

Scout Venture Crew 80, sponsored by the First Christian Church of Alexandria and made up of youth members and adult leaders, came together to assist in administering first aid and to operate Amateur Radio for those in the afflicted areas.

Having been highly trained by their leaders in emergency communications and first aid, Venture Crew 80 exemplified the Boy Scout Motto, "Be Prepared." With the knowledge that Hurricane Isabel was quickly heading toward Northern Virginia, these young people and their adult leaders responded to the call of the Alexandria Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Fairfax Amateur Radio Emergency Service to assist them with their storm operations.

On Wednesday September 17, with most of the Northern Virginia area making preparations for the oncoming wind and rain, Venture Crew 80 were being briefed on how they could assist the city of Alexandria with radio communications support, and by 8 a.m. on Thursday they were on the call assisting the EOC and Red Cross shelters across the area.

Throughout Thursday, these dedicated individuals helped set up radios and other equipment needed to run a successful emergency operations center, assisted in assembling food, water, cots and blankets for shelters should they be needed during and after the storm, and helped gather emergency medical response gear for distribution. After completing the setup, they helped to handle the large amount of radio traffic between the EOC, Red Cross and the emergency shelters and monitored the amateur radio traffic. They remained at their posts, helping their fellow citizens make it through Hurricane Isabel, until 6:30 Friday morning.

Venture Crew 80 continued their support throughout the weekend at the EOC, various emergency shelters, the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center and their communities. Their first aid training was especially appreciated when neighbors came seeking aid and the nursing staff was unable to help.

On behalf of the residents of the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County, I would like to thank all the boys and girls, men and women who took their time and energy to help our community during Hurricane Isabel. It is obvious that the emergency efforts throughout the storm would not have been possible without the hard work of Venture Crew 80.

CONGRATULATING THE PHILIPS FAMILY FOR 268 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Philips family of Stroudsburg for a combined 268 years of service to the Phoenix Fire Company No. 2 of the Stroudsburg Fire Company in Monroe County PA. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute this amazing legacy of service and dedication as this family is honored by the Borough of Stroudsburg Council at its meeting on Wednesday, October 15.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great fortune of representing a family that has over the years

dedicated their lives in volunteer service to Stroudsburg and the surrounding communities as members of the Phoenix Fire Company. Herman F. Philips, Lloyd F. Marsh, and Thomas Philips served all their lives and were members until they passed away. Robert W. Philips, Sr., Robert W. Philips, Jr., Richard Philips, and Millard "Skip" Philips all currently serve in the department. The Philips family firefighters have also risen to leadership positions within the department. Skip and Thomas were both assistant chiefs and chiefs, and Robert, Sr. was chief twice.

Their service to both the community and the fire department is remarkable. Equally amazing is the number of volunteer firefighters from one family. However, their longevity in the department is also noteworthy. Robert, Jr., is currently the least experienced volunteer firefighter of the Philips family with only 32 years of service. Robert, Sr., and Richard both have over 50 years while Skip is approaching 50 years.

Firefighters play a critical role in protecting our communities throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. Volunteer firefighters not only faithfully conduct their duties in the fire department, they also are community leaders and volunteer for other activities. The Philips family is no exception. They are pillars of the Stroudsburg community and deserve recognition for their remarkable service over several decades.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent this family that has played such an impressive vital role in their community and in voluntarily serving others.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RONALD OLSZOWY

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an exceptional individual who I am proud to call my friend. Ronald Olszowy was honored by the Central of Polish Organizations on Sunday, September 28th, as the 2003 Marshal for the Passaic, Clifton and Vicinity Contingent of the 66th Annual General Kazimierz Pulaski Day Parade, which will be held on October 5th in New York City.

Over the past thirty years, Ron Olszowy has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men, women, and children of Passaic, Bergen, and Essex Counties. His selfless and unquestioning commitment to various civic, fraternal, and charitable organizations has left an indelible mark on the lives of many, demonstrating the positive difference that one person can make. It is only fitting that we honor Ronald Olszowy in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

The son of the late New Jersey Assemblyman Emil Olszowy, Ron grew up in a family committed to public service. Graduating from Lodi High School and Polk Junior College in Winter Haven, Florida, Ron entered the United States Army as a Military Policeman. During his 1968–1971 stint in the military, Ron held a top-secret security clearance within the Defense Atomic Support Agency. In September of 1968, he was decorated for heroism and credited with saving the life of another soldier.

