founded in Chicago, has spent the last decade working to reduce blindness worldwide. Over the last decade, this organization has spent \$148 million on sight-preservation projects in 79 countries; it has funded more than 550 grants in 78 countries targeting the main causes of blindness.

Rotary International and Lions Club International paved the way for Kiwanis International's decision in 1991 to coordinate an organization-wide campaign to reduce the amount of iodine deficiency, which causes developmental delays, worldwide. The organization has pledged to raise \$75 million dollars towards the effort, and has already delivered \$57 million.

Rotary International, Lions Club International and The Kiwanis have demonstrated that we have the ability to make real change in the lives of people around the world. While I look forward to supporting the efforts of these amazing service organizations, I hope that Congress and the Administration will also increase efforts to meet those goals. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commit the article from the Washington Post into the RECORD, and ask my fellow colleagues to take a moment to read it.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 7, 2003]

SERVICE CLUBS LIVING UP TO MISSION
ROTARY, LIONS AND KIWANIS AT FRONT OF
GLOBAL WAR AGAINST DISEASE

(By David Brown)

Lunch is over, and the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., is taking coffee when Susan O'Neal starts her slide presentation about the trip she and 65 other Rotarians took to India, where they helped hand out oral polio vaccine to ragtag children in a New Delhi slum.

She explains that the vaccine, taken in two drops of fluid, grows in the intestine and is excreted by the body for a few weeks while immunity builds up. She then clicks on a slide of an open sewer.

"You can see how it's rather easy for people to get fecal microbes on their hands," O'Neal says. "In fact, even though only 93 percent of children on average get vaccinated in a campaign, the other 7 percent get immunized through the feces in the environment."

A groan briefly mixes with the tinkling of glassware as the Rotarians settle in for the latest dispatch from their organization's 15-year campaign to eradicate polio, the leading cause of childhood paralysis.

This scene at the Hotel Washington recently is not one that George F. Babbitt, the title character of Sinclair Lewis's 1922 novel, would easily recognize. A small-minded resident of a fictional American city, Babbitt belonged to a Rotary-like organization called the Boosters Club. Lewis lampooned it as little more than institutionalized selfishness, and his unflattering picture still lingers in the American psyche.

That may be the reason so few people know that the heirs of Babbitt's Boosters—not only in Rotary but also in two other large clubs like it—are now major players in the global fight against disease. They are engaged in arduous and thankless campaigns against ailments that have largely disappeared from the places where their members live.

Since 1988, Rotary International has contributed \$500 million and sent thousands of volunteers to work on the polio campaign. The club is second only to the U.S. government in the amount of money it has poured into the effort to eradicate a human disease for only the second time in history.

In 1994, Kiwanis International adopted as its cause the elimination of iodine deficiency, the biggest cause of preventable mental retardation in the world. Since then, the club has provided more than \$50 million to help ensure that all salt used in food contains iodine.

Lions Clubs International, once famous for collecting and recycling used eyeglasses, spent \$148 million over the past decade on sight-preservation projects in 79 countries. It plays an important role in a river-blindness campaign in Africa, has trained 14,000 ophthalmic workers in India and helped pay for 2.1 million cataract operations in 104 rural counties in China, where last year it became the only Western "service club" allowed to establish chapters.

The contributions of these clubs, however, go well beyond money. Over the past decade they have essentially created a new species of nongovernmental organization.

Unlike many medical charities in the developing world, these are not small cadres of overworked, self-sacrificing idealists. Instead, they are vast, permanent networks of well connected people willing to put in small amounts of time—often in the form of lobbying and consciousness-raising—against a few targeted diseases.

"Their contribution goes way beyond pretty important. I believe that eradication of polio would not have been feasible without the participation of Rotary International," said R. Bruce Aylward, a Canadian physician who is the World Health Organization's coordinator for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"Kiwanis is signed up indefinitely, not for donating money but for raising their voice if they see any backsliding," said Frits van der Haar, a Dutch nutritionist who heads the Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency. "Outsiders like Kiwanis are the watchdogs. They see that the work is done well and continues to get done."

