

In 1929 a small group of civic-minded women had a dream. Their dream was for Mascoutah to have a free public library. In their first formal meeting in January, 1929, Mrs. William Freivogel stated that the members of the Mascoutah Women's Club would take an active interest in civic affairs and that they would try to start a library. They then discussed the feasibility of undertaking such a large project.

Establishing a library was a huge task for 19 women who had no money, no books, no building to house the library and no furnishings. Their first major step was to find a suitable building for their needs. For six dollars a month they rented a small, two room brick house at 15 West Main Street across from the Cottage Hotel, the present site of the Mascoutah Post Office. Their goal was to have the building ready for occupancy by April 1, 1929. The women, along with a high school teacher and his assistants, built shelving and tables and opened the library with a small number of donated books.

The women's club then looked for a funding source for their new library. Funding was secured for the library by going directly to the citizens of the community. The club divided Mascoutah into sections and assigned members a group of homes or businesses to visit and ask for financial support for the library. Citizens were eager to support the library and their first fundraiser netted \$125.61. The club also appealed for donations of books for the new library and the response from the public was overwhelming.

By 1930, the library had between 1,500 and 1,800 books on its shelves. Other fund-raising projects by the Women's Club included public card parties and tea receptions. The Club also saved and redeemed soap wrappers for cash and sponsored book reviews. However, financial operations for the library continued to be a burden. It was during this time that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) opened many libraries in the area and they became interested in assisting the Mascoutah Public Library. The WPA-aided library reopened on October 31, 1938 and extended the operating hours. With the addition of these new funds, a librarian and custodian were appointed.

In January, 1939, another step was taken toward giving Mascoutah a very modern, up-to-date library. At a meeting of the Women's Club Executive Committee and the Library Committee, Mascoutah Mayor Raymond Pfeifer announced that a room in the new City Hall would be set aside for the library. Not only would the city supply the room, but they would furnish tables, chairs, and book shelves.

The new room would be on the second floor of the new City Hall and would extend across the entire front of the building. As the new City Hall was still under construction, the library would be available for occupancy when the municipal building was complete. When the library moved from 15 West Main Street into its new City Hall location on June 30, 1939, it owned 900 books. At this time the Women's Club added an even larger number of volumes to the existing collection. Dedication of the City Hall took place July 4, 1939.

The WPA continued to staff and maintain the library until 1941, when the Mascoutah Women's Club again resumed responsibilities for operation and management. Hours were curtailed, however, to two afternoons a week due to financing constraints. With over-

whelming public support, on March 16, 1942, the city council voted to adopt the library as their project and a small tax was levied for its operation and management. The City Council also appointed members of the Women's Club to the Library Board.

Through the years the Mascoutah Women's Club continued to support the library in many ways from financial support and donations of books to serving as members of the new library board. It is through the direct efforts of this group of dedicated women that has allowed Mascoutah to enjoy a community library providing many opportunities for the young people of the area to learn about their community and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Mascoutah Public Library and the contributions of the Mascoutah Women's Club at helping to establish this important community resource.

RECOGNITION OF THE BALTIC
MEMBERS OF THE COALITION OF
THE WILLING

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to three members of the "Coalition of the Willing"—Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

These Baltic nations have answered the call to freedom. The people of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania should feel very proud of the effort their governments have given to the rebuilding of Iraq and during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have troops deployed in Iraq and these men and women are putting their lives on the line in the fight for freedom and democracy. In fact Latvia has deployed 150 soldiers, Estonia 55, and Lithuania 85. The sacrifice they are making should not be taken lightly.

These countries understand what freedom is, and what it takes to ensure it. I wish more countries had the same sense of duty and responsibility as these three nations. When the future is written, what they have done and sacrificed will not be forgotten. I applaud all of their efforts and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. The Coalition of the Willing has been criticized as being "token allies" and claims of ulterior motives have been made. I for one don't believe any of this and I am glad these countries have joined our efforts. This is a fight worth fighting, and I salute our friends from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY
EDWARD PENLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's top educators. Larry Edward Penley will be inaugurated in the coming weeks as the President of Colorado State University, and with his rich academic back-

ground, the students of Colorado will be well served. Larry has been improving the lives of American students for years, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous service to the Colorado community and this nation.

Larry received both his bachelor's degree in psychology and his master's degree in communication from Wake Forest University before completing his doctorate in Management at the University of Georgia. Following graduate school Larry joined the faculty at the University of Texas at San Antonio where he eventually served as associate dean of the College of Business. In 1991, he was appointed as dean of the Arizona State W.P. Carey School of Business which he saw become one of the nation's most prominent business schools.

Larry is a well-rounded academic who has been involved with several community improvement organizations like the United Way and the Arizona Coalition for Tomorrow. His research has focused on effective management skills and he is published in several of the nation's top academic journals. In addition to his service to the University and multiple associations he has consulted for, Larry has been awarded several honors, such as the MBA Students Associations Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hispanic Business Students Association Century Award for Exemplary Support and Leadership. Larry has raised millions of dollars for Arizona State University as he revised the curriculum to include more technology and actively recruited a diverse range of the nation's top high school students.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Edward Penley is a dedicated, selfless person who has been a wonderful ambassador for education in our country, and I am honored to welcome him to the Colorado academic community. His passion for public service is an outstanding example to set for America's youth, and his enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Congratulations on your new position, and keep up the good work!

CONGRATULATING ALEXANDRA
HOLDERMAN AND KARVA
VAIDYANATHAN FOR THEIR EX-
EMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents for receiving recognition by the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; Alexandra Holderman of Mishawaka, Indiana, and Karva Vaidyanathan of Granger, Indiana. These awards constitute America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. The program was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important.

Alexandra was named one of the top two youth volunteers in Indiana for 2004. She will be honored at the national awards ceremony