

boats around the rapids to reach Lake Superior. Larger ships had to have their cargo unloaded and then moved by wagon to the other side of the rapids, where it could be loaded onto another ship.

In the 1840s, extensive copper and iron mining began in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and several boomtowns soon sprang up along Lake Superior's shores. Due to the lack of roads, all travel and trade was done by boat. The increased traffic soon made it clear that continuing the loading and unloading of cargo at Sault Ste. Marie would not be possible.

An act of Congress in 1852 gave 750,000 acres of public land to the State of Michigan for use as compensation to the company that would build a system of locks between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes. The project was undertaken by the Fairbanks Scale Company due to their mining interests in the Upper Peninsula.

Despite poor building conditions during the cold winters, the two 350-foot locks were constructed within the 2-year deadline set by the State. On May 31, 1855, the locks were turned over to the State of Michigan and named the State Lock.

The opening of the State Lock decreased the cost of shipping iron ore from the Upper Peninsula to industrial centers like Detroit, Chicago, and Cleveland, by more than half. This, along with railroad improvements, allowed Michigan's Upper Peninsula to fuel America's industrial revolution. Michigan was able to lead the nation in iron production for almost 50 years. Even today, about 22 percent of the iron ore produced in the United States comes from Marquette County alone.

In 1881, it became clear that new locks would be necessary to keep up with growing traffic. Additionally, the State did not have the funds to improve the existing locks, so they were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers, where they have been ever since.

The current lock system consists of a total of four locks, two of which are shallower and no longer used. The other two, the MacArthur and the Poe locks, were completed in 1943 and 1968 respectively. The MacArthur lock is used most often and can accommodate ships of up to 800 feet in length. Larger ships need to use the Poe lock as it can handle ships of up to 1,000 feet in length. There are plans to build a new lock in place of the two unused locks, but funding has not been appropriated. Common cargos that pass through the locks today include iron ore, limestone, coal, grain, cement, salt and sand.

Today the Great Lakes shipping industry and the Soo Locks still allow many industries to stay competitive. The Soo Locks shaped the economy of the Great Lakes region, and the engineers who helped design and construct the locks truly deserve to be remembered and honored.●

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KING'S DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate King's Daughters Medical Center of Ashland, KY. This hospital has been named as one of the Solucient Top 100 Hospitals in America.

King's Daughters has been chosen for this award among every hospital in America. This award cannot be applied for; it is simply given to the hospitals that rank among the best in clinical outcomes, patient safety, operational efficiency, financial results, and service to the community. Solucient, a leading source of health care business intelligence, uses these five criteria to independently determine the best hospitals in America.

The citizens of Ashland should be proud of this hospital. Their success serves as an example of how Kentucky is more than capable of providing elite-level health care to its citizens. King's Daughters Medical Center's dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the health care community of the Commonwealth. I wish them continued success in the future.●

SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Self-Help Enterprises. Self-Help is an organization that helps low-income families build their own homes. Now in its 40th year, Self-Help Enterprises has been instrumental in building over 5,000 new homes in the San Joaquin Valley.

As its name implies, Self-Help aids families that try to help themselves. The mission of Self-Help Enterprises stresses that of personal responsibility, pride in ownership and community. Through its various programs Self-Help not only helps to build houses, it builds communities.

To qualify for help a family must demonstrate that it is committed to building their own home and that it is dedicated to helping others in the community. In this way, Self-Help ensures that a sense of community is built. Families receive counseling through every step of the home building process and are taught, not shown, how to build a house so that they may take pride in their work. Each family must contribute at least 40 hours of "sweat equity" a week towards building their home, with a total of 1,300-1,500 hours of labor. Self-Help calls this sweat equity the family's down payment. Families are organized into groups of 10 or 12. From these groups families work to build each others' homes. Through cooperative work Self-Help Enterprises helps an average of 150 families build homes each year.

Self-Help Enterprises also works on Community Development Projects designed to improve the infrastructure present in low-income neighborhoods.

Similarly, Self-Help rehabilitates older homes to help families keep homes that may be run-down, and makes homes safer to live in. To date, Self-Help has rehabilitated 5,000 homes, renovated 20,000 water and sewer connections, and weather-proofed 40,000 homes.

Self-Help understands the importance of providing affordable housing to families. For families who cannot own a home, Self-Help develops multi-family housing projects and establishes rent levels and financing plans to give low-income families a chance to raise their children in a safe and secure environment.

In its mission statement, Self-Help Enterprises states that all families really need is "someone to bridge the gulf between dreams and reality." Self-Help is that bridge. I congratulate Self-Help Enterprises on their 40th anniversary and wish them many more years of continued success.●

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, FRESNO

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 20th anniversary of Habitat for Humanity, Fresno.

Habitat for Humanity, Fresno was formed in 1985. For the past 20 years, Habitat for Humanity has been a champion in the community on behalf of those who cannot afford homes. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to end poverty housing "by uniting individuals, families and communities to build decent, affordable housing."

Since its inception, Habitat for Humanity, Fresno has helped build over 35 homes. The process through which it helps to build homes demonstrates its dedication to its mission. Habitat for Humanity stresses that it does not build homes for families. It facilitates the building of homes. While the difference may seem slight, it is in fact one of the sources of success for this organization. To qualify for aid from Habitat for Humanity, families must show that they are invested in building a home. This investment, or dedication, will serve as the foundation from which a house is built.

Habitat for Humanity chooses its families regardless of ethnicity. It provides aid to low income families who show a willingness to partner with the community. This willingness to partner serves to perpetuate an altruistic sense of participation and involvement within the community. And indeed, Habitat for Humanity is fueled by the dedication and goodwill of volunteers.

Since 1985, Habitat for Humanity has hosted over 7,000 volunteers. These volunteers range in age, ethnicity, gender and occupation. The diverse background of these volunteers is representative of the far reach that Habitat for Humanity has in the community.

The homes they construct are built with the love, strength and dedication of a community. The mission of Habitat for Humanity goes far beyond