

the example set by James Casale, this year's canned food drive more than doubled that amount, raising 3,445 cans.

James had seen people in the newspaper and on television who needed help, so he simply did what he could to help them. When asked why he made such a generous donation, James said that he did for poor people. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone who saw a need did what they could and stepped in to fill the void? Too many of us say "I don't have the time," or "I can't afford it", yet James gave freely of both his time and money.

I had the opportunity to meet with James on November 21 and present him with a Public Service Certificate in recognition of his outstanding and invaluable service to the community. I was impressed by both the compassion and drive of this young man.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending seven year old James Casale for setting an example for his classmates and his community.

CHICAGO DEALER HONORED BY
TIME MAGAZINE—STANLEY
BALZEKAS, JR.

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a fine businessman of the automobile industry, Mr. Stanley Balzekas, Jr. Mr. Balzekas Jr., a businessman in the Chicagoland area, delivers great service to families and individuals in the Chicagoland community.

Stanley Balzekas Jr., president of Balzekas Motor Sales, was honored by TIME Magazine with the 29th annual TIME Magazine Quality Dealer Award (TMQDA). Mr. Balzekas received this award on January 31, 1998 for his outstanding business achievements in the automobile industry. As part of the award, TIME Magazine makes an annual grant of scholarship funds to the University of Michigan Business School in the names of TIME, Good-year, the National Automobile Dealers Association, and the TMQDA recipients.

Stanley Balzekas Jr., a native of Chicago, Illinois, began his career in the automobile industry working part time for his father during high school and college. Upon graduation from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and his completion of a masters degree of business and marketing, Mr. Balzekas climbed his way through the ranks to become president of Balzekas Motor Sales. Currently, Stanley Balzekas resides in Chicago with his wife, three children and three wonderful grandchildren.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Stanley Balzekas Jr. on his great accomplishments as a businessman and friend to the community bringing families and individuals "the American dream" of purchasing a new automobile.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD W.
ZIOLKOWSKI, SOUTHSIDE AD-
VANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS'
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable member of my district, as well as a friend of many years, Mr. Leonard W. Ziolkowski, for being named Man of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Association of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Council of South Side Advancement is a civic network that draws from organizations throughout the area to unite the community and encourages involvement from its citizens. One way in which the Council encourages this is through recognition of outstanding members of the community at the Lincoln Day Banquet. As an honoree at this year's banquet, Mr. Ziolkowski personifies the leadership and involvement for which the organization strives.

Len's professional career exhibits remarkable examples of dedication and leadership. Appointed a patrolman in 1950, he was consistently promoted throughout his longstanding career with the Milwaukee Police Department until his retirement in 1986 as inspector of police. He then shared his experience and knowledge as supervisor of the police science program at the Milwaukee Area Technical College. He also has served as a member of the Fire and Police Commission for the City of Milwaukee and director of the Milwaukee Police Academy, which gained national recognition while under his direction.

Currently president of the South Side Business Club and vice-president of St. Joseph's Foundation, Len's leadership transcends his professional career and carries into his community involvement. As a fellow American of Polish descent, Len promotes his heritage by his participation in the Milwaukee Society and the Polish National Alliance. He is also active in the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, Law Enforcement Training Officers Assoc., International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association, and the American Legion post 415.

I ask that you join me in congratulating Len Ziolkowski as he is honored at the Lincoln Day Banquet on February 22nd, 1998.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CORRIE BELL
MISSOURI

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a pillar in our community, Mrs. Corrie Bell Missouri of Columbia, South Carolina, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Missouri has offered tireless assistance to her community for many years. She visits Pontiac Elementary School annually, where she entertains the students with facts from her "Wonder Years." One of the skills Mrs. Missouri likes to share is her ability to recite the alphabet backwards. She is very active with the Francis Burns Senior Citizens, as well as

with the Zion Canaan Senior Citizens Bible Study.