In the river-blindness campaign, Merck & Co. provides the drug ivermectin and Lions Clubs International pays to train African villagers to dispense it. The "barefoot doctor" strategy that has evolved from the program may become a model for other medical programs in places with few health professionals, said Moses Katarbarwa, a Ugandan epidemiologist and anthropologist.

"The Lions, they have triggered off a process in which there is no reverse," said Katarbarwa, who recently moved to the United States to work on river blindness with the Carter Center in Atlanta.

The three clubs came to their work independently, tracing similar paths from their origins as social organizations for mid-western businessmen.

Rotary, the oldest, was founded in Chicago in 1905. Kiwanis (whose name is a shortened form of an Indian phrase meaning "we trade") began in Detroit in 1915. The first Lions Club formed in Chicago two years later.

All made charitable works in their communities part of their mission. The Lions chose blindness prevention as a theme in 1925 when 45-year-old Helen Keller challenged them to become "knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness." All eventually opened clubs on other continents.

In the early 1980s, several Rotary leaders proposed beginning an organization-wide project separate from local efforts. "This was contrary to the beginnings of Rotary and was also contrary to the feelings of a lot of senior Rotarians," recalled William T. Sergeant, who at age 84 heads Rotary's polio activities. But the idea took hold.

At the suggestion of Albert Sabin, inventor of the oral polio vaccine, Rotary chose as its goal universal immunization of children

against polio and several other infectious diseases. In 1986, it decided to support the effort through 2005, the club's centennial year. It did not envisage eradicating polio.

A two-year campaign brought in more than twice as much money as expected—\$247 million, not \$120 million. Partly on the strength of that support, the World Health Organization in 1988 announced its intent to rid the world of polio. A WHO-led effort had previously eradicated smallpox in a campaign lasting from 1966 to 1980.

"A lot of people have very ambitious ideas, but almost nobody has the funding to kickstart a global initiative," Aylward said. "Rotary was the Gates Foundation of 1988."

But eradication has proved more difficult than anyone anticipated. The target date was originally 2000; it is now 2005. The extra time required more money. Earlier this year, Rotary completed a second fundraising campaign, which raised \$111 million—again more than the target, which was \$80 million. The club's contributions, including interest, now total more than \$500 million.

Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club, decided to reorient much of its sight-saving efforts after it held a symposium with experts in blindness prevention in Singapore in 1989.

"We were astounded to hear that blindness was increasing, particularly in the developing world," said Brian Stevenson, a provincial judge in Alberta who had just finished a term as Lions president. "They told us there were 40 million blind people in the world, and 32 million of the cases were or had been treatable. So it gave us a lot of focus."

Lions set a goal of \$130 million but raised \$147 million for its SightFirst program. The organization has funded more than 550 grants in 78 countries targeting the main causes of blindness.

Kiwanis's entry into the global health arena was due in part to the example of the two other clubs.

In 1991, William Foege, former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asked the Kiwanis president, a physician named Wil Blechman, what the club was doing for the world's children. Foege cited Rotary's polio work and Lions' just-created SightFirst. While Kiwanis had urged local clubs to have a charitable activity aimed at children younger than 5, there was no organization-wide project.

"I will bring this to the attention of our board, because I don't know at the moment," Blechman recalled answering sheepishly.

The board discussed the idea and ultimately surveyed its membership, which favored a global project 2 to 1. UNICEF suggested a focus on iodine deficiency.

Iodine is an essential part of thyroid hormone, which in turn is essential to brain development. In places where diets contain insufficient iodine, generally because the soil contains little and there is no seafood, the intelligence of the entire population is shifted downward. In 1990, only 20 percent of the world's households consumed salt treated with enough iodine to prevent deficiency.

UNICEF estimated the problem could be eliminated worldwide in five years for \$50 million to \$75 million. Kiwanis took the challenge because it was important, concrete and "something we thought we could handle," Blechman said.

