

flinched at any duty I asked him to address. When the troops arrived, John offered to set up a duty schedule for me and he did a fantastic job. We were all tired, and his schedule provided each of us some much needed rest. He is a soldier of whom you can be proud. I will never forget his friendly smile and warm good humor during such a difficult time.

Lieutenant Shultz was my right-hand medical person. She dealt with several medical situations that would normally be less challenging, and she responded well. She always kept her sense of humor and helped to keep our perspective. She dealt well with the young, the old, and the medically compromised. Her calm and efficient care provided our folks the sense of security was needed during this tremendously difficult time.

Chaplain Swain was also the perfect person for our shelter. I had made it clear that we must do everything we could for our seniors who were distressed by leaving their home. Chaplain Swain fell right into that role and spent countless hours listening, talking, hugging, and praying with our "guests." When a recently recovering alcoholic requested a bible, knew just the person for the job—Chaplain Swain. His kind, calm demeanor was heart warming to me when I had an extra minute to observe his interactions with our people. The Chaplain also spent time lifting patients, personal assistance with bathroom and other personal details, and helped feed those needing assistance.

Sir, this ice storm has provided the perfect opportunity for North County people to experience first hand the remarkable assets provided by our military and enjoyed by our Country. Ott, and Swain are three names that stand out in my mind, but be assured that every soldier who arrived at the Maxcy Hall Shelter in Potsdam spent days demonstrating to us that they are caring, loyal, and unselfish people.

Sincerely,

MARTHA E. HARTLE.

BLACK RIVER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH,

Black River, NY, January 20, 1998.

Maj. Gen LAWSON W. MAGRUDER III
Commanding General, Fort Drum, NY.

DEAR GENERAL MAGRUDER: I have always had a lot of respect and admiration for the United States Army and what it has done to establish and preserve our democracy and our American way of life. These feelings were reinforced by what has happened in the past two weeks in the little village of Black River and other communities in the North Country where Fort Drum is our neighbor.

The "1998 ICE STORM" struck this area January 7th, causing widespread and terrible damage and devastation, knocking out electrical power, telephones and communications, as well as very serious flooding along the Black River. After the initial shock and disbelief, almost every element of government, private industry, homeowners, apartment dwellers—even our children and grandchildren—our schools, law enforcement agencies, farmers and officials—our schools, law enforcement agencies, farmers and officials—set about to do whatever was necessary to recover from this evidence of Mother Nature's fury. Telephone and utility crews rushed to our aid from all over New York State and from other states as well—Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, Virginia—even Hawaii!! State Police arrived from such places as Herkimer, Syracuse and points beyond.

Shelters were set up in schools, fire halls, churches and other locations, both public and private—so cold and hungry families and individuals could come for a hot meal and a

warm bed. Representatives came from FEMA, HUD, The Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and every other agency or private group that might be able to render help in the face of the disaster.

The first shelter set up in the Village of Black River was up to Leray Street at the St. Paul's Catholic Church. That site was soon filled to capacity, and we were asked to provide a 2nd shelter at the Black River United Methodist Church on S. Main Street. Blankets and cots arrived, but we became mostly responsible for providing hot meals for families and storm recovery teams. Kerosene and food was being distributed to those in need at the Black River Elementary School on a daily basis, and your soldiers were very much in evidence helping out with those services. Hundreds of area residents came to avail themselves of this assistance.

The Army brought in and hooked up a trailer-mounted generator so we could have heat and lights in the church. Volunteers came to help prepare the food, and these volunteers included Jefferson County Court Judge Lee Clary and his wife, Shirley, members of our church, Joyce Birchenough from the Catholic Church, Beth Stiefel, a former resident and member of St. John's Episcopal Church, and two soldiers from DivArty, Christopher O'Brien and Jennifer Haefner.

On different days, we provided meat loaf and turkey dinners, chili, hot soups, sloppy joes, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit and cookies, donuts and oceans of not coffee. We served anywhere from 25 lunches to over 100 lunches each day for eight days. The power company crews came. Also deputy sheriffs, State Troopers, and other men and women struggling to return our village to a semblance of normalcy.

I was never more proud of the U.S. Army than I was the day Capt. Michael Gabel brought large numbers of BDU-clad soldiers with green fluorescent sashes into town to help clear the tree branches and storm debris from our streets. I also got to meet two other officers working with him, Capt. Ronald Leggett and 2nd Lt. Michael Brown. Anyway, it was like a well-planned attack during wartime, groups were assigned to certain streets and, as one street was cleared, they moved on to another one. Their deportment was admirable and their mood was one of the good cheer and helpfulness. When they came to the church for lunch each day, they were all courteous and well-behaved, and seemed glad to be doing something very worthwhile for their citizens.

