

meetings in 1999. The Chamber has also joined SUPERCHEX (Superior California Chamber Exec's) to network with neighboring Chambers of Commerce. In collaboration with neighboring Chambers, the North Fork Chamber began advance planning, one year in advance, of chamber projects.

The North Fork Chamber started a weekly "North Fork Chamber Chat" column in the Sierra Star, a local newspaper. The Chamber also resumed monthly newsletters and monthly mixers for its members.

The North Fork Chamber secured \$52,500 in grants and matching funds to add new sidewalks, mini-parks, and tourist signs on Northfork's Main Street.

The Chamber began a part-time paid staff, courtesy of the USFS SCSEP program, which also provided mileage and classes on Micro-soft programs and project management. Along with their many achievements, the Chamber also acquired a new office, courtesy of CDC, at the Mill Site Office Building, furnished and staffed by Jim Flanagan.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the North Fork Chamber of Commerce for its service to the community. I urge colleagues to join me in wishing the North Fork Chamber of Commerce many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WATCHFUL
SHEPHERD AND JOSEPH FEMIANI

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month I praise the organizations which work tirelessly to end our children's suffering. I am proud to say that one such organization and its originator in my district are part of the crusade to make all children safe from harm. I am speaking of The Watchful Shepherd and Joseph Femiani.

Every day, 78 babies die, 2162 babies are born into poverty and 3,453 babies are born to unwed parents. Added to the likelihood that one in two children will live in a single parent family at some point in childhood, one in eight is born to a teenage mother and one in 60 sees their parents divorce in any year, it is no wonder that our children live in peril.

While Congress works to reverse these trends, The Watchful Shepherd protects children already suffering at the hands of relatives and family friends. Piloted in Southwestern Pennsylvania hospitals in 1993 and 1996, The Watchful Shepherd program unites the resources of Children and Youth Services agencies, police departments health care professionals and community residents in a unique effort to improve the protection of children at risk for abuse.

Since its successful adoption by Washington County Children and Youth Services, other communities such as Tom's River, New Jersey; Dover, Delaware; and Chesapeake, Virginia have employed the program with great success for families currently enrolled in Watchful Shepherd. Surprisingly, most families voluntarily agree to the program, which consists of a panic button worn on the child and a telephone unit which are monitored by hospital, police or trained volunteer personnel.

Many law enforcement agencies take Watchful Shepherd calls so seriously that they have classified the alarms as a level one priority. To date, there have been no false alarms and the system is constantly improving to serve children and their families together.

All great ideas have a creator. The chief champion of The Watchful Shepherd program is Joseph Femiani, whose idea has become a noble crusade. Borne out of personal experience, The Watchful Shepherd has no greater promoter. Mr. Femiani, a successful Washington County business owner, husband and father, could have savored the good life he had created for himself after a painful childhood, but he chose to make life safer for children everywhere.

Joe Femiani's tireless promotion of child abuse prevention and The Watchful Shepherd program has led to a feature in Time, an interview with National Public Radio and a segment on NBC's Dateline in addition to numerous grassroots campaigns to get the message out about his lifesaving program. All of this effort is not in vain. Mr. Femiani continues to receive national and international interest in The Watchful Shepherd program and works endlessly to organize financial support for those communities seeking to adopt the program.

Many marvel at Joe's stamina and commitment to his cause, as was the case in an interview with the Pittsburgh Catholic. "Whenever Joseph Femiani questions whether his efforts makes a difference, he reaches for a card he carries in his wallet which bears the names of children who have been murdered." That—it seems—has made all the difference.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTINGHOUSE
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the Westinghouse High School, and in particular the men's senior basketball team. Westinghouse High School located in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, in the heart of the Westside, has a long tradition of academic and athletic excellence. The school has graduated several professional basketball players, including Mark Aguirre and former College Player of the Year and NBA All-Star Hersey Hawkins.

The dream of winning a state championship inspired the Westinghouse Warriors to diligently practice and perform throughout a grueling 33 game season. This year, with a season record of 31-2, the team clinched the city of Chicago championship. Their success led them to Peoria, Illinois to compete for the Class AA state title, their ultimate goal. Their hard work and determination had rewarded them with their first major achievement, the city title. However, upon the completion of the very competitive state championship game the Westinghouse Warriors came short of the victory.

