

TRIBUTE TO THE ANCIENT ORDER  
OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 21 AND  
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HI-  
BERNIANS DIVISION 22

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 21 and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 22 on the occasion of its Annual Hibernian Dance.

This event is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to Mary Anne Kirby and Patrick (Pat) M. Moynihan who have been named as "Hibernians of the Year" by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 21 and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 22. This year's honorees truly represent the best of what our community has to offer.

Mary Anne Kirby, an active member of the Ladies Ancient Order of the Hibernians Division since 1980, was born in Lyrecompane, County Kerry, Ireland. After attending Renagown National School in County Kerry, Mary Anne immigrated to the Middle Village section of Queens and relocated to Rckaway Beach in 1962. Mary Anne was married on June 28, 1958 at the Resurrection Ascension Church in Rego Park to her late husband, Timothy Kirby, who was a member of the men's Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 21. With her loving husband, Mary Anne raised four wonderful children and currently takes great joy in the accomplishments of her four grandchildren.

Patrick (Pat) M. Moynihan was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1937 and is the second eldest of a family of nine. After immigrating to New York in 1957, Pat was inducted into the Army where he served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces Medical Corps until his discharge in 1963.

Since his arrival in New York, Pat has been active in the Irish-American community. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 21 and has served as the group's financial secretary, treasurer, historian and president. Pat has also served the Queens County Board of Hibernians as their organizer, historian, chairman of the grievance committee, chairman of the publicity committee, recording secretary, and vice president. He has also served as the chairman of by-laws and resolution committees at several biennial convention of the Queens County Board and has been a delegate to numerous state and national Hibernian conventions.

Both of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 21 and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 22.

A TRIBUTE TO RON WOHLWEND  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ron Wohlwend of Morris, Illinois, as he retires from his duties as President of the Grundy County National Bank.

In 1981, Mr. Wohlwend was elected as President of the Grundy County National Bank and has maintained that position for 18 years. Mr. Wohlwend joined the Bank in 1966 where he began his career. His integral role in the Bank's activity has contributed to its reputation in the community.

Mr. Wohlwend has served the banking industry well. He has been a member of the American Bankers Association's Community Banker's Council, the Illinois Bankers Association's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Mr. Wohlwend also was the Chairman of the Association's Federal Legislative Committee and chaired the Banker's Advisory Committee at the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin.

Outside of the banking industry, Mr. Wohlwend has been a pillar of the city of Morris and Grundy County communities. Among the organizations Mr. Wohlwend has served are the Grundy County United Fund and the Morris Cemetery Association. He was President of the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce and served as Treasurer of Morris Community High School District #101, Saratoga Grade School District #60C, the Grundy Area Vocational Center, the Morris Cemetery Association, and the Grundy Economic Development Council. He is currently a member of the Grundy County Farm Bureau and serves on the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Industries, the Morris Hospital Foundation, the Morris Downtown Development Partnership, Breaking Away, and the Joliet Junior College Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the achievements and years of service of Mr. Wohlwend. I wish Mr. Wohlwend's wife Jackie; his children Mary, Laura, and David; and his grandchildren Reilly and Taylor good will in the future. Also, I wish Mr. Wohlwend continued success with any future endeavors and hope he continues his leadership roles in the Morris and Grundy County communities.

IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY  
1999

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in a commitment to the preservation of our environment as we celebrate Earth Day 1999.

We have made great strides in the conservation of our dwindling wilderness resources. I would like to thank Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck for his decision to halt new road construction in roadless forest areas across the United States, and for his contin-

ued leadership in the preservation of these irreplaceable resources.

As someone who cares about protecting our environment, it has been frustrating to watch my colleagues in the majority pepper appropriations bills with language which would never pass Congress on its own merits. These special interest riders historically benefit only a few wealthy landowners and private interests; they do nothing for the good of our environment.

I ask my colleagues to join me and vote against any bill that will do damage to our environment. Our policies should help us to leave a legacy of clean air and water to our children and teach them the value of leaving that legacy to their children. I would sincerely hope that my colleagues share in my concern. Otherwise, they will take their place in history as the party that allowed the destruction of our nation's greatest resources.

Let's work together to ensure an environment in which our children can thrive.

IF IT WORKS, DON'T BREAK IT

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. If it works, don't break it.

I'm speaking in reference to the Social Security debate. Currently, some in Congress are looking at proposals to prevent the program's anticipated bankruptcy 32 years from now. In order to buy the system a couple more years of financial solvency, some of our colleagues are considering levying a new tax on state and local government employees who are currently covered by their own pension plans. They want to force newly-hired state and local government employees who would otherwise enjoy independent pension and disability programs with good returns to participate in Social Security which offers neither security nor a good investment opportunity.

If that isn't bad enough, by mandating new state and local employees into Social Security, they will short-circuit state and local programs by shutting down the capital stream necessary to maintain current benefit levels. Mandating Social Security will, in essence, break what isn't broken while failing to fix what is.

Mr. Speaker, five million state and local employees and two million retirees are covered by alternative plans. In Ohio, Colorado, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, Maine, Alaska, and Louisiana, over half of all state employees are covered by their own plans. In Texas and Illinois over one million employees are covered under state and local plans. Every state is impacted because about 75 percent of all public safety employees are not covered under Social Security. In Colorado there are more than 200,000 state, education, and local government employees who are outside of the federal retirement system.

These state and local disability and pension systems were developed because the original Social Security Act of 1937 excluded state and local governments from Social Security coverage. This was to avoid raising a possible Constitutional question of whether the federal government could tax state and local governments. Congress later amended the law to