They came to our shelter to warm themselves, rest a bit, sit down and enjoy a hot cup of coffee, soup and a well-deserved meal. Their morale was as high as I've seen amongst soldiers anywhere.

Their efforts continued for several days. Today is Tuesday, January 20th, and we expect at least 50 soldiers for lunch today. They're still here, and giving their best effort. When they're done, we'll miss them. They lightened our load considerably, and we are grateful for their kindness, their concern, and their cheerful and willing attitude—and for all the work they're doing!

I believe these men were all from Division Artillery units, and we are somewhat familiar with Col. Robert Reese and some of his men, who have supported us in the past on patriotic holidays, such as Flag Day and Veterans Day.

Your Public Affairs Officer, B.D. Murphy, dropped by to visit, and the 10th Mountain Band came in to play for us one noon hour. And Chaplain Scottie Lloyd and his assistant dropped in on several occasions to offer their support and assistance.

God Bless You, General, for making all this possible, and please convey our sincere gratitude to Capt. Gabel and Leggett, Lt.

Brown, the NCO's and enlisted men who all understood our critical situation and came to help us find our way back out of it.

Sincerely and With Gratitude,

SANFORD L. JONES,
The B.R.U.M.C. Shelter.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—ON SERGEANT BRAD BROWN

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a heroic story with my colleagues and the American people which took place in New Castle, Indiana. Sergeant Brad Brown, going beyond the call of duty, risked his life to save an eighty-three year old woman from a burning building in Henry County. The fact that the woman he saved was incapacitated at the time gives added weight to the heroism of Sergeant Brown. The dedication and bravery of Sergeant Brown is an example of the character which is needed to make a difference in our local communities. Individuals like Sergeant Brown make towns like New Castle safer places to live. I commend Sergeant Brad Brown for his actions and his service. Thank you for the role you have played in making our community a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEBANON TOWNSHIP

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to send congratulations and best wishes to the citizens of Lebanon Township as they commemorate the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of their community. Our nation and this community have come a long way in the past 200 years and it is appropriate that we pause and recognize this milestone.

This is a day of celebration and remembrance—a time to celebrate the growth and achievements of Lebanon Township while remembering the efforts and sacrifices of the good men and women, past and present, who helped to make Lebanon what it is today.

In its origins as a small rural village community, Lebanon has kept with its traditions over the course of time. Remaining a relatively small town for most of its history, the people of Lebanon and the rest of New Jersey have enjoyed its quiet, peaceful atmosphere and its natural beauty. Now in more recent times, Lebanon has exhibited growth and prosperity in its business and population. However, it still maintains its rural roots and natural splendor that have always made it a valuable asset to the community and the state.

Now, 200 years later, the Township will celebrate its anniversary with rich new traditions while honoring its past. These festivities include a time capsule burial at the Woodglen School with artifacts and mementos of Lebanon, music and dance events, an arts festival; all to be led off by a February 21st Proclamation Day celebrating the historic bicentennial.

In the years to come, I sincerely hope that Lebanon Township will continue to build on the foundations of the past to ensure a happy and prosperous future for all its residents.

I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Mayor Art Gerlich and the Township Committee. It is my honor to have this municipality with the boundaries of my district. And it is my good fortune to be able to participate in its very special anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical emergency, I missed 11 votes which occurred between January 27, 1998 and February 5, 1998. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call Vote number 1—Present, 2—No, 3—No, 4—Yes, 5—Yes, 6—No, 7—No, 8—No, 9—No, 10—Yes, 11—Present.

A TRIBUTE TO EMPRESS CASINO JOLIET

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Empress Casino Joliet, a tremendous corporate citizen in Joliet, Illinois as it has been named the 1998 Salute to Industry Award recipient by the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

From its opening day in June of 1992, the Empress Casino has made a dramatic impact on the economic landscapes of Joliet, Will County and the State of Illinois. In a region where many hard working people have struggled to find consistent and reliable employment, the Empress Casino has risen to become Will County's sixth largest employer, keeping 1600 local employees on its \$45 million annual payroll. During its first 14 days of operation, the Empress Casino welcomed over 50,000 people and has currently hosted over 21 million guests, an incredible achievement for less than six years of operations.

