

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

weekend this August 2–4, 1996. One of the key events slated is the burying of a time capsule on the campus to be opened 50 years from now.

Besides a fine academic and cultural center, Lake Superior State University is a division I, NCAA hockey powerhouse. Even though it is the smallest division I school, college's hockey champions reside in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Speaker, Lake Superior State University has a proud history. On behalf of the State of Michigan and the entire Nation, I would like to congratulate Lake Superior State University on 50 years of quality education.

THANK YOU, CHRISTY STRAWMAN,
FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Christy Strawman, my senior telecommunications policy advisor—for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the 5 years that she has worked in my office.

Christy came to work in my office in 1991 as a legislative assistant. In that position, she handled a wide variety of issues—briefing me on legislation and responding to constituent inquiries on issues for which she was responsible.

Two years later, when my legislative director left my office, I asked Christy to head up my legislative staff. As my legislative director, Christy managed the other members of my legislative staff and coordinated my overall legislative agenda. She also worked with the legislative counsel in drafting legislation. In particular, she advised me on telecommunications and securities matters, health care, trade, environmental and transportation issues.

In January 1995, when the Republican takeover of Congress allowed me to assume the chairmanship of the House Telecommunications and Finance Committee, I asked Christy to devote her entire focus to working with me, subcommittee staff, and subcommittee members to help hammer out comprehensive telecommunications reform legislation—legislation that had proved elusive in the 103d Congress. But Christy knew the issues, knew the personalities, and knew my priorities for telecommunications reform legislation. As the process dragged on, the hours were long, and the negotiations were often frustrating. But 3 years after we first began the effort, Republicans and Democrats, House Members and Senators, and congressional leaders and administration officials finally reached an agreement that we could all support. In February, President Clinton signed the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 into law. Much of

the credit for making the goal of reforming the Nation's telecommunications laws a reality belongs to Christy. Without the dedication and hard work she demonstrated throughout the arduous process, I question whether this legislation would have been enacted into law. Christy has also had the opportunity to help enact into law securities litigation reform and capital markets deregulation legislation. She has worked tirelessly for many years to help me achieve my legislative priorities, and I deeply appreciate her efforts.

Christy Strawman is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with her.

Christy has yet to make a definite decision about what she wants to do in the years ahead. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities she has demonstrated in the past will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Christy Strawman for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District, and to this great institution.

IN HONOR OF MR. KENNETH R.
PLUM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth R. Plum who has served the Fairfax County Public School system for the past 28 years as the director of adult and community education. August 1, 1996 marks the retirement of this exceptional member of our local community, who has dedicated years of services to Northern Virginia.

As the adult and community education director from 1967–1996, Mr. Plum increased participation in the program from a modest few thousand to over 80,000 participants. He made numerous contributions to adult and community education including the establishment of an apprenticeship program, adult career training and certification, enrichment classes for adults, special program for displaced homemakers and teen mothers, a wide range of English as a second language classes for adults, three high school completion programs, an expansive volunteer tutoring program, GED classes in the adult detention center, alternative schools for juvenile court youth, a comprehensive parenting education center, and the Learning in Retirement Institute for senior adults. His work earned him the 1985 Secretary of Education Award for Excellence in Education, an honor given to the ten best education programs in the nation. Then in 1986, Mr. Plum earned the Virginia Tech Excellence in Education Award.

In addition, Mr. Plum has served the Fairfax County community as the 36th District Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, a position he held from 1978–80, and from 1982 to the present. In this role, he received many

other awards for his community contributions. He was named Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Founders for 2 years in a row, 1994 Legislator Advocate of the Year by Virginia Interfaith for Public Policy, and 1995–96 Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in applauding Mr. Kenneth Plum for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen and improve the education of our citizens. We wish him great success in his future endeavors.

CONGRESS AND MEDICARE

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, there is an old trick to hawking snake oil. First raise the fear. Then sell to it. That is exactly what the big-union, Washington-based labor bosses are trying to do with their latest advertising campaign of fear and blatant disinformation.

You have possibly seen some of these ads on television. The latest is a real whopper, claiming that Congress is out to kill Medicare. Of course, exactly the opposite is true.

In fact, Congress is trying to save Medicare from impending bankruptcy by increasing spending at a slower rate than before. This is also what the President has proposed. So instead of Medicare spending going up 10 percent a year, the President and Congress propose that it go up about 7.5 percent.

So how can the Washington-based labor bosses get away with this blatantly false advertising? Well, they can not everywhere. Stations around the country, including some in Cleveland, have refused to run these Medicare ads because they are factually incorrect and misleading. In one on-air story, a TV station in Maine called this latest ad by the Washington labor bosses, "a callous and flagrant attempt to play upon the fears of senior Americans." Closer to home, a recent attack ad paid for by AFL–CIO members' dues was so bad that even Cleveland AFL–CIO general secretary Dick Acton admitted that it, "technically might be in error."

That the Washington labor bosses are flat-out lying about the issues is bad enough. What makes it even more about the issues is bad enough. What makes it even more outrageous is that they are using the forced dues of their hard-working members to pay for it. Washington's labor bosses have pledged to spend \$500,000 this specifically to defeat me. That effort is being financed by a 36 percent hike in members' political dues. Yet on the vast majority of issues rank-and-file members do not agree with the positions of their out-of-touch bosses in Washington.

The union men and women I speak with overwhelming support time limits and work requirements for welfare recipients and tax relief for working families. They want term limits and a balanced budget. The Washington labor bosses oppose every one of those positions.

Perhaps even more telling is that 44 percent of union members consider themselves to be conservative, yet almost 100 percent of their involuntary political contributions go to Democrats. As a result you can understand why so many union members are rightly embarrassed