Mrs. Missouri was born in Richland County, South Carolina, on March 24, 1898, to Wilson and Estelle Bell. Mrs. Missouri is one of six children. Her siblings include William Harry Bell of New York (89 years old), Marion Bell Foster (deceased), Desport Bell (deceased), Essie Dixon (deceased), and James S. Bell (deceased). Family and good values are Mrs. Missouri's most cherished possessions. At an early age she married Bogan C. Missouri (deceased). They had one son, the Reverend Rufus Levi Mosby. She proudly carries the title of great-grandmother and has two granddaughters, Carrie Boyce and Beverly J. Mosby; and one great-grandson, D. "Ray" Boyce.

In her youth, Mrs. Missouri attended school at Zion Canaan Church. In those days, children only went to school for three months so they could help in the fields the remainder of the year. Mrs. Missouri is a member of Zion Canaan Baptist Church, and she enjoys reading the Holy Bible and listening to all types of Christian music. Her favorite Bible scripture is Psalms 100, which calls for Christians to worship and give thanks to the Lord. She encourages the young to "obey your parents. Parents, love and respect your children, and teach your children about the Lord."

On Tuesday, March 24, 1998, family and friends will gather in celebration of Mrs. Missouri's 100th birthday. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Corrie Bell Missouri a prosperous and happy birthday. Mrs. Missouri is truly a living example of the American spirit that our country's flag represents.

PRESERVING THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA'S CHARITABLE ASSETS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, all across the United States, Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plans are changing their stripes through mergers, conversions, other changes in corporate status, or buy-outs. As many of my colleagues know, these changes have triggered debate in many states over the fate of charitable assets of these plans. As one observer put it, "The Blues see green. Consumers see red."

In California, for example, two new foundations have over \$3 billion for health care, courtesy of the Blue Cross conversion. In New Jersey, an appeals court ruled last year that the Blues there are, in fact, "charitable and benevolent." In Texas, the attorney general is in court to block the merger between the Texas and Illinois Blues. In North Carolina, the state legislature set up a study commission to examine the fate of the Blues plan there. In Kansas, the attorney general has filed a claim against the officers and directors of the Blues for breach of their fiduciary duty in connection with their campaign to deny the charitable status of the assets.

Each of these cases demonstrates that the tug-of-war over charitable assets is a state matter. Rarely, if ever, does Congress become involved, though perhaps the time is drawing near for a national examination of these trends.

Right in our own backyard here in the nation's capital, the Washington Blue Cross plan recently merged with the Maryland plan headquartered in Baltimore. This followed passage of HR 3025 at the end of the last session of Congress, facilitating the merger by amending the Federal charter of the DC Blues, which is the only Blue Cross plan nationwide to have been chartered by Congress rather than by a state. The merger is being challenged in two court actions brought by the Blue Cross policyholders and by a national patient advocacy foundation, who claim that the merger involves an illegal shift in control of charitable assets away from the intended beneficiaries. Lawyers for Blue Cross are citing congressional action on HR 3025 as a defense in the lawsuits.

While HR 3025 modified the DC Blues' charter to change its provisions for membership, the legislation was silent on all issues involving the plan's charitable and benevolent status and the charitable nature of assets. A review of the last minute consideration of this legislation in November 1997 that Congress took no action to diminish the charitable status of the Blues plan, nor did Congress contemplate the effect of HR 3025 on the DC Blues' obligations arising from its charitable status.

HONORING LAURA BERMAN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young Rhode Island student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Laura Berman of North Kingstown has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

Ms. Berman is being recognized for creating a library awareness program for third graders in her community of North Kingstown. Laura had read about a project in the New York City school system and decided to base her program on that. Working with a fellow volunteer, the local library system, and the elementary school teachers, Laura designed a classroom presentation that would impress upon children the joys of reading and the activities offered by the public library. Laura also distributed personal library cards to every child, along with a t-shirt purchased with donations that read, "Your library card . . . don't leave home without it!" The program was so successful that Laura has recruited additional volunteer help and plans to offer it at two more elementary schools this year.

