

prominent candidate for base closure, appearing on the base closure list in 1991 and 1993.

Since that time, the can-do spirit of the leadership at the base and the unwavering support of the south Texas community have led the Navy to consolidate its mine warfare mission at NSI, and no one has looked back since. By the end of 1996, NSI had more than 4,000 sailors with a payroll of \$60 million, making it one of the fastest growing military posts in the Navy.

The advent of the Persian Gulf war in 1991 had a great deal to do with focusing the Navy's energies on ensuring that we were prepared to deal with shallow and deep water mines, much like the sort favored by Iraq's Saddam Hussein. By consolidating the mine warfare command in one location at NSI, the Navy saved money while expanding the program.

The Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award honors the command best accomplishing their mission, increasing productivity, and enhancing the quality of life for their force. Ingleside's outstanding efforts in innovation and imaginative leadership, retention of personnel, equal employment opportunity, community relations, energy conservation and pollution prevention were responsible for this award.

NSI's commander, Capt. Donald Peters, is a creative, dynamic leader. Captain Peters' philosophy of efficiency and innovation prompted him to streamline the base administrative staff. The move saved \$2 million the first year Captain Peters put it in place, and \$1.5 million the following year.

I offer all the men and women at Naval Station Ingleside my heartiest congratulations for their outstanding work, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending NSI for a job well done.

HONORING ELIZABETH O'DONNELL

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Elizabeth O'Donnell, a constituent from Kenmore, NY, and one of three national winners of the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association Heroes Award. The prestigious honor is bestowed upon outstanding individuals who have demonstrated a humanitarian spirit and have made a unique and lasting contribution to athletics.

In 1976, Ms. O'Donnell founded the Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped [SABAH]. Through Elizabeth's tireless efforts, thousands of blind, deaf, and physically and mentally challenged people in western New York have taken to the ice and learned to Skate. Indeed, SABAH currently has an enrollment of over 750 skaters a week, who are instructed by 30 volunteer teachers.

The skating lessons culminate in the annual SABAH Ice Show, featuring Elizabeth's students. The show has grown from a presentation for about 800 friends and supporters to a performance attracting crowds of more than 10,000.

Through her teaching, Elizabeth has brought tremendous joy to thousands of participants,

and through them, tens of thousands of family members and friends. Because of her commitment, Elizabeth was recognized by President Bush as one of the Nation's 580 "points of light" for attacking social problems through volunteer community service.

As a fellow resident of Kenmore, NY, I am proud to have among my neighbors Elizabeth O'Donnell. She is truly an inspiration to all of us. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. O'Donnell on receiving this well-deserved award, and thanking her for her dedication to improving the lives of thousands of others.

MANNY GORDON HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an icon from my district in northeastern Pennsylvania, Mr. Manny Gordon. This month Manny will be honored by the board of the Pennsylvania State University Wilkes-Barre campus for his years of service to the community and the university. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute to Manny.

Mr. Speaker, Manny Gordon has had a long and distinguished career. His work protecting the environment is legendary in northeastern Pennsylvania. He served the State Bureau of forestry for 44 years, retiring nearly 20 years ago in 1979. For many of those years he was the district forester supervising more than 1.2 million acres of Pennsylvania's beautiful forest. His years of dedicated conservation and public relations won him many awards during his tenure. Included is the coveted Forester of the Year award from the Society of American Foresters, and the Merit of Honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution. He was also named a distinguished Pennsylvanian by the William Penn Chapter of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Having served as an Army sergeant in Europe in World War II, Manny was in charge of 28 POW forester camps in Argonne and Ardennes France, and began his career in forestry. Following the war Manny served as the commander of Post 25 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Scranton PA.

Mr. Speaker, his years of service to northeastern Pennsylvania as a forester left Manny with a deep and abiding love of the environment. In the 20 years since his retirement, Manny has been highly regarded as an outdoors advocate and environmental champion.

Manny has had a very successful and distinguished career. Of all his achievements he is probably best known for his famous public service spots on radio and television highlighting Pennsylvania's great outdoors. His famous motto of "Enjoy, Enjoy" has brought the beauty of Pennsylvania's natural resources to thousands of people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud to join with the board of directors of the Wilkes-Barre campus of Penn State University and the entire community by paying tribute to this beloved public figure, Mr. Manny Gordon.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2346

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the momentous occasion of the 75th anniversary of St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council 2346 of Nutley, NJ.

Founded in 1922, St. Mary's Council 2346 Knights of Columbus will be celebrating their 75th anniversary on Saturday, April 19, 1997. Under the leadership of Grand Knight Robert McDowall and Deputy Grand Knight Joseph French, the Nutley Knights currently have more than 365 members.

Each year the Knights sponsor several contests, among them being poster and essay contests, for Nutley schoolchildren, many of whom have gone on to win statewide awards. The Knights also sponsor a free-throw basketball contest and provide scholarship funds for deserving students.

Over the years, the Knights have become well known for their outstanding and invaluable service to the community which includes their participation in local blood bank drives and several charitable efforts. In the past few years, their canister drives to help retarded children have raised more than \$10,000 a year to help local organizations such as special young adults and the JFK Boy Scout Troop 159. Also, the Knights have conducted a used clothing drive to aid the poor people of Appalachia, an event which has resulted in the shipping of several truckloads of clothing for these needy people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council 2346, and the township of Nutley in celebrating the momentous occasion of the 75th anniversary of St. Mary's Knights of Columbus.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the New York State Nurses Association [NYSNA] today as they begin celebrating Nurses' Week, May 5 through May 9, by way of a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement.

Nurses across America will be taking this time to educate the general public about the important roles nurses play in today's health care debate. In the battle to protect the high level of care and delivery of service we have enjoyed in this country, nurses are at the forefront. I commend them for having effectively become the patients' most outspoken and effective advocates as this debate rages on.

Let us rise today and honor these working men and women whom we have come to rely upon for the three C's: care, compassion, and courage, in our time of most need. A long awaited, deeply felt, and much deserved thank you.