Upon leaving the military, Ron received his bachelor's degree at William Paterson University, and soon became involved in local and state politics as the campaign manager for his father as well as for former Assemblyman Joseph Scancarella and former Assemblyman Gerry Zecker. In 1982, Ron applied the experience that he had gained in the Assembly elections to his role as a County Coordinator for Governor Kean's election. The election was successful and, in 1985, Ron Olszowy was appointed by Governor Kean as one of four public members of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

As the President and owner of Nationwide Bail Bonds and Interstate Insurance Agency in Clifton, Mr. Olszowy has demonstrated the same boundless enthusiasm, initiative, and personal drive that had made him so successful in the political arena. His distinguished work in the field of Bail Bonds led to his serving terms as both the President of the Professional Bail Agents of New Jersey and the President of the Professional Bail Agents of the United States. In both of these capacities, Ron has established himself as one of the foremost professionals in his field.

Yet Ron's commitment to enriching the lives of others extends far beyond the professional sphere. As the former director of the Board of the Passaic Boys and Girls Club, former director of the Passaic Lions Club, and Chairman of the Board of the American Cancer Society, Ronald Olszowy has devoted his time, talents, and energy to providing much-needed services to the residents of northern New Jersey. He has provided a valuable role model for the young men and women of the area, proving that the only real success in life comes from a true commitment to the community at large.

Mr. Olszowy's fine spirit of community service and volunteerism has been recognized across the State of New Jersey. He is a member of the Passaic, Bergen, and Essex County Police Chiefs Association and has been honored by Policeman's Benevolence Associations throughout Passaic, Essex, and Bergen Counties for his dedication to law enforcement. What is more, Ron Olszowy has three times been named Man of the Year for his acts of generosity—in 1991 by the American Cancer Society, in 1994 by the Italian-American Police Society of New Jersey and, in 1995 by the Passaic County Police Chiefs Association.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Ron Olszowy. I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Central of Polish Organizations, and myself in recognizing Ronald Olszowy for his outstanding service to the men and women of Northern New Jersey.

SEWICKLEY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to one of America's premier communities on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. I am proud to serve as Sewickley's Representative in the

U.S. House and wish its citizens the best on this important milestone in its history.

Sewickley, rich in both history and tradition, was chosen by many area leaders as a desirable place to live and boasts fine architecture and landscapes.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating one of the nation's finest communities on its 150th birthday.

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TRIBUTE TO ARIE P. TAYLOR

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and extraordinary life of a woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this distinguished public servant for her impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Arie P. Taylor.

Arie Taylor was a remarkable woman who lived a remarkable life. She was on the front lines of progress for decades and proved to be a powerful force in transforming the landscape of our city and state. Her indomitable spirit sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of notable accomplishment. Born in Bedford, Ohio, it was evident at an early age that politics would play a major role in Arie Taylor's life. At age 19, she served under the first African American woman on the Cleveland City Council. After studying at Miami University of Ohio and Case Western Reserve University, she served a four-year stint in the Women's Air Force as a Staff Sergeant where she was the first black classroom instructor and noncommissioned officer in Women's Air Force training. Arie Taylor distinguished herself in national politics when as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, she fought against seating all-white Southern delegations.

Arie Taylor's lengthy career in public service began in 1972 when she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives representing House District 7 in northeast Denver. She was the first African American woman elected to the Colorado General Assembly and served six terms. As a state representative, she burnished a reputation of being forthright, outspoken and wearing great hats. She became a powerful advocate for African Americans, women, the poor, the elderly and other disadvantaged communities. Arie Taylor carried legislation that amended state civil rights statutes to include sex and gender. She carried fair housing legislation permitting women to access credit in their own names instead of having to rely on their spouses. She sponsored legislation for homemakers displaced because of domestic violence which, after passage, led to creation of a state income tax check-off to support organizations assisting victims of domestic violence. Arie Taylor further sponsored legislation that created treatment centers at the University of Colorado Medical Center for hemophilia and sickle cell anemia.

