

TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the Michigan Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America in partnering with Ford Motor Company to release "The Ford Michigan Mobility Resource Guide" during their Open House in Novi, Michigan, on April 12, 2007.

For nearly five decades, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America have loyally served our community's veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. A congressionally chartered veteran's service organization, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America have faithfully honored its commitment to advocate for improved health care access, research and development for spinal cord injury and spinal cord dysfunction, sports programs; and have enhanced the benefits and disability rights on behalf of all paralyzed veterans.

In honor of Michigan Paralyzed Veteran Awareness Week, April 8, 2007, through April 14, 2007, the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America have partnered with Ford Motor Company of Michigan's Mobility Motoring Division to introduce the "Ford Michigan Mobility Resource Guide." On April 12, 2007, the 14-page guide for disabled drivers will debut at the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America's Open House and subsequently be available at Ford auto dealerships statewide.

Madam Speaker, this guide is key to helping the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America continue its noble mission to ensure all paralyzed veterans are empowered to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Today, in honor of its legendary dedication to our disabled veterans and its tireless efforts to assist individuals with spinal cord injuries, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America for its unwavering commitment to our veterans, our community and our country.

HONORING HELGA LEMKE, OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY with great pleasure to honor Helga Lemke on her 18 years of service with Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County. Since 1989, when she was hired as the agency's Executive Director, Helga has shown a steadfast commitment to increasing opportunities for low income residents of Sonoma County to gain self-sufficiency and contribute to their communities. We have found Helga to be fiercely focused on fighting poverty, wonderfully competent in running this large, multi-program agency, and yet very down-to-earth and authentic.

Helga has spent her entire career helping others, from her internship with the National

Community Action Foundation nearly 40 years ago through her work at the United Nations to the present. One of the tenets she holds to dearly, says colleague John Way, is making a difference. He notes, "I have heard her often say that one of the most enriching things about her work is having someone tell her, 'What you've done has changed my life.'"

Helga's well-earned appointment to Director of Programs for the California Department of Community Services reminds us how much she has accomplished for our community. For one, she transformed a struggling nonprofit into one of the largest and most respected agencies in the county. She also initiated an award-winning staff diversity training program and a community-acclaimed annual conference on poverty, at the same time leading a staff of 225 at more than 20 sites with an annual budget of more than \$11 million.

Despite all this, Helga has still made time for public service. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointed her to the Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council; the Santa Rosa City Mayor has appointed her to the Mayor's Task Force on Gangs; and she has also served on numerous boards, including Roseland University Prep School. She has also testified before Congress on Head Start issues, where her expertise was valued.

Madam Speaker, we have appreciated working with Director Lemke on the many issues faced by the Sonoma community and thank her for her dedicated service. Her passion and energy are an inspiration to all of us who work with families. Congratulations on your appointment, Helga.

TRIBUTE TO BAY COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I am happy to rise before you today, and to ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in celebrating Bay County's sesquicentennial anniversary. This momentous occasion will be marked by a series of events to take place Friday, June 15 through Sunday, June 17, 2007.

In 1857, a village, made up of land once used as a campground for the Chippewa Indians, was formed east of the Saginaw River. In 1865, this village, known as Bay City, was formally incorporated as a city. To the west of the river, the villages of Banks, Salzburg, and Wenona joined together forming West Bay City. Eventually, both Bay City and West Bay City joined together as "Greater" Bay City in 1905.

Bay County was formally recognized as an independent county in 1857, and consists of four cities: Bay City, Essexville, Pinconning, and Auburn; two villages: Munger and Linwood; in addition to fourteen townships.

Madam Speaker, in the 150 years since the formation of Bay County, we have seen a rise from a collection of small lumber villages to one of Michigan's most vibrant areas. The shipyards and sawmills of the past have given way to worldwide corporations that create opportunities each day. Bay County's rich heritage is seen in its renowned architecture and diverse history. For generations, the kind

hearts and friendly manner of the residents have made Bay County a warm and welcoming community.

Madam Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bay County, Michigan on the 150th anniversary of its formation.

RECOGNIZING RAYMOND I. WOLNIEWICZ UPON BEING NAMED 2007 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE CHEEKTOWAGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to honor and congratulate the 41st recipient of the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year award. Raymond I. Wolniewicz is being recognized by the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce on June 14, 2007 for his outstanding commitment to the community.

Mr. Wolniewicz has demonstrated his dedication to the community through his devoted service as a World War II Air Force Veteran. Raymond served his country honorably and continues to do so through his participation in the Leonard Post V.F.W. Post 6251. Ray also acts as the Chairman and a trustee of the War of 1812 committee, demonstrating a passion for this country's rich history.

Ray Wolniewicz has also served his community through his dedication to his faith and social service. Ray and his wife Theresa have been devoted members of their church for the past 45 years. Ray also commits more of his time to his faith through his involvement in the Holy Name and Ushers Society. In addition, Ray helps to support the Cheektowaga community by delivering meals for the Meals on Wheels program and working at the Cheektowaga Senior Center.

In addition to these many accomplishments, Ray Wolniewicz has contributed to the community and country through his role as the President of the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission, through which he helps to organize events such as the Town of Cheektowaga's Annual Fourth of July Festivities and Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, as well as supporting numerous local organizations.

Ray's patriotism and commitment to community and country can be clearly seen in his professional and civic activities. I ask today, Madam Speaker, that Raymond Wolniewicz be recognized for this dedicated and selfless service.

HONORING MARIE STEWARD

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Marie Steward, a recent recipient of the Adams County Democratic Party's 2007 Life-Time Achievement Award. I am pleased to recognize her service and the many contributions she has made to her community.