

the Society of St. Vincent De Paul has benefited for the past 42 years from the selfless efforts of one of its members, Emory Nestor, who is retiring as the president of the Bay County Council.

This gentleman has devoted a great deal of time to the work of the Bay County Council, having been a charter member of the St. Hyacinth Conference, one of the nine conferences in the Bay County Council, and the president of the council since 1990. His skills and leadership have also enabled him to serve as a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Mid East Region Eldercare Committee, which serves as a conduit for providing information about the special needs of the elderly, and an assessment of the various programs of assistance offered to the elderly throughout the region. He also was appointed to the Eastern Michigan Senior Advisory Committee Community Service Commission, where his familiarity with programs for the elderly has been an essential element of the commission's operations.

The key focus of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul has been to provide essential assistance at times of emergencies. Food assistance has been provided for families and individuals. Clothing has been provided through a thrift store. Help with utility bills has been given when urgently needed. And to a limited extent shelter has been provided when emergency conditions create a need, a need which is too often filled only by organizations like the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

Mr. Nestor's devotion to helping others is equaled with his devotion to his religious faith. He has been a commissioned law minister at St. Hyacinth Parish since 1987. He has helped people at the parish, as well as through the Bay Area Stroke Support Group, at times of great personal difficulty and challenges.

A married gentleman who has been blessed with his loving wife Jean and who knows the value of community service after a long career at General Motors, Emory Nestor is the kind of man that we would all like to have as a neighbor and as a model for our young people.

As he retires from the presidency, and is recognized this weekend by the other members of the Bay County Council, I urge you and all of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in thanking Emory Nestor for his devotion, his service, and his leadership.

FAREWELL TO THE GREATEST
LEGISLATIVE BODY IN THE
WORLD

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, September 19 is a memorable day in American history. Two hundred years ago today, our first President, George Washington, gave the American people his Farewell Address. This address is read annually to Congress. In it, George Washington offered the American people precious advice, which for the most part they have followed.

Today I'd like to offer my own farewell to Congress, but one that is simply a thank you to my family, friends and associates, who have meant so much to me since I entered this great institution.

Eighteen years ago I first walked onto this floor to be sworn in as a freshman member of the 96th Congress. It was one of the proudest moments of my life. To be elected by one's fellow citizens to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives is a special honor, one that I will always cherish and treasure.

Throughout those 18 years, I've kept in mind something Abraham Lincoln said about the turbulence of public life: "I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end."

I couldn't have done it without my family, particularly my wife, Barb. From the beginning, I have been blessed with a supportive and understanding family. Every member of this House knows the sacrifices their families are required to make. Barb, Toby Jr., Vicky, Barbie, and my daughter-in-law Jeanne often went above and beyond what anyone reasonably could expect. I love them dearly—and to give them a big hug of love and thanks.

Representing the people of northeast Wisconsin has been a family affair. Barb has been my unofficial director of constituent affairs and chief campaigner, as well as the finest political strategist I could have ever had. Toby Jr., Vicky, Barbie, and Jeanne have marched with me in countless parades, typed labels, licked stamps, maintained voter lists, manned the telephones and staffed election night headquarters. As a result, they know more about the realities of American politics, I suspect, than the political science faculty at any university. For their help and encouragement I will always be grateful.

I couldn't have done it without the strong support and friendship of the people of northeast Wisconsin. I have made lasting friendships with the people of my district. I have spent every bit of time back in the district that I could, attending community meetings, speaking to small business groups, visiting homes for the elderly, and cheering on high school football teams.

Not once did I feel a trip back home was a chore. No place in America has greater natural beauty: the forests, the inland lakes, the riverways, the hills, the shores and bays of Lake Michigan, from Washington Island west to Northern Highland State Forest, through some of America's most scenic counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Maintowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Shawano, and Vilas.

Above all, no Member of Congress has a more big-hearted, fun-loving, hard-working, family-oriented group of Americans to represent. Working for them in Washington and visiting them at home has been an honor and a pleasure.

For 18 years, they have placed their trust in me. Fifteen times, in primary and general elections, I asked the people of northeast Wisconsin for a vote of confidence. Fifteen times, they gave me their support. I hope I have met their high expectations.

I couldn't have done it without my staff. They have shared my deep commitment to public service, and they have served the people of Wisconsin and the American people well.

Finally, I couldn't have done it without the friendship and support of my fellow Members. This is a special place, and those who serve here are exceptional people. I have been proud to serve with you; I have learned much

from you; and I believe it can be said that together we have made a lasting contribution to this great Nation. God bless all of you and God bless America.

Six months ago, when I announced that after 18 years of service in Congress I would move on to other endeavors, I did so in a statement to the people of northeast Wisconsin. I'd like to insert those comments in the RECORD.

We all know the passage from Ecclesiastes: "All things have their season, and in their times all things pass under heaven."

In short, there is a time for everything. Eighteen years ago, I announced my candidacy for Congress. I have devoted nearly two decades of my life to working for the people of Northeast Wisconsin. I have always worked hard—giving one thousand percent. So has my wife Barb and so have my children. Public service involves a commitment from everyone in my family. And the people have seen that.

In nine general elections and two primaries, the people have placed their trust and confidence in me, to represent them in the United States Congress. For me, this has been the highest honor. The people of Northeast Wisconsin are the finest people on earth. Everyday, they have shown me kindness, generosity and friendship. They have been good to me beyond measure, and it has made my job a pleasure as well as an honor.

Now, after eighteen years, it is the right time for me to come home. Therefore I am announcing today that I will not be a candidate for reelection this November. When the people of Northeast Wisconsin first elected me to Congress, Jimmy Carter was President, the Cold War still raged, the Soviet Union was the enemy and the Iron Curtain divided Europe.

As I reflect on my time in office, it has been an era of monumental change. Today, we are at peace. No nation threatens us. Our economy is strong, especially here at home in Northeast Wisconsin. To be sure, we have problems in our society, but I see America returning to the values that built our country and made us strong. My goal has always been to contribute to a better future for our country, and today I am optimistic for the children of America. I have cherished every moment of my service in Congress. When the American people, through their votes, freely choose a citizen to represent them in Congress, they not only vest a person with the power to make the laws, they reaffirm the power of the people to govern themselves. The Congress truly is the people's house. I will always be grateful to the people of Northeast Wisconsin.

As the Irish proverb goes, "May God in His wonderful love hold each of you in the hollow of his hand."

This has been a great journey of eighteen years. Thank you.

UNITED STATES AMBASSADORS
TO HUNGARY AND ROMANIA AS-
SESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
RECENTLY SIGNED HUNGARIAN-
ROMANIAN TREATY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, a Treaty of Understanding, Cooperation and Good Neighborliness was signed by representatives of the Governments