

for the Alzheimer's Research Center at the University of California at Davis Medical Center; donating \$5500 to the helipad at Sutter Solano Hospital in Vallejo; donating to numerous charities in the area; and in 1976 sponsoring the Landing of Columbus at the Vallejo Waterfront as a Bicentennial Tribute to the City of Vallejo.

Through the years the Virgilio Lodge and the Beatrice Portinari Lodge have jointly participated in activities from civic to social functions in Vallejo. Among their shared highlights during their 75-year history are sponsoring the annual Columbus Day Banquet and initiating the renaming of Miller Road to Columbus Parkway. In 1974 they dedicated their own Lodge building in the former Lincoln School annex, which represents a second family home to the entire membership. Three Lodge members have served as Mayors of Vallejo: Terry Cutrola, Jr., Anthony J. Intintoli, Jr., and Gloria Exline. Many other members have served as elected or appointed officials in the City of Vallejo and are very active in the community.

I commend the Virgilio Lodge No. 1586 and the Beatrice Portinari Lodge No. 1626 for their many contributions to the City of Vallejo and wish them many more years of service to the community.

HONORING DAVID ANDERSEN

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize David Andersen, President and CEO of Saratoga Hospital and Saratoga Care Inc., in celebration of his retirement on August 31, 2006. The immeasurable amount of time and effort that David has given during his career has helped countless citizens of my district, and has made Saratoga County a better place to live.

Since becoming President and CEO of Saratoga Hospital in 1991, David has greatly expanded and improved the healthcare capabilities available to those in need throughout Saratoga County. Under his leadership the hospital merged with Family Health Centers in the towns of Ballston Spa, Galway, and Schuylerville, and established Saratoga Care Inc. as the parent company of the combined healthcare organization. During his tenure, David oversaw the creation of the Same Day Surgery Center, the Cardiac Catheterization Center, the Saratoga Surgery Center, the Radiation Oncology Center, the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center, and Wilton Medical Arts as affiliates of Saratoga Hospital. David has also worked to implement innovative healthcare education programs through Saratoga Care, to give patients and their families the knowledge they need to make difficult healthcare decisions. Through his tireless dedication to his profession, Saratoga Hospital and its affiliates have become among the healthiest in the Capital District of New York.

It is my privilege to honor such a selfless and dedicated member of my district. All citizens should be able to have access to the best quality healthcare available, and through David's leadership and the expansion of the

Saratoga Hospital and its affiliates, that has become a reality to so many of my constituents in Saratoga County. On behalf of the House of Representatives I would like to commend David Andersen on a truly distinguished career and wish him the best of luck in the future.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTLAND'S MAX LIGHT RAIL LINE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of Portland's pioneering MAX—Metropolitan Area Express—one of America's first light-rail lines. Since 1986, MAX has been one of our region's most visible icons of livability—and has served as an inspiration to cities across the Nation and around the world. Instead of building yet another expensive and destructive freeway that would have divided and degraded Southeast Portland, we created MAX and coaxed higher-value investments from Federal transportation dollars. While this was certainly controversial at the time, our decision led to a renaissance for both Gresham and Portland and increased value for our entire region.

This anniversary gives us the opportunity to think about how our current decisions will be celebrated in another 20 years. If we are to continue our success, we must leverage what we've accomplished in the years ahead.

With light-rail, that's exactly what we're doing. In the last 20 years we have built three more extensions: Westside MAX, Airport MAX, and Interstate MAX. We are also hard at work on extending the system to the south and are hopeful that the next project will cross the Columbia River, expanding our regional system to include Vancouver, Washington.

The overwhelming popularity and success of our light-rail system is a testimony to wise investments, meaningful public participation, and regional leadership that took the political risks to make it all come together. The result has been a regional transportation system that truly supports the communities it serves and provides people with reliable and efficient choices to cope with congestion, skyrocketing oil prices, and global warming.

My heartiest congratulations to TriMet, elected officials, business leaders, and citizens throughout the Portland region for this amazing success story.

TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM WAR VETERAN LEON ZIMMERMANN, JR., OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leon Zimmermann, Jr., of Homosassa, Florida, a Purple Heart Veteran from the Vietnam War.

In August of 1970, Leon Zimmermann was assigned to guard an area along the Phouc

Xuyen River and provide a safe landing area for his fellow troops. As a 19-year-old Navy sailor serving in the jungles of Vietnam, Mr. Zimmermann was looking forward to his watch being over and the opportunity to get some much needed rest in the barracks.

A sudden mortar explosion killed two of his fellow troops, and severely wounded Mr. Zimmermann and two other sailors nearby. Taken to the radio room by the medics, Mr. Zimmermann was eventually evacuated by a rescue helicopter. Once he recovered from his wounds, he received a medical discharge from the Navy.

Due to problems with his military records, Mr. Zimmermann never received official recognition for his military service. I recently had the honor of presenting Mr. Zimmermann with his Purple Heart Medal for the wounds he received that fateful August afternoon.

Following his military service, Mr. Zimmermann was able to put the incident behind him and raise five wonderful children in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, sailors like Leon Zimmermann, Jr. should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to have presented Mr. Zimmermann with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST SIDE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary. This month, the congregation will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 uprising against communism in Hungary.

The Church has supported its members and community faithfully during its 100 years of service. It has served as a haven for immigrants and refugees during various stages of its historic pilgrimage. The Church has become a spiritual community comprised of Hungarian old timers, newcomers, and others associated with the congregation through family and religious ties.

All the people of the greater Cleveland area have benefited from the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church's participation in the community's social and cultural activities. People of the Cleveland area have joined the congregation to honor Hungarians who, half a century ago, resisted oppression, fought in a heroic attempt to restore freedom to Hungary, and made sacrifices to advance the cause of liberty.

My official congratulations and best wishes are extended to the Reverend Zoltan Sandor Kelemen, as well as to the members of the congregations, past and present, for their selfless efforts to serve the church and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in offering a proclamation of congratulations to the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church on its 100th anniversary.