

Wading River, along the rural North Shore of Suffolk County. The site was used to build a residence and school for the homeless, inner-city children of New York.

Little Flower Children's Service continues to reach out and offer hope to thousands of children. The 700-member staff administers high-quality human service programs, including a Residential Treatment Center, family foster care, day care, community group homes, adoption services, care facilities and foster homes for children and adults with physical or mental disabilities. The agency has also pioneered an innovative foster care and adoption program to serve more than 2,000 infants who have been abandoned to languish in city hospitals, babies who require protective care in an hour's notice and infants stricken with the deadly AIDS virus.

Little Flower's guiding philosophical principle is simple: Children grow up best in families. Families make it happen and Little Flower is dedicated to finding loving, nurturing families for children who have lost theirs. The youngsters sent to Little Flower have been separated from their parents by illness, poverty, death or some other tragedy of life. How they got to Little Flower is always much less important than locating a supportive, caring family for them in which to grow and learn. Little Flower's main objective is to reunite each child with their own family, but if that's not possible then they endeavor to find a new family longing to adopt a child.

In an imperfect world, where infants and children are sometimes left without families, there is a desperate need for Little Flower's services. In this great Nation of ours, no child should ever have to grow up without their parents' love and support. But when a child is left alone in this world, we should all be grateful that the parishioners of St. Peter Claver Church had the foresight to establish Little Flower Children's Services. We are all richer in our souls for their benevolence.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DECKER

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if you or other Members have ever been in my office, no doubt you've seen the fire helmets lining the walls. I must have hundreds of them. They are symbols of enormous respect and admiration I have for firefighters.

It's not just that I used to be a volunteer firefighter myself in my hometown of Queensburg. It's more than that. I could sum up my feelings about firefighter in two words: John Decker.

John Decker is celebrating his 50th year as a volunteer firefighter. By that yardstick, John Decker is a giant.

Let me tell you a few things about volunteer firefighters in general. These are ordinary citizens from all walks of life who represent the only available fire protection in rural communities like the one I represent. In New York State alone they save countless lives and billions of dollar's worth of property. They surrender much of their time, not only to respond to fires but to upgrade their skills with constant training. Fighting fires is dirty, exhausting, and frequently dangerous work. Volunteer fire-

fighters approach that work with a selfless dedication and the highest degree of professionalism.

Typical of these volunteers, or, I should say, more than typical is John Decker. He joined the Hose Company #1 in Catskill, NY 50 years ago. There is no way to calculate the lives and property he has helped save in those 50 years, the number of hours he has spent in that effort, or the number of younger firemen he has inspired.

He has served on numerous committees, as far back as 1947, John Decker was a delegate to the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association. From 1949-1956, he served on the board of directors, in 1959 as financial secretary, and in 1977-1984 and 1991-1992 as the corresponding secretary. His contributions go far beyond his firefighting, he played a more active role in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I've always been one to judge people on what they return to their community. By that measure, John Decker is truly a great American.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker and all Members, in saluting a firefighter's firefighter, John Decker for his 50 years of service, and in wishing him many more years of health.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE JOHNSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring the accomplishments of Dr. George W. Johnson, former president of George Mason University, to the attention of the House. After 18 years as GMU's fifth president, Dr. Johnson retired 1 month ago today. During Dr. Johnson's tenure as president, the university saw unprecedented growth and earned the respect of the Northern Virginia community in addition to national business and educational leaders.

Named after the Father of the Bill of Rights and one of Virginia's delegates to our Nation's Constitutional Convention, George Mason University was founded in 1972 as the Commonwealth of Virginia's public 4-year university in Northern Virginia.

At the risk of excluding important events at GMU during the past 18 years, I would like to point out a few highlights in which Dr. Johnson should take great pride. They include the addition of campuses in Arlington and Prince William counties and the opening of the George Mason University School of Law which was named as the "Top Up and Coming" law school in the Nation by U.S. News & World Report. Dr. James Buchanan, professor of economics, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1986 for his work in public choice economics. In addition, enrollment at GMU has more than doubled to over 24,000 in the past two decades.

Datamation, a management magazine for computing professionals, recently cited George Mason's partnerships with Northern Virginia business among the Nation's best with Carnegie Mellon, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. Rarely before has an educational institution forged a stronger relationship with

businesses in the community. Together, George Mason and the high technology businesses of the region have constructed a world class educational and professional partnership.

Evidence of Dr. Johnson's appreciation for diversity is the completion of a spectacular concert hall and fine arts center a stone's throw from George Mason's 10,000 seat Patriot Center where Washingtonians visit to attend concerts, sporting events, and shows. Co-located on the campus is the athletic field house which plays host to one of the world's annual premiere track and field events—the Mobil 1 track meet. Over the past several years, the world's best track and field athletes have come to Mason and set world records.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the accomplishments of Dr. Johnson, his wife Joanne's remarkable contribution to the arts and the Northern Virginia community should not be overlooked. Joanne Johnson has been active in organizations such as the Hospice of Northern Virginia, Woodlawn Plantation Council, Partners for Livable Communities, and the Learning in Retirement Institute.

Together, Mr. Speaker, George and Joanne Johnson have left a legacy of dedication and commitment to education in our community for which Virginians will be forever grateful.

SAVING FOR COLLEGE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to help families save for college, I am introducing a resolution to encourage States to adopt programs that will allow parents to pay for their child's college education years in advance and at a fixed rate.

Throughout history, American families have believed that a good education provided the path to a better life. Indeed, the earnings advantage of completing college increased between 1970 and 1993 for both males and females. According to the Department of Commerce, a person with a bachelor's degree will average 55 percent more in lifetime earnings than a person with a high school diploma.

However, college costs have risen rapidly in both public and private institutions. Over the past 15 years, the average tuition at private colleges has increased 90 percent, and at public institutions tuition has risen 100 percent. Moreover, the median family income during the same period rose only 5 percent.

For most Americans, student loans are the primary source of education funding. From the G.I. bill to Pell grants and the Stafford Loan Program, financial aid has enabled millions of working class families to send their children to college. While one option in addressing the rising cost of college would be to increase student financial aid, a sensible alternative approach would be to encourage families to save for college.

Several States have adopted "tuition prepayment programs" that offer families a systematic approach to saving for college. These prepaid tuition programs provide families with a plan under which they can set aside a fixed amount each month, based on the number of years remaining before the beneficiary enrolls