

This is simply unacceptable. It is our duty as a prosperous nation to unite and ensure these children find safe, loving homes.

Six years ago, my wife and I decided to expand our family and open our home to two foster care children.

Like many adoptive families, we faced many challenges during this process. But these experiences have only made our family stronger.

The adoption process is often complicated and riddled with paperwork, meetings, and home studies—important factors when accessing the ability of a family to care for a new child—but they can also discourage qualified parents from embarking on the adoption process.

The foster care community has been working with Congress and state governments across the country to streamline the adoption process and focus on limited resources, such as requiring frequent home visits and experienced caseworkers.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to be the voice for foster children and make sure their dreams are recognized. We owe it to them to streamline the adoption process to ensure positive outcomes for these kids.

It is important that we continue to make this process more accessible to families so that these children can be welcomed into loving homes.

Despite the obstacles that we still need to overcome, this is a time to celebrate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that children across the nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW METZGER-CROOK POST 6504

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring the 60th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Metzger-Crook Post 6504 in Waterloo, Illinois.

In 1946, as many of our nation's veterans were returning from serving their country in World War II, a small group of veterans in Monroe County, Illinois began discussions about forming a local VFW post. With assistance from the Adjutant of the neighboring post in Belleville, and after the original group solicited additional veterans for membership, the Metzger-Crook Post was formed and received its charter on April 27, 1946. The name, Metzger-Crook, was selected in honor of the first two Monroe County residents to give their lives in World War II, Monroe Metzger and William Crook.

With 108 names on the original charter, John Mitchell was elected as the first president. Meetings in the early days were held in a variety of locations as the fledgling organization grew in size of membership and array of activities. The first fish fry and picnic was held on July 4, 1946 and was such an instant success that it developed into an annual event.

Post 6504 has provided support for countless individuals and organizations in Monroe

County throughout their sixty years of service. Scholarship recipients, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Operation Uplink and Adopt a Unit are just a few examples of the beneficiaries of Post 6504's support. The post also provides the use of assistance equipment such as canes, walkers and wheelchairs to anyone who asks.

The Metzger-Crook Post 6504 Auxiliary is also celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. In addition to their duties at the post, the Auxiliary has provided support for numerous organizations and individuals. Annual trips to visit nursing home residents, support of cancer research, local veterans hospitals and the children of veterans are just some of the ways that the Auxiliary has contributed to its community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of VFW Metzger-Crook Post 6504 both past and present on sixty years of serving veterans and the people of southwestern Illinois.

CONGRATULATING FOCUS: HOPE ON RECEIVING THE 2006 EXEMPLARY INTEREST CONTRIBUTION AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Focus: HOPE and its wonderful team for being selected to receive the 2006 Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award (EPIC). Focus: HOPE co-founder Eleanor Josaitis is one of my dear friends and one of the most admirable and inspiring women I know. She has put together an outstanding team of motivated, energetic individuals such as Keith Cooley, who recently became Chief Executive Officer.

The EPIC Award is one of the most prestigious honors recognized by the United States government through the Department of Labor, honoring public interest organizations that support equal employment opportunities and have worked with federal contractors to make these opportunities available for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

For nearly four decades, Focus: HOPE has been a leading voice for eliminating discrimination and injustice, starting in Southeast Michigan. Following the deadly and violent 1967 Detroit riots, Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis founded Focus: HOPE, a metropolitan civil and human rights organization committed to "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." The belief is that this goal can be accomplished if the playing field is level and the economic mainstream is accessible to everyone.

Focus: HOPE programs assist individuals from all walks of life in many different ways. Their food distribution program is one of the largest in the nation, serving 43,000 children, mothers and seniors every month. Focus: HOPE career development programs are targeted towards preparing participants for employment in high-demand fields such as engineering and information technology. Since its inception, Focus: HOPE has literally helped thousands of individuals—particularly women and minorities—to become financially independent.

