

have increased about 17 percent over the past four years, Mleynek said.

“What we do is extremely important,” Mleynek said. “Working with small businesses offers state governments the fastest opportunity for creating sustainable economic development. And the reason is because small businesses are such a large part of our economy and when they get assistance, they increase their sales rapidly, they hire new people, and all of that comes back very quickly.”

While his program competes with others, in particular social programs, for funding from the state, Mleynek is confident that lawmakers will realize the value of investing in small business to the overall health and growth of the economy. And he’s hoping for extra money in light of potential cuts to federal funding for the center.

“I believe the Legislature understands the value of putting money into our program, but money these last few years has been very tight,” Mleynek said. “To put money into one program and not another, those are very difficult choices. . . . But I’m cautiously optimistic.”

RECOGNIZING HANS-PETER KLEIN OF UKIAH, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hans-Peter Klein for his nearly three decades of distinguished public service as Counsel for Mendocino County in California. Peter’s devotion and service have left a lasting impression on Mendocino County.

Born in Germany, Peter immigrated with his parents to the United States at the age of four. He received his Bachelors Degree from the University of California before he was drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Upon his military discharge, Peter enrolled in an evening law school program. At the time, he worked for the Port of San Francisco and volunteered with Marin County Legal Aid. He received the Demetrius Sepatsis Award for Academic Excellence upon graduation.

Peter joined the Mendocino County Counsel’s office in 1978, one month after its creation. In 1983, he was appointed as Mendocino’s County Counsel, a position in which he has served with dedication and distinction for the past 22 years. Peter also served on the Board of Directors for the California State County Counsel Association, where he has been a long time member of the Association’s Ethics Committee. The Association is dedicated to the maintenance of the highest professional standards in the practice of governmental law and service to the public.

After so many years of serving others, I know that Peter is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Toni, and their three grown children.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize Hans-Peter Klein for his commitment and dedication to his profession and for his service to the people of Mendocino County and his country.

THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I join my fellow Catholics and all citizens of the world in mourning the passing of Pope John Paul II. Though he is no longer with us, his extraordinary influence and tremendous contributions to the fight against tyranny and oppression will live on.

Pope John Paul II was the 263rd successor to Saint Peter, and was elected on October 16, 1978. He was the youngest Pope in 132 years at age 58. He was also the first Polish Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in 450 years. He was seen as active and charismatic, and could often be found on the ski slopes of Europe.

Throughout his papacy, Pope John Paul II worked tirelessly on behalf of human rights and the dignity of all mankind. In contrast with the Vatican’s preoccupation with Europe, he was the most traveled Pope in history and involved the Church in world issues.

He visited Africa more than a dozen times, yet refused to visit South Africa until it had ended its apartheid system. He sought to end religious and ethnic violence in Sudan and Rwanda. In Latin America, John Paul pressured Chile’s General Augusto Pinochet to hold free elections and helped defuse a dispute between Argentina and Peru. He also visited Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, the Philippines, Haiti, North America, and Scandinavia, among other destinations.

Pope John Paul II is widely credited with helping depose Eastern European communism. He helped inspire the worker rebellions and the Solidarity movement in his native Poland soon after he was elected. Twenty million Poles greeted the Pope during his nine day homecoming, an exceptional show of discontent with the one-party dictatorship that ruled the country.

He also insisted that the Catholic Church confront its past misdeeds, including the Inquisition in the 15th century. In 1999, he ordered the Vatican to issue an “act of repentance” for the church’s failure to prevent Nazi genocide against Jews in World War II and acknowledged centuries of preaching contempt for Jews. The pope expanded upon this in March 2000, when he asked forgiveness for many of his church’s past sins, including its treatment of Jews, heretics, women and native peoples. While John Paul believed in the infallibility of the church, he recognized that its servants are human and sometimes stray from the teachings of Jesus.

Along with John Paul’s involvement in human rights, I have been moved and personally strengthened by his active engagement in papal duties in spite of the development of Parkinson’s disease. He did not shrink from activity or the public eye though his body began to shake and become unsteady. In fact, it became part of his mission: to show the world the value of each life, even in those who are suffering from physical pain and the aging process.

The world is now coming to grips with the passing of Pope John Paul II. We are comforted that his teachings live on as he moves

to his final resting place. May he rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a great spiritual and moral leader for the world. Throughout his lifetime, he experienced Fascism, Communism and rampant materialism. He never lost sight of his own values and beliefs and lived his life as an example that all of us regardless of faith could look to.

The earthly light of this Pope has been lost but his eternal light will shine forever. The millions of pilgrims flowing into St. Peter’s Square reflect the genuine warmth and respect this man of God had throughout the world. He spoke for the poor, the homeless, the infirmed, the oppressed and everyone listened. His message of caring and love certainly played a major role in many of the changes we have seen across the global map. Walls came down and individual freedom arose from rubble.

To me it was especially noteworthy to watch the Pope reach out to the youth of the world and how warmly they returned his affection. Their bond will long be remembered.

In life Pope John Paul II showed us how to live and in death, showed how to die. He has returned to his Lord and Savior having earned the reward of “Welcome home my good and faithful servant.” We have been blessed by his presence on earth and his legacy will be a strength for generations to come.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGIATE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2005

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation, along with my colleague Congressman BEN CARDIN, that would allow charitable and educational organizations to make grants to fraternities, sororities, and other collegiate organizations to provide housing and student facilities to the same extent that tax-exempt colleges and universities may provide such facilities for students. We introduced this legislation in the 108th Congress and it enjoyed wide bipartisan support.

By way of background, taxpayers may generally deduct contributions to nonprofit educational organizations (i.e., educational organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (“Code”)) such as colleges or universities. These colleges and universities may expend their funds (including donated funds) on student facilities such as dormitories, dining halls, study areas, libraries,