

1969. In 1975, he also cofounded the Methacoal Corp. of which he served as president. His coinventor partner, the late Austin N. Stanton, also of Bonham, TX, who died 5 years earlier to the day, was a renowned inventor who received numerous awards and is known as the inventor of microcircuitry—the precursor to the computer age—and the founder of Varo Corp.

Mr. Keller was a visionary in his field. His inventions likely will come to fruition in the coming years. These include a BiRotor device that will enable the direct methanol fuel cell to power automobiles, a water purification system that turns sea water into distilled water, an environmental oxygen system, the use of methacoal instead of coal to reduce smog and hurricane-proof, tornado-resistant homes. These are just a few of the technologies that Mr. Keller developed with his partner, Mr. Stanton—technologies designed to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Mr. Keller was a dedicated member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Bonham, where he served as an elder, and he was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4852 in Bonham. He also was dedicated to his family and is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marjorie Maxine Keller; sons Jerry, Steve, and David; one grandson; two granddaughters; five great-grandsons; one nephew; and two nieces.

Mr. Keller will long be remembered for his many contributions to his country and community, and he will be sorely missed by his loving family and his many friends in Bonham. As we adjourn today, Mr. Speaker, let us pay our last respects to this outstanding American, Leonard James Keller, who envisioned a better future for all of us.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

MAY 8, 2000

Rollcall vote No. 146, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 296, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the necessity to expedite the settlement process concerning claims of racism against the Department of Agriculture brought by African-American farmers, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 147, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 3577, increased authorization for the North Side Pumping Division of the Minidoka Reclamation Project, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 18, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 89, recognizing the Hermann Monument as a national symbol of the contributions of Americans of German heritage, I would have voted "yea."

#### KENTUCKY NURSES WEEK

### HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a group of Kentuckians who are truly dedicated to serving others. The qualities of our nurses are not limited to their medical skill and quick thinking, but also include their reassuring and comforting manner. Day after day, in endless settings, nurses are expected to be energetic, efficient, and attentive. This week is Kentucky Nurses Week, and we should all remember the nurses across the Commonwealth who have committed their careers to helping others feel better.

Each medical area has a network of nurses who devote long hours to offering quality care to people from each walk of life. It probably isn't difficult to remember a time when a nurse's skill eased our pain, or when a nurse's kind words or smile eased our apprehension. From simple to very technical procedures, nurses are prepared to help and offer service in one of the most healing fields.

The nursing profession is vital to our well-being and survival. I am proud to call your attention to Kentucky Nurses Week, May 6–12, and hope you will join me in thanking nurses sincerely for their hard work.

#### HONORING THE LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY HOSPICE

### HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, this is National Hospital Week, when communities across the country celebrate the people that put a human face and human touch on health care. This year's theme sums it up nicely: "Touching the Future with Care." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring, for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the hospice at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Circle of Life Award, which recognizes innovation and improvement in end of life care.

The hospice at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the largest maximum security prison in the United States, provides a humane and caring environment to the terminally ill. Inmates dying in the prison hospital can now spend more time with their families, be comforted by specially trained fellow inmate volunteers, and have their pain managed in a setting that is especially wary of the use of drugs. This innovative program not only gives the dying their dignity, it gives the inmate volunteers an unusual opportunity to connect with another person and give their own life some purpose. The program has also become a model for other prisons in Louisiana and across the nation.

Mr. President, I congratulate the hospice at the Louisiana State Penitentiary for its award-winning program.

#### HONORING POLICE CHIEF RICHARD POLZIN OF RACINE, WI

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dedicated public servant and an accomplished law enforcement official. After 36 years of unwavering service to the city of Racine, WI, Police Chief Richard Polzin will retire on May 13, 2000.

Chief Polzin joined the Racine Police Department in 1964 and served in numerous capacities and was continually promoted to elevated positions until he was chosen in 1992 to head the entire department.

Chief Polzin has presided over much change in the department during his tenure. His focus on community policing and outreach is largely credited with the dramatic decreases in crime rates in Racine. He is a man that has earned great respect from those who have served with him and from the residents of Racine for whom he has dedicated his life.

On a personal note, Chief Polzin has served as a valuable resource for me in representing the people of the first district. Throughout his career he has had an open door policy and has participated in public events to further his involvement with those he has served. He has done so not for glory or praise, but rather to better serve as an effective and appreciated officer of the law.

Chief Polzin has maintained a unique personal sense of decency and common sense that has carried over to his professional career. It is with great sadness that the community bids him farewell.

I wish Chief Polzin and his family the best of success in the future and thank him for his 36 years of dedicated service.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BOB DYER AND HIS BRAVE ACT OF HEROISM

### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 2000, a powerful natural gas explosion rocked a home in the Village of Justice, a southwest suburb of Chicago at 4:00 a.m. In a matter of seconds, the home of two distinguished senior citizens became engulfed in a blazing fire.

Luckily, their new next-door neighbor, "Bobby" Dyer, was quickly awakened by the loud concussion. Barefoot, Dyer rushed to the scene to see his neighbors trapped in their rapidly disintegrating house. Blocking their exit was a pile of debris from the former eave over the front door. Heroically, Dyer pushed aside the heavy aluminum/wood roofing material and helped the couple through their heavily damaged front door frame. After dialing 911, he supplied his neighbors with initial first aid and clothing.

By virtually all accounts, Bob Dyer's actions thankfully saved the lives of his two neighbors. Valentine and Eileen Michalowski received second and third degree burns, as well as heavy smoke inhalation. However, I understand that they will fully recover from their serious injuries.