The organization pledged to raise \$75 million and has already contributed \$57 million. The money pays for iodization equipment for salt manufacturers and campaigns on the importance of iodized salt.

Occasionally, members of service clubs do the work themselves. Thousands of Rotarians, both local and foreign volunteers, have participated in national immunization days when vaccine is given to millions of children over a few days.

Dave Groner, a 60-year-old funeral director in Dowagiac, Mich., has led four groups of Rotarians to India and one to Nigeria. Next month, he will take 14 people, 10 of them nurses, to Niger. They will all pay their own way—about \$3,000 each. "We've never been asked to not work or to get lost," he said.

Occasionally, club members play a role nobody else can. Angola has a single Rotary Club, 32 people who meet in the capital, Luanda. They are led by Sylvia Nagy, who with her husband owns a foundry. In 1997, a 25-year civil war, which ended last year with the death of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, was underway. There had not been a vaccination campaign in the rebel-held half of the country in years.

Nagy, along with representatives of WHO and UNICEF, negotiated a truce so immunization days could be held in June that year. Rotary rented planes, boats and four-wheel-drive vehicles to deliver vaccine, and disbursed \$4 million to far-flung vaccinators. About 2.5 million children were vaccinated.

On Sept. 2, Angola marked its second year without a single case of polio.

HONORING CALDWELL, IDAHO

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Caldwell, Idaho for their outstanding record of city management. The city was recently honored to be on the short list for a national city management award, for cities with populations under 50,000. As part of their recognition, CNN wanted to include them in a program highlighting such cities around the United States. Caldwell has made many strides recently towards revitalizing their downtown, with projects such as the Indian Creek reconfiguration project. The cost of being included in CNN's program, however, was \$24,000—a fee used to bring the television crew to the city. Under Mayor Garret Nancolas, the city declined CNN's offer because of the high cost to be included. The city felt the funds could be used more appropriately to directly benefit their citizens. This example truly reiterates the city's dedication to its citizens and its exceptional management. The city of Caldwell, Idaho should be an example to cities nationwide and I am honored to represent such an exceptional city. The State of Idaho is also honored to include this city as one of its own.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RYAN C. YOUNG

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. Last week I was informed that Sgt. Ryan C. Young of my hometown of Corona, California passed away due to complications from injuries sustained while fighting in Fallujah, Iraq on November 8, 2003. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Ryan was born on June 29, 1982, in Orange, California. After graduating from Norco High School in 2000, he enlisted in the Army. He was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Riley, Kansas as an infantryman and was deployed to Iraq in September.

On November 8, 2003, while riding in an armored vehicle with other U.S. troops, his vehicle was hit by an explosive device. Ryan was sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland but later passed away from complications from his injuries on December 2, 2003. He was 21 years old and leaves behind a wife, mother and father.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Ryan, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. My thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to his wife and family. There are no words that can relieve their pain. Ryan was awarded the Purple Heart and will be laid to rest at the Riverside National Cemetery where he will be close to home and those who love him.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son and the sacrifice he has made will not be forgotten.

HONORING LARRY R. COOPER FOR HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Larry R. Cooper, Assistant Regional Inspector General for the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region. Mr. Cooper has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 35-year commitment to the USDA and the people of the Great Plains region.

Mr. Cooper began his career with the USDA Office of the Inspector General in 1969 as an auditor for the Kansas City office. He was quickly promoted and became Supervisory Auditor in 1976 and Assistant Regional Inspector General for the Great Plains Region in 1987, a position he has dedicated himself to for the past 16 years. In this position, Mr. Cooper planned, directed, and supervised the performance of all auditing activities.

During his career with the USDA, Mr. Cooper was recognized for using advanced audit techniques, pioneering efforts in controls over automated systems, and innovatively using statistical sampling. Mr. Cooper was honored for his performance by both the agency and the President's Council and Efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Larry R. Cooper, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region and the people of the United States of America.