In spite of their loss, I commend this hard-working and dedicated team. This team has epitomized hard work and persistence. In addition to their feats on the basketball court, team members have maintained their dedication to academics, they are truly student-ath-

letes, students first, then athletes—and champions in both.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the Westinghouse High School men's basketball team for their outstanding performance and dedication. The team, along with its head coach Mr. Chris Head, have worked hard to achieve their accomplishments. They should be honored by all of America.

NEW CROP INSURANCE OFFERS
FARMERS MORE PROTECTION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the April 3, 2000, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial expresses support for a new form of crop insurance which allows farmers to protect themselves against both natural disasters and low prices. This Member is pleased that legislation passed last year by the House makes many improvements in the current program, including providing additional assistance for producers to purchase insurance that provides protection from price or income loss, as well as production loss. This Member encourages expeditious action on resolving the differences between the risk management bills passed by the House and Senate.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Apr. 3, 2000]
CROP INSURANCE AN IMPROVEMENT

WITH NEW INSURANCE TYPE, FARMERS CAN
FINALLY CONTROL PART OF THEIR OPERATIONS

With the weather and market price swings completely out of their control, an increasing number of farmers are embracing one of the few things that can give them at least some control over their income.

It comes in the form of crop insurance but not the type that most people think of. For years, crop insurance was a way to insure against crop disasters caused by weather debacles.

The problem was that it often was expensive, didn't provide complete coverage and many farmers shunned it, choosing instead to hope that Mother Nature would cooperate and, if that wasn't the case, that the federal government would come through with emergency assistance.

That kind of crop insurance still is available, but a newer type—one that insures against price dips and weather-related problems—is fast becoming the preferred option.

That's partly because the federal government has chosen to provide \$400 million in additional subsidies, meaning the premiums for crop insurance have been reduced by about 25 percent. A lower price for better coverage is the kind of deal anyone needs to take a close look at.

The other factor is the kind of insurance available. While more expensive than the traditional type that insures against weather-related problems, the new revenue coverage offers farmers more peace of mind in that it guarantees an income level regardless of what happens with the weather.

It also provides more marketing flexibility for participating farmers and even could provide some supplemental income during a bumper crop year—assuming market prices are low as a result.

If that sounds too good to be true, there's more. Although government subsidies have

increased for crop insurance, it is predicted that if enough farmers take advantage of the insurance options available to them, there will be significantly less chance of the government having to provide emergency bailouts because of droughts or other conditions. Those usually are more expensive to taxpayers than the subsidies.

Farming always has been one of the highest risk occupations in terms of financial results.

If this new type of crop insurance can help reduce that risk, while also reducing emergency expenditures by the federal government, then virtually everyone should benefit.

THE NATIONAL MEDIA TREATS
THE SOUTH DIFFERENTLY

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the following article from the Lexington County Chronicle, Lexington, South Carolina.

[From the Lexington County Chronicle, Mar. 9, 2000]

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, DAN RATHER?

(By Jerry Bellune)

Before you call me a racist, you should know that I cut my reporting teeth covering the civil rights movement of the early 1960s. It was a beat few white reporters wanted. And at one time, I was the only reporter in Charlotte, N.C., the demonstrators trusted.

When we went north in 1964, we found racism rampant there, too. One Yankee landlord refused to rent to us because, to her northern ears, our southern accents sounded African-American.

Jump ahead from the 1960s to the Year 2000. Southern schools have been desegregated. Discrimination is illegal. African-Americans have established more than a foothold in business and the middle class. In the arts and sports, they have become a dominant force.

Yet the national media seems ignorant of—or worse, indifferent to—the Deep South's dramatic social changes. They can't seem to balance changes in attitude with the other big Southern story—the Sun Belt's economic explosion.

This came home to me last week in two tragic stories. In Pennsylvania, a black man went on a rampage, killing three white people and wounding two others. In Michigan, the 6-year-old son of a jail bird took a gun to school and "got even" by shooting a white classmate to death.

Both stories were one-day sensations on TV and the local daily's front page. After that, both stories slipped deep into the inside pages.

That made me wonder how the two stories would have been handled had the races of the killers and their victims been reversed.

What might Dan Rather have had to say about a white man going on a rampage, singling out black victims. Or a white boy shooting a black classmate to death? Would the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson have descended on Michigan and Pennsylvania to lead street marches against the perpetrators of these "racist" murders?

If they are for civil rights for everybody, where are they now? And where are the TV cameras?

If either of these crimes had occurred in the South, would they have been reported as

examples of the climate of violence and racism in this backward section of our great nation?

HONORING DR. THOMAS M.
MCFADDEN

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Thomas McFadden, this year's recipient of the Community Association of the Peninsula's (CAP) Agnes R. Moss Volunteer Award.

The Agnes R. Moss Award is presented annually by the CAP Board of Trustees to the person who has been most instrumental in assisting the association to fulfill its goals. Dr. McFadden is being honored for his expertise, talent, and leadership in enhancing CAP programs.

The mission of CAP is to bring cohesiveness to all residents of the Peninsula and to respond to unmet community needs. CAP programs include the Norris Theatre for the Performing Arts, the Spirit of the Peninsula Telethon, Study Skills Workshops, the Multicultural Committee, and the Peninsula Cultural Organization.

Dr. McFadden's contributions to CAP and its programs are extensive. He has been a member of the CAP Board of Trustees since 1993 and previously served as its president for two one-year terms. In addition to his service to CAP, Dr. McFadden has been an active member of the community serving on several Peninsula advisory boards including the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce and the Skirball Institute.

I congratulate Dr. McFadden on receiving this award. He is a valuable member of this Peninsula community. His contributions are much appreciated.

HONORING MEMBERS OF ARMED
FORCES AND FEDERAL CIVILIAN
EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED NA-
TION DURING VIETNAM ERA AND
FAMILIES OF THOSE INDIVID-
UALS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
OR REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR
OR WERE INJURED DURING
THAT ERA

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 228.

This bill recognizes and honors the sacrifice of our Vietnam-era veterans, their families, and those who are still unaccounted for and remain missing.

It is important for our nation to never forget the service of these military personnel.

Over 3.5 million U.S. military personnel served in the Republic of Vietnam and Southeast Asia, and millions more served around the world during the Vietnam era.

As a Vietnam Veteran, I am proud of the service of these men and women.

I saw first hand their incredible commitment and unwavering dedication to our national defense and American ideals.

After a quarter of a century since the end of the Vietnam War, it is important for all Americans to reflect on the incredible sacrifices made by these veterans who stood up to communism in Southeast Asia and around the world.

Our Vietnam-era veterans are heroes for their incredible courage and bravery both here in the United States and while deployed overseas.

They fought for freedom during a time when public support for their efforts was divided.

They returned to a nation that unfortunately did not welcome them back with the gratitude they deserved.

This was after they had withstood some of the most vicious and difficult combat conditions imaginable.

The effects of these circumstances on the lives of our Vietnam-era veterans and their families can never be fully measured.

Therefore, let us never forget the honorable service of our Vietnam-era veterans, and the heavy price paid by their friends and families.

Their sacrifice paved the way for the freedom and security we enjoy today, and no American should take for granted their willingness to serve in support of our national security and to turn back the tide of totalitarianism.

This resolution serves as a strong reminder of our gratitude to our Vietnam-era Veterans and to our soldiers currently deployed around the world.

It sends a message that we will never forget the memory of those who paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom, and maintains our commitment to those who remain unaccounted for and are still missing.

Let this bill strengthen our resolve on behalf of our Vietnam-era veterans and their families, and serve as an expression of our appreciation and gratitude.

As someone who serves on the House Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, I salute our Vietnam-era Veterans and am proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE TOWNSHIP OF
LOWER MERION IN MONT-
GOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYL-
VANIA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Today I congratulate the township of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary. On March 5, 1900 Lower Merion formed what has become a model township government in Montgomery County.

Lower Merion's roots extend to 1682 when Welsh Quakers were granted a tract of land by William Penn just outside Philadelphia. In 1713, Lower Merion established an independent Township with about 52 landholders and tenants. The 1850s brought rapid change to Lower Merion with the advent of the railroad and marked the birth of the area known today as the "Main Line." Philadelphians soon began settling in the township and commuting to Philadelphia. In 1900, the Township was incorporated as a Township of the First Class.