I was pleased to hear that the Village of Justice will hold its first ever Saturday board meeting, where May 21–27, 2000 will be appropriately named “Bobby Dyer” week. Mr. Speaker, I strongly echo the congratulations of the Village of Justice and I thank Mr. Dyer for his immediate contributions to the 3d Congressional District of Illinois.

IN HONOR OF TAIWANESE  
AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Taiwanese Americans across the United States. As you may know, May 7–14 is designated as Taiwanese American Heritage Week. Today, there are more than one half-million Taiwanese Americans across the United States. From science and education, to politics, Taiwanese Americans have made profound contributions to the strength and diversity of this great nation.

Like many immigrant communities, Taiwanese Americans have maintained a close relationship with their original homeland. Exchanges between Taiwan and the United States have resulted in an ever-closer relationship in trade, culture, and values. As we witnessed in the March 18th, 2000 Taiwanese Presidential election, the people of Taiwan and the United States share a bond in their adherence to the principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights. That bond is made stronger each day by the Taiwanese American community here in the United States.

Today, as the first member of the U.S. House of Representatives born in Taiwan, I am proud to pay tribute to Taiwanese Americans. During the occasion of Taiwanese American Heritage Week, I urge all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, and indeed all Americans, to celebrate the diversity Taiwanese Americans have contributed to the United States.

HONORING RICHARD N. AFT AS HE  
ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT  
AS PRESIDENT OF UNITED WAY  
& COMMUNITY CHEST OF GREAT-  
CINCINNATI

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I honor Richard N. Aft, a valued friend and constituent, who has served as president of the Greater Cincinnati United Way & Community Chest for 13 years. He announced that he will step down as president in December.

In his capacity as president, Dick leads the United Way staff, represents United Way in the Greater Cincinnati area, manages the annual fund drive, and involves community leaders in carrying out the mission of United Way, which is: “To increase the capacity of our diverse community to prevent and alleviate human suffering.” Under Dick’s leadership, our

United Way & Community Chest has been making progress each year in accomplishing this critical mission. The organization has grown to serve approximately 1,500,000 people in a seven country, two-state metropolitan area. And the United Way campaign now raises over \$58 million per year.

Dick has not only expanded the responsibilities of our United Way and increased its annual revenues, he also has taken creative measures to address tough issues facing our community. For example, under his leadership, United Way formed an innovative and successful partnership called “Every Child Succeeds” with Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency/Head Start.

Dick is a graduate of Knox College, and received an M.A. in social service administration from the University of Chicago. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Organizational Leadership and Development at the Union Institute in Cincinnati.

Actively involved with other organizations, Dick currently serves as a board member for the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati; the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati; Xavier University Advisors; Leadership Ohio; and Ohio United Way. He is an executive committee member for the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative; Hamilton County Family and Children First Council; and the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Council.

Dick and his wife, Mary Lu, live in Cincinnati. They have three sons, David, Rob, and Eric.

All of us in the Greater Cincinnati area congratulate Dick on his extraordinary service to our community. We appreciate his leadership and friendship, and wish him well in his final months as United Way president and with the new challenges to come.

HONORING APPLE VALLEY HIGH  
SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE

**HON. BILL LUTHER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Apple Valley High School for its excellence in arts education. This school has received many awards, but most recently the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences selected this school, out of 18,000 applicants, to be a Grammy Signature School for the second consecutive year.

In 1991 the U.S. Department of Education recognized Apple Valley High School as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, and just seven years later, in 1998, the Minnesota Music Educators named AVHS the Minnesota Model Music School. The National Endowment for the Arts has also granted a AVHS a special national commendation for content-rich arts.

The outstanding success of Apple Valley High School graduates has rewarded the school’s commitment to art and music education. Students’ achievements are an apt reminder that arts education should not be minimized but rather embraced wholeheartedly, as Apple Valley High School’s example shows.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL NURSES  
WEEK

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Edward Hines Jr. Medical Center Nurses for their invaluable work caring for our nation’s veterans on the occasion of the National Nurses Week, which is celebrated the week of May 7–13, 2000.

The nursing staff at Hines Medical Center provide nursing care for veterans of all ages and all walks of life. They provide specialty care to patients from Illinois as well as throughout the Midwest. The nursing staff is committed to ensuring that all veterans received the high quality care they so richly deserve.

Approximately thirty-four thousand veterans are enrolled at Hines Medical Center. The nursing staff treat veteran patients during more than four-hundred thousand inpatient and outpatient visits each year.

The Nurses Week theme this year is “Helping, Sharing, Always Caring for Our Veterans.” They have a week of special events planned for Nurses Week. These include a nursing rededication to service program, nursing Olympics, and fellowship programs for all three shifts. Medical media is providing a video that highlights the many contributions of the nursing staff.

I congratulate and recognize Hines Medical Center Nurses and all nurses for their service to patient care, research, education, quality improvement, infection control, administration and the many other areas where nurses make a difference at Hines and at all medical facilities. I thank them for their commitment, dedication and tireless service.

TRIBUTE TO THE HALL OF FAME  
FOR GREAT AMERICANS

**HON. JOSE E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy and pride that I congratulate and pay tribute to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, which will celebrate its centennial this year.

Located on the campus of Bronx Community College, the hall of Fame for Great Americans is a national landmark honoring American achievements. Along with celebrating the centennial, some prominent American leaders will be honored. This year’s honorees are Bernard Beal, Valerie Lancaster Beal, Wall Street investment bankers, and Elinor Guggenheimer, a major civic leader and philanthropist in the city.

Mr. Speaker, the Hall of Fame for Great Americans is the original “Hall of Fame” in this country. It was founded by Dr. Henry Mitchell MacCraken, chancellor of New York University, in 1900. Last year two significant architectural awards were bestowed on the Hall of Fame, one from the New York Landmarks Conservancy and the other from the Municipal Arts Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants