

constructed at the facility were molded at the Mound City Foundry. At the outset of the Civil War in 1861, the U.S. Government leased the Marine Ways facility for \$40,000 a year. This facility in Mound City was used by the government to build and repair ships and to convert steamships into armored vessels. It was at the Marine Ways site that the USS *Cairo*, the USS *Mound City* and USS *Cincinnati* were constructed under the direction of James Eads. These gunboats or "ironclads" were used by the Federal Government during the decisive river conflicts of the Civil War, particularly the capture of the confederate facility at Fort Donelson in Stewart County, TN. In fact, Andrew Foote's flagship, the USS *Benton* was serviced at the Marine Ways complex.

In 1863, the Federal Government took possession of additional property fronting the river to be used for a naval station together with the adjacent rail depot. One of the warehouses built by the Emporium Company was converted into a naval hospital.

The hospital treated thousands of Union soldiers and was the largest hospital facility in the Union's western campaign. After the Civil war, the hospital served many uses but was eventually destroyed by fire. Many of the soldiers who had died being treated at the hospital were buried nearby and the government created the Mound City National Cemetery there in 1862 where over 5000 soldiers are buried.

Also affiliated with Mound City during the Civil War is the story of the USS *Red Rover*, the first hospital ship of the U.S. Navy. Originally a confederate side-wheel steamer, the *Rover* was captured by the crew of the USS *Mound City* in 1862 when it was hit by another Union ship. It was then refitted as a hospital ship. The *Red Rover* Hospital Ship entered service and during a battle in Arkansas in July 1862, the USS *Mound City* was struck and many crewmembers were injured, the *Red Rover* came to their aid and transported them to the Mound City Naval Hospital. Some of the *Red Rover's* female personnel were the first to serve on a naval vessel. Though not in operation today, the boatyard is still present in Mound City.

In 1861, Pulaski County moved its county seat from Caledonia to Mound City as recognition of the growth and development of the town and its strategic importance during the Civil War. Fire in 1879 destroyed the courthouse and flooding was a constant problem for the community. It was during this time that the city strengthened its levee system and flood waters never entered the city from 1868 to 1936. In January, 1937 a record flood on the Ohio breached its levees and inflicted much damage to the community. As a result of that flood, the community strengthened its levees.

Mound City today is a community of over 600 and remains a vital part of the economy of Pulaski County and southernmost Illinois. The community serves as a key tourist attraction for southern Illinois with a restored historic courthouse, national cemetery, and Civil War attractions. Pulaski County continues to promote economic development by creating a business environment conducive to further development. Mound City is part of the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone, an Illinois Enterprise Zone and the Delta Regional Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the founding of the community and

the people of Mound City, IL, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JORDIE TATTER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Jordie Tatter, who unexpectedly passed away in January 2003. Today, I am pleased that the conference center at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center is being dedicated to Jordie. This is a great honor for my friend; however because of votes in the House today, I can not be at the dedication ceremony this afternoon in Berrien County.

As this dedication confirms, Jordie was a giant in the agricultural and natural resources industries. His commitment and enthusiasm to excellence in the field of agriculture was unmatched, whether it be at the local, national, and yes, even international level. He truly embodied the heart and soul of southwest Michigan, and I am blessed to have formed a close friendship. I looked at this friendship, not only as a source of console and inspiration, but also as a true compass of direction in greater understanding and appreciation of our community.

I have never met a man more passionate or knowledgeable toward the industry he loved—Michigan agriculture. Jordie was always willing to lend his extensive knowledge to those interested, and his great mind benefited all who had the pleasure of crossing his path. I was fortunate enough to call Jordie a close friend. During the time that I had with him, I relied on his insight and intelligence. He was kind and supportive—even more so when times were tough. Jordie's love of his work, the outdoors, the Farm Bureau, and Michigan State University, will be deeply remembered and this dedication is yet another reminder of his immense impact on our community.

We all miss Jordie greatly but his legacy lives on at the Extension Center, as others continue to follow in his footsteps in the agriculture community. He will always live on through our many wonderful memories that will not fade away.

INTRODUCTION OF AGE-OUT FIX FOR ADOPTED FOREIGN CHILDREN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, many American families bring new children into their lives through foreign adoption. Some do so to help orphans in countries unable to meet the needs of abandoned children while others adopt for more personal reasons.

Families spend years of effort, thousands of dollars, and more importantly, become emotionally attached to the child they adopt. Unfortunately, because of odd provisions in the immigration code, in rare cases adoptive parents find there is no way to gain legal immigration status for the child they have adopted from overseas.

Current law allows foreign children adopted by American citizens to attain legal immigration status and citizenship through their adoptive parents. To do so, the adoptions must be finalized by the age of 16 for immigration purposes. However, some adoptions can be very long and difficult processes, especially international adoptions. An adoption initiated at age 14 or even earlier can sometimes only be finalized after age 16. In that case, the child who has been adopted will be denied legal immigration status to stay with their adoptive family, unlike children whose adoptions were finalized sooner.

Often, American parents seek help by approaching their Member of Congress to seek a private relief bill so their child can stay with the family. But there is a better way than dealing with these tragic cases on such a haphazard basis.

Today I am introducing a bill to straighten out this problem. By simply changing the current requirement that adoptions be finalized before the adoptee's 16th birthday, to requiring that adoptions be initiated before the 16th birthday, these terrible cases will be avoided. In this way, children whose adoptions have been time-consuming may still obtain U.S. immigration status through their adoptive parents like other adoptees. Bureaucratic delay should not be the reason parents are separated from their adopted children.

Congress has considered and granted private relief for some children in these difficult situations whose parents are lucky enough to get a private relief bill introduced and passed in Congress. Rather than approach this problem in a piecemeal fashion through private relief bills, I hope this Congress will work together to quickly pass this important bill and provide relief to many American families who only want the chance to begin their new life with an adopted child.

MEDICARE DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD testimony submitted by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare to the Senate Finance Committee regarding the new Medicare discount card program. This statement correctly identifies some of the concerns Seniors have with discount cards and the Medicare Prescription Drug Law in general.

Mr. Chairman, we believe the problems evident in the discount card program have provided Congress with a unique opportunity to correct the flaws in the new Medicare bill before it goes into effect.—Barbara B. Kennelly, President and CEO, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD—SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, MEDICARE DRUG CARD: DELIVERING SAVINGS FOR PARTICIPATING BENEFICIARIES, JUNE 8, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the 3.2 million members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, we applaud Chairman Grassley and Senator Baucus for holding this hearing today. We