

In his 40 years of service, Mr. Stearn has served in many roles within the community. He was mayor of Sonora for three 2-year terms and has only missed 3 council meetings throughout his career. Ron is known as the Parking & Traffic expert, providing a wealth of knowledge and history about the infrastructure of the city of Sonora. He has always voted based on what he believes is best for the city and strives to accurately represent the people of Sonora.

Ron has committed himself to the city of Sonora and its organizations for numerous years. He remains open to new ideas while respecting and promoting the city's history and well-being. Mr. Stearn's dedication to the city has been an inspiration to his fellow council members as well as the public. In addition to being a council member Ron has been a lifetime member of the Independent Hose Company, a volunteer fire organization, since 1950. He also managed and worked for Mundorf's Hardware for 47 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Ronald E. Stearn on the occasion of his 40th anniversary on the city council of Sonora. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ron many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE DEDICATED AND SKILLED WORKERS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On April 17, 2004, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599 will recognize their members for 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized during a pin ceremony banquet held on Saturday at the Carpenters Union Hall in Hammond, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the exemplary American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenters Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. The carpenter who will be honored for 55 years of service is Wayne Verble. The member who will be honored for 50 years of service is Ronald Carlson. Those members being honored for 45 years of service include Ezequile (Jack) Lopez and Walter Wisinski. Those members being honored for 40 years of service include: Robert Farkas, Paul Hornak, Joseph Komoroski, Robert Lowry, Harold McMillion, Bernard Ritchey, Edward Scheeringa, Darrel Sills, and John Verbeek. Those members being honored for 35 years of service include: Greg Argentine, Charles Gibbs, Raymond Maida, Jr., Rudy Medellin, Jr., Michael Schaller, and William Underwood. Those members of Local 599 who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Daniel Brown, Timothy Foley, and John Perz. The carpenters who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Thomas Childers, David Jazyk, Fred Kuhn, Richard Meyers, Vic-

tor Michael, Brian Morton, Kenneth Pitts, and Fred Tomkutonin.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These workers are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have consistently performed at the highest level throughout their careers. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599, in addition to all the hardworking union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union workforce; I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. Their hard labor and resolute courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

EIGHTH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE DAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 24th, marks the culmination of Youth Pride Week in Washington, DC with our Eighth Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people, which has brought over 13,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,500 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved into Youth Pride Week, which comprises over a dozen events ranging from a conference, dances, and poetry readings, to Youth Pride Day on Saturday.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight.

The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us that LGBT youth in our nation's Armed Forces, do so under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While they have sworn to defend the United States with their lives, they must suffer the hate, fear, isolation, and denial this demonstrably untenable policy engenders.

We, who live in our nation's capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that has been denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States Citizens enjoy. I remind the House that Washingtonians are taxed without representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

HONORING COMMANDER JOHN J. ROESNER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor an American hero, my constituent Commander John J. "Jack" Roesner for 22 years of faithful steadfast service to the United States Navy. His hard work, dedication and leadership to this Nation is without doubt commendable. On May 7, 2004, the U.S. Navy will join along with his family to honor him during a retirement ceremony to be held at his command, OPNAV—Naval Education and Training.

Commander (CDR) Roesner was born and raised in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. He attended Northern Michigan University, where he earned both his Bachelor and Masters Degrees. In February of 1982, CDR Roesner completed Navy Officer Candidate School and earned his commission. His first assignment as a Surface Warfare Officer was aboard the USS *Mahlon S. Tisdale* (FFG-27), where he served as the Commanding Ordnance Officer and subsequently as Damage Control Assistant and Combat Information Center Officer. During this tour CDR Roesner qualified as Surface Warfare Officer and Gas Turbine Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW). In November of 1985 he transferred to the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) located at the University of Mississippi as an Associate Professor and Instructor of Naval Science. In February of 1989, he graduated from the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Curriculum, after which he was assigned as the Combat Systems Officer of the USS *John Rodgers* (DD-983), and subsequently afloat as Combat Systems and Material Officer on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six. CDR Roesner in November of 1992 reported for duty in Washington, D.C. as Aide and Administrative Assistant to the Naval Inspector General, where he served until 1985. After his tour in Washington he returned to sea duty and was stationed aboard the USS *Scott* (DDG-995) as the Executive Officer, followed by subsequent afloat tour as Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Two. In 1998, he became the Executive Officer of the Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis, and on April 14, 2000 he assumed Command of the district. In November of 2001, CDR Roesner reported to OPNAV (N-79). During CDR Roesner's career he has deployed five times to the Mediterranean and/or Western Pacific, completed three North Red Sea surges in support of U.N. sanctioned Maritime Interception Operations, and two Counter-Narcotics Operation deployments. He completed JPME phase-1 training through the Air Force Command and Staff College. CDR Roesner was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal w/gold star, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/two gold stars, along with various unit and campaign awards. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a devoted husband to his wife Stephanie.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my constituent and one of the U.S. Navy's finest sailors Commander Roesner upon his retirement

from the U.S. Navy. He has served his country with honor, enthusiasm and great concern. I wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE FANSLER FOUNDATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central California in celebrating 50 years of compassionate care and for honoring the Fansler Foundation's 20th Anniversary as well. In recognition of these milestone events, UCP of Central California will be hosting a Starlight Fantasy Ball on Saturday, March 27th in Fresno, California.