Focus: HOPE is one of the most successful organizations of its kind in this country, and this award is well-deserved. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Focus: HOPE on another momentous achievement and in sending the Focus: HOPE team our best wishes for another successful year.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN LENABURG

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reflect upon the life of a strong and good man, Dean Lenaburg from Valley City, North Dakota.

Dean was my mentor and my friend. Without his role in my life, I would never have been a Member of Congress. Dean passed away earlier this year after a long battle with kidney and liver disease, but his memory will continue to guide and inspire his family and friends in the years ahead.

Dean was easy to look up to—he towered over most of us with a height of 6' 4" and the athletic build of someone who excelled in sports. He easily transitioned from the small town competition of Portland, North Dakota to stand-out on the University of North Dakota football team.

Dean's parents obviously instilled in him an intellectual curiosity and love of learning—that would be an important feature of his character throughout his life.

Dean quickly completed his university years earning his undergraduate and law degrees in just 5 years. He married Mary Trom from Lisbon, North Dakota, and upon graduation they began the adventure of Dean's service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dean would have been the very picture of an FBI agent in those days—tall, strong, smart, and absolutely committed to advancing justice and public safety. Dean was never one to talk about himself, so most of his experiences as an FBI agent were never shared—even with those closest to him. I know, however, he served with honor and that the FBI has never had an agent more trustworthy than Dean Lenaburg.

After several years Dean, Mary and their four young daughters, Kristin, Kathryn, Andrea, and Susan, came back to North Dakota where Dean began his career as a practicing attorney—briefly in Oakes and later in Valley City where he was a fixture in the area's legal community for more than 30 years.

In the course of these years, Dean made many positive contributions to his community, his clients and friends. He profoundly influenced my own life during this time, as revealed in three examples.

In 1971, my father died unexpectedly at the age of 57. Dean handled the estate. To this day, I vividly remember the competent and sensitive representation he provided to our grief stricken family. His example of service furthered my own thinking with regards to pursuit of a law career.

In 1974, Dean supported my application for the Rotary Foundation Award. With his help, I won the scholarship and was able to pursue graduate studies in England.

Finally, Dean and his law partner R. Jon Fitzner allowed me to fulfill my first career

goal—joining them in the practice of law back in my hometown.

Fortunately for me, both Dean and R. Jon had a broad and selfless view of my participation in the law firm. When I became interested in pursuing elected office—first for the legislature and then as a statewide candidate—they were completely supportive.

I believe the value of junior members in many law firms is found solely in the billable hours they generate for the benefit of the firm. Dean Lenaburg and R. Jon Fitzner thought I had something to offer in the area of public leadership. Without their understanding and support, I would never have been able to participate in the political process.

I only hope Dean knew the dimensions of gratitude I will always have for his allowing me to take my shot at elective office. As long as I may remain in public service, I hope and pray my efforts are worthy of the trusting support he provided.

One final aspect of Dean needs noting. He had a first rate intellect and insatiable appetite for learning. He was a lifelong student of history and read extensively. He would positively delight in uncovering a new insight or perspective on the historical development of our State and Nation.

His interest in scholarship led him to extended service on the Valley City Library Building. Our beautiful Andrew Carnegie building and its contents reflect his conscientious contribution to the preservation and enhancement of our community library.

Dean's spirit—including his active mind, his concern for others, and his good humor—lives on in his daughters and grandchildren.

Dean Lenaburg had a life well lived. All of us whose lives he touched feel grateful for having known him and will carry him in our thoughts and memories always.

IN MEMORY OF JON CORBIN, RECOGNIZING HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 2006 the U.S. House of Representatives lost an institution in the Members' Dining Room when Jon Corbin, maitre d' until January 2006, passed on.

Jon started his lifelong career working for Congress in 1954 working for Representative Sam Rayburn and the Texas Delegation giving tours of the U.S. Capitol. He also took a second job at the U.S. Senate Post Office from which he retired in 2005. Jon became very popular working with the Texas Delegation and was assigned the position of personal server for Rep. Rayburn in his private dining room until Rep. Rayburn's death in 1961. Jon went on to become the maitre d' of the Main Dining Room, now the Members' Dining Room, in 1968.