Understanding how local support is a major factor to the Empress Casino's success, the owners have made a substantial commitment to support the community through charitable contributions. In just one year, the Empress Casino has donated nearly \$300,000 to organizations able to assist people in need. Further emphasizing its commitment to boosting the local economy, the Empress reinvests well over \$9 million each year purchasing supplies, products, and services from local businesses. The City of Joliet and the State of Illinois have received substantial benefits from the Empress Casino's success, including \$77 million and \$191 million of tax revenue, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce as we recognize the Empress Casino Joliet as an out-

standing corporate citizen in Joliet and Will County, Illinois. I applaud the owners and employees of the Empress Casino for their dedication made to our community and wish them the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS WALSH, "IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Louis Walsh, who was honored on Friday, February 20, as "Irishman of the Year" by the Denver Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. I invite my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Walsh on his receiving this outstanding and appropriate honor.

Mr. Speaker, there are many characteristics which we associate with the Irish—loyalty, perseverance, humor, trustworthiness, generosity, hospitality. These are especially true of Louis Walsh. He has also been blessed with an unmistakable Irish wit. For all intents and purposes, his home is your home. But Lou can also be very demanding—he expects the best from all of his friends and colleagues, and in doing so he has contributed markedly to improving the quality of their lives.

Lou appreciates the best of everything, whether it be music, drink, entertainment or, most important of all, friendship and loyalty. He appreciates the good life all the more for having starting out in humble circumstances. Lou was born on March 5, 1928, in Curry, County Sligo, Ireland, one of ten children. Life was simple and full of hard work, but that did not stop Lou from riding ten miles on his bike to get to a dance, arriving home in time to sleep for but an hour before morning chores. But he had much longer journeys in his future.

Lou attended St. Nathy's College before traveling to England to teach school at Rodbourne College. Soon afterwards, with the assistance of his brother Matt, he made the decision to cross the Atlantic and emigrate to America. Lou initially settled in Chicago and continued his education, attending Peter Shannon's School of Accounting. Mr. Shannon, astutely noting his numerous abilities, employed Lou after his completion of the course. Lou has been everlastingly grateful to Mr. Shannon for believing in him from the start and for assisting him in every possible way. Lou has tried to be similarly inspiring and helpful to others throughout the course of his life.

After five years of work for Mr. Shannon and an additional two years of service as an Army medic during the Korean War, Lou's appreciation of nature and love of beauty prompted him to move to Colorado in 1961. He worked as an auditor for the State of Colorado for a dozen years, during which time he was involved in the creation of the Colorado lottery. Lou also started a real estate business, which proved both demanding and successful. Lou's philosophic foundation appeared on every one of his real estate signs: "Let Right Be Done." This outlook has reflected his approach towards his customers, his neighborhood and his family.

Lou's legacy is to be found in a myriad of activities, organizations and good deeds, most notably those within the Irish community. He was one of the founders of several significant Irish organizations, including The Emerald Athletic Club in Chicago, The Irish Fellowship Club of Colorado and The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, which has given rise to one of the most prominent St. Patrick's Day parades in the country. Louis love of Irish culture applies to Irish books (of which he has many), Irish newspapers and magazines (to which he still subscribes), Irish wolfhounds (of which he once had four), Morgan horses (of which he has two), and Irish Whiskey. He appetite for Irish music and entertainment has promoted him to develop and foster Irish concerts and special events, and he has long dreamed of the establishment of an Irish cultural center in Denver. His concern for young people inspired him to organize a summer program in Colorado for Irish students. Finally, Lou's strong and unabated commitment to his church and homeland once gave him the opportunity to host the highest cleric in Ireland, Cardinal O'Faich.

While Lou's devotion to the Irish community is legendary, his greatest passion is for his family: Ann, his extraordinary wife and partner in work as well as in life, son Louis, Jr., who has followed his proud father in his interest in real estate, and innumerable other relatives by blood or friendship whose lives have been touched by his compassion and enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, it is time, to paraphrase Lou, to see to it that Right Be Done. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing appreciation for a fine man and a true Irishman, Mr. Louis Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO THE ST. LOUIS SMALL BUSINESS MONTHLY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Louis Small Business Monthly. This month, the St. Louis Small Business Monthly celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Louis Small Business Monthly is more than just a newspaper. It is a valuable networking tool, resource center, and clearinghouse for all things small business. It's a resource by and for the small business owner; it is invaluable to this important community.

Small businesses are not just the engine of our economy, they are the backbones of our communities. The St. Louis Small Business Monthly was founded to support the spirit of entrepreneur and recognizes the vitality and importance of the growth and success of this community. It fills a need in the community and fills it well.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like you to join me in congratulating editor Judy Meador, co-founders Katie Muchnick and Bill Schneider, and the rest of the staff at the St. Louis Small Business Monthly for a terrific first ten years and to its long and prosperous future.