UCP of Central California is a non-profit, voluntary health agency that was incorporated in 1954 and is affiliated with state and national UCP Associations. The mission of UCP is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of persons with disabilities. UCP of Central California serves seven counties in the San Joaquin Valley including Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare; serving over 500 children, adults, and family members everyday. The core purposes of UCP are to advocate on the behalf of children and adults with cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation, Down Syndrome, head trauma, and muscular dystrophy. They seek to create local, as well as national, awareness of programs and services available to children and adults with disabilities while raising revenue to support program services they provide.

UCP of Central California is honoring the Fansler Foundation for its support of the community. The Fansler Foundation is a non-profit foundation established in 1984, by David (Paul) Fansler, Sr. Paul's primary vision was to assist developmentally challenged youth and aid other qualified charities working with children who do not have the opportunity or support to get ahead. The dream was to help provide for these charities in the Fresno County Area; the Fansler Foundation has supported such groups as the American Lung Association, the Marjoree Mason Center, Break the Barriers, and UCP of Central California to name a few. The Fansler Foundation has given over six million dollars of support to numerous organizations over the last 10 years alone. Since Paul's death, Marlene Fansler continues the dream that Paul began 20 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I commend United Cerebral Palsy of Central California and the Fansler Foundation for their continued dedication to those who have disabilities. I urge my colleagues to join me in praising them for their years of establishment and hard work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNA SAUGER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my heartiest congratulations to Anna Sauger, a beloved mother, wife, and citizen who was born a century ago on April 4, 1904.

Born in a coal mining town in Portage, PA, Anna often speaks of the hard life for the family of eight boys and three girls. The family kept two cows for milk, two pigs and some chickens for fresh eggs.

Her father, brothers and other coal miners fought for an 8-hour workday, better safety in the mines, and ultimately formed a Union, only to face a lockout in this company town, and were forced to leave their homes.

Ultimately, the company settled; Anna continued her education in a one-room school house and married John Sauger, a young miner. They lived in a small house in an area known as "Whiskey Row" until they moved to Detroit in 1925, where she raised a family of six boys and three girls.

During WWII, Anna was one of many working women who helped build the arsenal of democracy. She worked at the old Packard plant helping build Packard-Merlin engines used in the P-51 Mustangs. Her other jobs included factory work at Bundy Tubing and Glo-Tone cleaners.

Then tragedy struck and Anna lost John, her partner and best friend, in 1971. John was also her means of transportation, taking her from place to place. At the young age of 70 years old, Anna secretly took driver's training and got her driver's license. She became the proud owner of a driver's license and a green Dodge Scamp.

Last year, when Anna was honored with a visit to her home by Governor Jennifer Granholm, she presented her with a handmade pillow and blanket, made on her 1956 Pfaff sewing machine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding and honoring Anna Sauger on the wonderful occasion of her 100th birthday. I am pleased to join her many friends and family in paying tribute to a new centurion and a life that represents so very well the challenges and opportunities of our great country.

IN HONOR OF SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ZHENGZHOU, CHINA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the Sias International University of Zhengzhou, China, on the occasion of its fifth anniversary. Founded in 1998 by Dr. Shawn Chen, the Sias International University has been recognized as the first American-owned university in China.

Sias International University has a mission to educate professionals and help them gain an in-depth understanding of international business theory and practice. Its unique blend

of Western and Eastern culture creates a truly international learning environment to better prepare its students for today's global market. This dual-culture educational environment also fosters greater understanding between the United States and China.

One of the fastest growing universities in China, Sias International University has a student population now exceeding 7,000 and offers over 30 different majors, including business, engineering, art, sciences, languages, and liberal studies. Its unique partnership with Fort Hays State University in Kansas enables Sias International University to offer dual degree programs in many majors. Through Fort Hays State University's virtual campus and on-line courses Chinese students learn first hand about American educational values.

Dr. Chen's vision of international cooperation through academia has established Sias International University as a model for future education in China. As we speak, the partnership between Sias International University and Fort Hays State University is educating future leaders in government and industry from both the United States and China, all the while strengthening ties between our two nations.

The establishment of an institution like Sias International University could not be timelier. At a time when countries are threatened by terrorism and the national reflex worldwide is to close borders, we must remember that our economies, our people, and thus our nations are intertwined in this world. We must continue to resist reactions of fear and isolation and work instead towards forging relations with our international neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, as students, faculty, board members, university leaders, and the community gather to celebrate the accomplishments of Sias International University on the occasion of its fifth anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations and best wishes for continued growth and prosperity to this thriving institution.

IN HONOR OF LEEANN O'TOOLE'S DEDICATION TO THE BURBANK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate LeeAnn O'Toole for 34 years of dedicated service to the Burbank Unified School District.

LeeAnn began her employment with BUSD on June 1, 1970, in the Division of Special Services as Secretary to the Senior Psychologist and Supervisor of Individual Guidance. At that time, this office was a combination of what we now know as the Special Education and Pupil Services departments. After a few months, she was transferred to Instructional Services, and served as Secretary to the Curriculum Coordinators and the Supervisor of Music. She worked there until April 1973, when she took maternity leave. Subsequently, she decided to resign her position to become a full-time stay at home mother.

LeeAnn returned to the District part-time in May 1979 at McKinley Elementary School as a health assistant. In September 1980, she transferred to Jordan (Junior High School