In addition to Ms. Berman, I am pleased to tell you that there were four Distinguished Finalists. Ryan Arruda of Wickford Middle School in North Kingstown initiated a program to collect recyclable aluminum cans to benefit the local food pantry. Mariah Northrop also of Wickford Middle School participates in "Make a Difference Day" to clean up her community. Janaina Stanley of North Kingstown High School started a program called Breaking Down Barriers to prevent racism, prejudice

and hostility in her community. Finally, Erin Conti or Warwick Veterans Memorial High School volunteers as a "buddy" on a baseball team for physical and mentally challenged children.

All of these students should be very proud of themselves for having been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud each and every one of them for his or her initiative in seeking to make Rhode Island a better place to live, and for the positive impact they have made on the lives of others. Each one has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young people can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLYS
FRANCIS MUELLER, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize a most distinguished member of our community, Dr. Willys Francis Mueller, Jr., of Flint, Michigan. After devoting 33 years of his life to the medical profession, Dr. Mueller has decided to retire from his position as Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. Throughout his many years of dedicated service, Dr. Mueller has worked as an honorable physician, a selfless civic volunteer and a devoted family man.

Dr. Mueller attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and graduated with a degree in pre-med. He continued his education at U of M, and received his Medical Degree in June of 1959. To complete his education, Dr. Mueller did his internship and residency, and later became certified in pathologic anatomy, and clinical and forensic pathology. In September 1966, Dr. Mueller joined the United States Army and became Captain of Medical Corps Assignments. He served as a Staff Pathologist and as a Chief of the Accident Pathology Branch in the Military Environmental Division at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

As a member of various medical organizations, Dr. Mueller has made immeasurable contributions to the lives of people throughout the State. He is a member of the Michigan Association of Blood Banks, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners, to name just a few. He has served as a Clinical and Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technical University.

Dr. Mueller's work as a physician is only to be outdone by his involvement in several civic organizations. These include the American Red Cross, The Hurley Clinic, St. John Catholic Church and Delta College. Also, he has been involved in numerous speaking engagements at local high school career days and service clubs.

Mr. Speaker, Willys Mueller's spirit of volunteerism combined with his lifetime commit-

ment to healing makes him truly worthy of praise and recognition. It is indeed a pleasure to stand in front of this House and speak of Dr. Willy's Francis Mueller, who through his thoughts, deeds, and actions has provided the community with an invaluable resource and an indomitable spirit. The City of Flint is a better place because of Dr. Mueller's selfless service to humanity. Our community owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude. We wish him well in all his future endeavors.

MARY ANN KIRK, "MARYLAND
AMERICAN MOTHER"

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Maryland's 1997 "Maryland American Mother," Mary Ann Kirk. A resident of Rockville, Md., and my constituent, Mrs. Kirk was honored last year for her devotion to her wonderful family and for her tireless efforts as a community volunteer. Mrs. Kirk has been active in promoting character and citizenship education in Maryland's schools. She has long been an active volunteer with the American Heart Association and with area school tutoring programs. In all her activities, she underscores the important roles of mothers in shaping our society.

The "Maryland American Mother of the Year" is sponsored by American Mothers, Inc., an organization founded in 1933 to strengthen the home and family and to provide support to mothers in a sometimes troubling, always challenging, world. AMI, the official sponsor of Mothers' Day, provides outreach programs that include parenting workshops, tutoring and literacy programs, providing clothing and shelter for needy families.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saluting Mary Anne Kirk, who by her contributions to her own family and to her state and community, richly deserves the title "Maryland American Mother of the Year." She truly makes a difference.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SEELEY,
SOUTHSIDE ADVANCEMENT AS-
SOCIATIONS' WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Dorothy Seeley, who will be honored Sunday, February 22, 1998, as the Woman of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations, Incorporated, of Milwaukee.

The Council of South Side Advancement Associations is a network comprised of delegates from south side Milwaukee veterans, scholarship, business, civic and senior citizen organizations. Its members, from many diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds come together in a coalition to educate themselves on local matters, to provide support to each other and address issues involving the South Side community.