Jon loved his job, working with the Members of the House. He was an astute listener and would gather all the facts before answering most questions asked of him, giving well thought out, honest answers and his views on many subjects. He was a huge sports fan and did his research on most scores and the who,

what and when of big weekend games that Members would discuss with him. Jon was extremely knowledgeable about the U.S. Capitol and was considered the dining room staff information source on most questions concerning the Capitol. He was well liked and respected by his fellow workers and by Members of Congress. Jon had a great memory and knew most of the Members, past and present, by name on sight.

All who had the honor to meet and work with Jon Corbin will truly miss him. On behalf of the former and current Members Jon served over more than 50 years, and the entire House community, we celebrate Jon's contributions to this institution and extend condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1245, known as "Johanna's Law," which will increase the awareness and knowledge of gynecologic cancers. This legislation authorizes a national campaign to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers—including the creation of written information to distribute to the public.

This legislation was named after a constituent of mine, Johanna, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1997. Johanna was a healthy and active 54-year-old woman who had retired from teaching from Southfield Lathrup High School when she was diagnosed. It was a shock to Johanna and her family when they received the devastating news. Sadly, the cancer was not caught in time and she passed away on August 29, 2000.

Each year, more than 80,000 women are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. One-third—or 28,000—of these women will die from the disease. Survival rates drop 50 percent or less if the cancer is not diagnosed early.

Early detection is critical to successfully treat gynecologic cancers. Many symptoms of this type of cancer often resemble non-threatening illnesses. Furthermore, many gynecologic cancers do not have a reliable screening test for the general public to utilize.

It is important that we educate the American public on early detection and prevention of gynecologic cancers. Public awareness is crucial to curbing this deadly disease, and Johanna's Law will help spread knowledge that can save the lives of women that may die needlessly each year. I thank my colleagues for supporting the passage of "Johanna's Law."

HONORING JEROLD L. HARRIS OF WICHITA, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerold L. Harris of Wichita, Kansas. Jerold has served rural America for 43 years in his role with the Farm Credit System. American agriculture will miss this good friend come January when he plans to retire.

Jerold grew up on a farm near Denby, South Dakota, and later attended high school in Gordon, Nebraska. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business from Colorado State University in 1963, he went to work for the Farm Credit System, where his positive leadership helped people work together. Jerold embodies a statement he often quotes "There is no limit to progress when people work together."

During Jerold's 43 years of service, one accomplishment truly stands out. The Western Farm Credit Bank in Sacramento, California entered into a joint management agreement with the Farm Credit Bank of Wichita in January 2002. The Board of Directors named Jerold as President and Chief Executive Officer. Under this agreement, Jerold combined the operations of these two banks while developing and implementing a strategy to merge the two banks and form a new bank, U.S. AgBank, FCB, which would be headquartered in Wichita, Kansas.

The 1980s were a difficult decade for American agriculture. During part of this time Jerold was the Chief Executive Officer of the jointly managed Ninth District Federal Land Bank Association and the Ninth District Production Credit Association that served four states. Even in those difficult times, Jerold was able to bring people together, under a common objective, to produce results.

During his long and distinguished career, Jerold held numerous leadership positions within the Farm Credit System. He has served as a loan officer, an appraiser, a supervisor and a manager, a follower and a leader, but always with the same dedication and achievement.

Jerold has also provided distinguished service at the national level, serving 15 years as a member of the Farm Credit System Presidents Planning Committee, during three of which he served as Chairman. Jerold also served 11 years on the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, with three of those years as Chairman. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) and is a member of the NCFC Executive Council.

Jerold is also a familiar face here in Washington, DC. He has represented the Farm Credit System by testifying before both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees on numerous occasions, and always demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues and provided excellent input on the decisions facing congressional committees.

Jerold's honesty and integrity, keen intelligence, and an understanding of people has won him respect from his peers, workers, and the farmers and ranchers he has represented and served. His accomplishments speak volumes about his dedication to agriculture. He