Her service to the City & County of Denver began as Deputy Clerk of Denver District

Court and Chief Clerk of the Denver Election Commission. Her career culminated in being appointed Denver Clerk & Recorder by former Mayor Wellington E. Webb in 1991. It comes as no surprise that Arie Taylor was the recipient of numerous awards including the Harriett Tubman Award for extraordinary efforts against racial violence. In 1999, the municipal center in northeast Denver was dedicated in her name.

Arie Taylor lived a life of meaning and one that was rich in consequence. It is the character and deeds of Arie Taylor, and all Americans like her, which distinguishes us as a people. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable woman.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Arie P. Taylor, a distinguished public servant. It is the values, leadership and commitment she exhibited during her life that serves to build a better future for all Americans.

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TRIBUTE TO MG ARNOLD PUNARO

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MG Arnold Punaro, United States Marine Corps Reserve, on the occasion of his retirement. Major General Punaro has served our Marine Corps and our Nation for more than 35 years.

A native of the great state of Georgia, Major General Punaro grew up in the town of Macon, and graduated from Mount de Sales Academy. He then chose to focus on higher education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He would later earn Masters degrees at the University of Georgia and also Georgetown University. Like many fine, Southern gentlemen before him, he answered the call to duty and joined the Marine Corps, serving as a platoon commander in Vietnam where he was decorated for heroism and wounded in combat.

In 1973, after completing his active duty tour, Major General Punaro transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve, and continued to dedicate himself to the service of our country, working in the U.S. Senate for Senator Sam Nunn on national security matters for 24 years. In his work with the Senate Armed Services Committee as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he was involved in the formulation of all major defense legislation and the oversight and review of all major defense activities for over two decades. This included the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act and its Reserve counterpart, the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act, the Acquisition Streamlining Act, personnel transition provisions, special operations reforms, and all pay and benefits matters. Major General Punaro also remained actively involved in numerous Reserve organizations, including a tour on active duty in Operation Desert Shield and an extended tour on active duty as the Commander of Joint task Force Provide Promise (Forward) in command of U.S. Forces serving in the former Yugoslavia.

Throughout his career, both civilian and military, MG Arnold Punaro dedicated himself to improving our national security. He serves as

a member of Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's newly formed Defense Business Board and is also a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. He serves on the adjunct faculty at the Marine Corps University and on the Secretary of Defense Reserve Forces Policy Board. As a general officer, he has spent 5 years in command, focusing on increased operational readiness and the integration of reserve forces into the total force Marine Corps. Always keeping the welfare of his Marines at the forefront of his efforts, Major General Punaro spearheaded several programs that directly benefited the quality of life for our service members.

Major General Punaro was recently mobilized on active duty, serving concurrently as a Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. European Command and as Director of Reserve Affairs Division where he oversaw the largest mobilization in the history of the Marine Corps. In support of the Global War on Terrorism, more than 22,000 Reserve Marines were called to duty. More than 75 percent of those were deployed into theater, where they served with distinction. His dedication to the defense of our country, as a young man in Vietnam to his actions with the Senate together with his continued service with the Marine Corps Reserve, has been a lifelong endeavor. We have been fortunate to have such a high caliber marine officer in support of our nation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Major General Punaro has demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, profound sense of duty to his country, and his Corps. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Major General Punaro's accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him, his wife Jan and their four children, 2LT Joe Punaro (USMC), Julie, Meghan, and Daniel on the completion of a long and distinguished career. I wish them all the best as they continue to live life beyond our country's beloved Corps.

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RE-ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES INTO UNESCO

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct my colleagues' attention to the re-entry of the United States into UNESCO—the U.N. Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization.

As Democratic Co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I congratulate the Administration on this important step toward playing a more active role in working with other member nations in the international cultural arena. I am heartened, as well, that First Lady Laura Bush led the U.S. delegation at the flag-raising ceremony at our new UNESCO Mission in Paris on Tuesday.

UNESCO promotes international co-operation based upon respect for commonly shared values. In the area of culture, it promotes arts education for children and supports artists, arts organizations, and the arts industry. It sees the arts as vital tools for economic development as well as international understanding. UNESCO's director general, Koichiro