

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF
ROYAL OAK

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Royal Oak, MI.

Royal Oak is a city with a rich past, a dynamic present, and a bright future. The first surveys of the area were made in 1818 by Horatio Ball, who marked a line oak tree with his initial. The following year, Lewis Cass, Territorial Governor of Michigan, was sent to obtain a treaty and purchase a tract of land embodying the Saginaw Bay region. En route to a meeting with the Indians under the full moon of September 1819, Governor Cass stopped for lunch. Resting under the shelter of Horatio Ball's oak tree, he was reminded of the story of Prince Charles II who took shelter in a great oak tree after his forces were defeated in the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Charles eventually reached safety, later became king, and the majestic sheltering oak tree became known as the Royal Oak. From that story, Royal Oak, MI, got its name.

The land at that time was swampy, disease-ridden, and considered uninhabitable. But settlers came, chiefly from western New York. Royal Oak Township was laid out in 1832; the first settlement centered at Chase's Corners, the present intersection of Crooks and Thirteen Mile Road. Orson Starr, who arrived in 1831, was the township's first manufacturer and later a nationally known maker of animal bells. Sherman Stevens, an enterprising young man, arrived in the area in 1835. In 1836, anticipating the completion of the Detroit and Pontiac Railroad, Stevens laid out an unincorporated village in what is now downtown Royal Oak. The first business enterprise, a sawmill, made oak rails for the railroad. The extension and completion of this route fostered growth in the area and caused the center of commercial activity to shift southeast from Chase's Corners to the area now known as Main and Fourth Streets. Churches and schools were established. During the Civil War, the town was known to have hotels and daily mail service.

The village of Royal Oak was incorporated by an act of the Michigan Legislature in 1891. The population at that time was less than 500. Subsequent prosperity saw property annexations and continued gains in population. In November 1921, citizens adopted a charter providing for a commission form of government and Royal Oak, a village of just over 6,000 people, became a city.

Today, Royal Oak is a reinvigorated city. The population peaked in 1970; while the population has diminished somewhat since its peak, the city is achieving new heights. Royal Oak has always been a desirable community in which to live and work, anchored by excellent public schools and a community college, thriving religious congregations, and many service and philanthropic organizations. In recent years, it has become a model of redevelopment. Under the leadership of city government officials and community leaders, the downtown has experienced a resurgence and is now one of Metropolitan Detroit's prime destinations for dining, shopping, and night life.

My wife, Vicki, and I have the privilege for a second time of calling Royal Oak home. We established our first home together on Rochester Road and lived there from 1957-59. After moving across Woodward Avenue to Berkley, Royal Oak remained our nearby downtown for nearly two decades. We have been Saturday morning regulars at the Farmers' Market since 1957. Our kids played youth hockey in Royal Oak, and we spend countless hours with the other families at the ice arena near Normandy and Crooks. Many of the flourishing businesses started small and we have known the owners and watched their growth.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I join with my fellow citizens in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the city of Royal Oak and look forward to its continued success and well-being.

IN HONOR OF PROJECT CHILDREN:
LOCAL MISSIONARIES OF PEACE

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the individuals who make Project Children an outstanding organization. Project Children is a volunteer group which unites young people from Northern Ireland with host families in the United States. These volunteers give of their time to provide the children with a peaceful and enjoyable summer they will always remember.

The word hero truly describes everyone involved with Project Children. John and Joan Hughes are coordinators for the Clifton, NJ chapter of Project Children, and I am gratified by their unwavering devotion. The Hughes' have committed much of their efforts to raising the financing necessary for these children to travel to our country. The past year has brought the organization some well deserved recognition. The Clifton chapter received the Martin Luther King Humanitarian and Civil Rights Award from the New Jersey Education Association. John Hughes was the recipient of a Community Person of the Year Award from the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson.

Many others assist the Hughes' in their efforts to make the children's experiences while in America satisfying, including: Carolyn Malizia, Mary Ann McAdams, Patti Morreale, Joe Masterson, and Edward Phillips. All have dedicated their time and resources to provide a trouble-free 6 weeks away from the strife prevalent in the north of Ireland. I have mentioned only a few of those responsible for Project Children, however there are many others who volunteer their time and deserve our gratitude. Mr. and Mrs. Liam Benson, proprietors of O'Donoghues Restaurant in Hoboken, NJ have graciously donated their services over the past 3 years.

Project Children is an organization founded by Denis Mulchay and his brother Pat Mulchay. This year, Denis Mulchay has once again been nominated as our country's candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. He has also been recognized by President Clinton as one of the Top Ten Cops in the United States. Since its founding in 1975, the organization has grown exponentially and has provided thousands of children countless extraordinary experiences in the United States.

At this time last year, we all hoped that peace, which had for so long eluded the people of Northern Ireland, would become a permanent reality. Unfortunately, the recent resurgence of violence makes the efforts of everyone connected with Project Children particularly valuable. Their generosity of spirit will remain in the hearts of the children forever. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in applauding the extraordinary efforts of these local missionaries of peace.

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY
50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House and the entire Nation the 50th year anniversary of Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, on January 1, 1996.

Lake Superior State University has a growing history stretching back to when it was Fort Brady in 1893. When the fort closed, local businessmen wanted to find use for the buildings and property that would benefit the community. About the same time, the Michigan College of Mining & Technology—currently Michigan Technological University—was looking for a way to accommodate the great number of war veterans who had applied to the college and had been looking for a branch site.

Thus, the Michigan College of Mining & Technology branch college was established for two purposes: to increase the college's facilities for the education of war veterans and to serve the Upper Peninsula, an area comprising one-sixth of the State, that is a considerable distance from other institutions of higher learning.

The Michigan College of Mining & Technology branch at Sault Ste. Marie provided engineering students with their first year of engineering studies and a second year of studies in chemical, electrical, mechanical engineering, or forestry. In addition in 1946, Michigan State University set up a general studies program so that liberal arts credits could be received in Sault Ste. Marie for the first 2 years of course work, and then would be transferable to other 4-year institutions.

In 1966, the college was renamed Lake Superior State College and accorded 4-year status by the Michigan State Board of Education and authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees. The first 4-year graduating class was in 1967. On January 1, 1970, Lake Superior State College was granted complete autonomy and separated from Michigan Technological University. On November 4, 1987, Gov. James Blanchard signed legislation changing Lake Superior State from a college to university.

Since opening in 1946 with a class of 272, the university has grown steadily, and currently has an enrollment of approximately 3,000 students. The campus is a blend of historic and modern architecture that serves the academic, residential, and recreational needs of the university's faculty, students, and community.

Sheri Davie, Chair of the Superior Legacy Committee is sponsoring an all-school reunion