

The story of Ann and Lydia does not end with the work that they do. It continues with their encouragement and support of others who volunteer for the community. If someone is receiving an award, they are there. If something is being dedicated, they are there. If someone puts on a parade, they are there. If there is a civic ceremony, yes, they are there. With encouragement comes hope and with hope comes the wherewithal a city needs to tackle its future. Ann and Lydia Endrejtis provide Collinsville with concrete acts of kindness and to them we give our heartfelt thanks. Diakonia.

I offer my personal congratulations to my friends Ann and Lydia as well as my thanks to the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce for being as moved by Diane's nomination as I was.

COMMENDATION OF TECH. SGT.
THOMAS NEVIN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today in commendation of Tech. Sgt. Thomas Nevin, recipient of this year's USO Warrior of the Year award for the Cleveland area.

Sgt. Nevin is a member of the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron out of Youngstown Air Reserve Station in my district, and I am proud of his service to America in the war on terrorism. Sergeant Nevin was selected for volunteering to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom for over a year and a half. While deployed, he received high praise from his superiors as he demonstrated his technical skills in replacing generators, re-directing a power outage, and installing diesel generators. In Iraq, he led a task force that doubled the available power to an airport in an area that was considered potentially dangerous. As our service men and women work hard daily to rebuild and improve Iraq's power grid, I am confident Sergeant Nevin was vital to that effort while deployed.

Mr. Speaker, at a time that calls for men and women to stand up and volunteer, I am privileged to have a constituent that appeals to our best qualities as citizens. It is good to know the people of Ohio's 17th congressional district are represented in uniform by a man with character, courage, and commitment to national service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed five votes in the House of Representatives on June 25, 2004. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on the Sanders amendment to H.R. 4614, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of FY 2005. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on the Wilson (NM) amendment to H.R. 4614, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of FY 2005. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on the Meehan amendment to H.R. 4614, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of FY 2005. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on the Hefley amendment to H.R. 4614, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of FY 2005. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on passage of H.R. 4614, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of FY 2005. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THORNE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Thorne Ecological Institute (TEI), its record of providing ecological education and environmental awareness to countless numbers of young people, and its development of forward-looking environmental policies.

I believe that many of the problems which face our Nation can be solved through better understanding and awareness of our natural surroundings. For 50 years, the Thorne Ecological Institute has been dedicated to fulfilling this goal by giving hands-on experience to children and adults in Colorado.

In 1954, Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II, established the Thorne Ecological Institute in hopes of bringing environmental education to the community of Boulder, Colorado. He taught a variety of courses at the University of Colorado at Boulder, working to increase his students' understanding of the environment and its complex interrelationships. His goal was to "connect people to nature," and the last 50 years have seen this goal met with great success. To this day, the Thorne Ecological Institute maintains its commitment to environmental education, now with a focus on children and young people in the Colorado's Front Range. Innovative programs like Project BEAR—Building Environmental Awareness and Respect—reach inner-city children and establish a connection with the wonders of nature, an invaluable accomplishment and contribution to our society.

In addition to their outstanding efforts with children, the Institute was a catalyst in establishing environmental organizations in Colorado, including the first chapters of the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and the Denver Audubon Society. These organizations have been essential to the protection and promotion of Colorado's environment, and their impact is a direct result of Dr. Thorne's pioneering work.

I would also like to recognize the Thorne Ecological Institute for its innovation within environmental policy. The City of Boulder has been honored nationally for its policy of buying open-space to ensure a high quality of life for its residents. We must remember, though, that the Institute played a critical role in developing this landmark policy. Moreover, long before

the Environmental Protection Agency required environmental impact studies, the TEI was conducting them in Colorado to increase understanding of the consequences of commercial development and to lay the foundation for their mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, environmental understanding and protection of environmental quality are things close to my heart—and the Thorne Ecological Institute has been at the forefront of the environmental movement in the Rockies for 50 years. Under the leadership of Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II, the TEI has fulfilled the dream of connecting people to nature. I congratulate the Thorne Ecological Institute for its accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in appreciation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MARION STEWART ON HER 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Marion Stewart was born on July 19, 1905; and

Whereas, Marion Stewart is celebrating her 99th birthday today; and

Whereas, Marion Stewart, is a long-time active participant in the social and civic life of the community; and

Whereas, Marion Stewart has exemplified a love for her family and friends and must be commended for her life-long dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Marion Stewart a very happy 99th birthday.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this special order commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Penn State University. As a proud alumnus of Penn State University, I can attest to the quality of education offered by this outstanding institution of higher learning.

Beginning like so many other state universities as a school to provide an education in farming and agricultural science to the citizens of Pennsylvania—which, by the way, is still one of its important missions—the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania in Centre County, Pennsylvania, grew rapidly and has educated thousands of Americans over the last 150 years.

Today, The Pennsylvania State University boasts 20 branch campuses across the commonwealth and offers a full range of undergraduate majors and graduate degrees, as well as a college of medicine and a highly respected law school. In fact, many of Penn State's grad schools are considered among the nation's top ten in their fields. It has an enrollment of over 80,000 students each year,

and it is considered one of the premier research universities in the nation. I might add that it also has one hell of a football team, which has been led to many victories over the years by its legendary coach, Joe Paterno.

I look back fondly on my years in State College as some of the best years of my life. I received a world-class education at Penn State between 1971 and 1975, and I also had a pretty darned good time on campus.

Consequently, I am proud to mark this milestone in the life of my alma mater by participating in this special order commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of this remarkable institution of higher learning. I can't wait to see what Penn State and its alumni achieve in the next 150 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY E. LEISHMAN, LIFELONG COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND FRIEND OF NEW YORK CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mary E. Leishman, a longtime resident and champion of New York City. Ms. Leishman, who passed away on June 12, 2004, leaves behind a large and caring family, devoted friends, loyal colleagues and an incredible record of community service. Mary worked every day to promote the interests of her community and to better the lives of New York City residents. The city and people of New York will miss her dearly.

Ms. Leishman was known as the "Godmother of Yorkville"—the area of Manhattan she called home for the majority of her life. Yorkville lies between the Upper East Side and East Harlem neighborhoods of Manhattan, which are traditionally regarded as the borough's wealthiest and poorest areas. The great diversity of Ms. Leishman's neighborhood fueled her many accomplishments, and provided the setting for her significant contributions to the public good.

Mary was truly a servant of the people, devoting much of her time and energy to New York City politics and public policy. Ms. Leishman served for more than fifteen years as a District Leader of the Eastside Democratic Club and was a longtime delegate to the Democratic County Convention. Mary worked tirelessly for the causes in which she believed, and showed a particular affinity for "grass-roots" campaigning. Mary was always available to work at polling locations, collect signatures and perform other administrative tasks—duties that are essential to the functioning of our democracy, but that are often overlooked.

Mary was always attentive to the adage that "all politics is local." Ms. Leishman was a devoted member of Manhattan Community Board Eight, serving in both professional and volunteer capacities. Ms. Leishman was the Chairwoman of Board Eight's Roosevelt Island Committee and for decades visited the island at least twice a week to assess neighborhood concerns and needs. Mary is perhaps best remembered, however, for her efforts to help a great many New Yorkers, particularly veterans and the disabled, find affordable places to live.

Indeed, Ms. Leishman led Board Eight's efforts to preserve the Upper East Side's stock of moderate-income housing.

In recent days, many of Ms. Leishman's friends have contacted me to relate stories of Mary's great kindness to individuals in her community. I understand that not too long ago, Ms. Leishman and a friend were walking along 34th Street in Manhattan when a man stopped to ask them for money. Noticing that the man was barefoot, Mary led him to a nearby store and bought him socks and a new pair of shoes. Similarly, Mary was known to regularly provide hot meals to homeless persons she encountered in her travels around the city. These are only a few examples of Mary's generous spirit, but they underscore the fact that Ms. Leishman never ignored the most vulnerable members of her community.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring the late Mary Leishman, whose lifetime of community service exemplifies the tradition of civic involvement that makes America the greatest nation in the world. To Ms. Leishman's friends, family members and colleagues, I offer my continuing respect, admiration and support.

HONORING FATHER FRANK PERKOVICH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Father Frank Perkovich, for his fifty years of faithful service and tireless ministry.

A native of my hometown, Chisholm, Minnesota, Father Perkovich recently announced his retirement as pastor of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert, Minnesota, and I know that all who know Father Perkovich will miss his original style of spreading "The Good News."

Father Perk, as he is known, believed it did not matter how one worshiped as long as it raised one's mind and heart to God. Drawing on his strong Slovenian heritage and the culture of his community, Father Perk created a Mass set to the old ethnic melodies of polka music and celebrated the first Polka Mass in 1973. For the next 30 years, this unusual blend of folk music and holy worship has become internationally popular, and Father Perk's recording of the Polka Mass has become one of the top-selling polka albums of all time.

In 1983, Father Perk traveled to Rome and celebrated the Polka Mass on the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican for Pope John Paul II, who blessed the "Polka Priest's" endeavor. It was the experience of a lifetime for a humble pastor from a small town in Minnesota who only wanted to create a liturgical service that would bring people together and closer to God.

On the occasion of his retirement, I want to join his many friends and parishioners to congratulate Father Perkovich for his many years of service to his Catholic faith community and Minnesota's Iron Range.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent from the House of Representatives on June 24, 2004 and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Rollcall No. 303 (H. Res. 692) "yea,"; Rollcall No. 301 (H. Res. 685) "nay,"; Rollcall No. 304 (H. Res. 676) "yea,"; Rollcall No. 319 (H. Res. 691) "yea,"; Rollcall No. 318 (H.R. 4663) "nay."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MERLE W. MARBURGER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas Merle W. Marburger was born on July 21, 1914 and is celebrating his 90th Birthday today; and

Whereas, Merle W. Marburger is a long-time active participant in the social and civic life of the community; and

Whereas, Merle W. Marburger has exemplified a love for his family and friends and must be commended for his life-long dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Merle W. Marburger as he celebrates his 90th Birthday.

RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF MICHAEL LEHNEN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Assistant Fire Chief Michael Lehen of Bethalto, Illinois. Chief Lehen passed away at the age of 57 after 29 years of service to his community. His funeral held in Bethalto drew large crowds of grateful citizens.

I rise today to honor more than simply one life of one man from my home district. I rise to honor a man, Michael Lehen, whose work as a fireman represents what's truly good in America. He lived his life, day in and day out, always ready to rush into burning buildings to save the lives of whoever was in danger. Firemen and women, like Mike don't get many monuments, they don't get much in the way of recognition, but they should; because they represent the best that we should all aspire to be ourselves.

We live in a time where sports stars, rock stars and pro-wrestlers are our children's heroes. I hope that we might also commit ourselves to showing our children and grandchildren who are the real heroes in their lives—the many Michael Lehen's who serve their communities each day.