

quickly became a star. As a student at the University of Puerto Rico, he was the only athlete in the history of intercollegiate games in Puerto Rico to win the Best Athlete award 4 years in a row. Also, while at school, he participated and excelled at a number of international competitions, such as the Central American Games, the Pan American Games, and even the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Mr. Cruz received recognition for his many accomplishments when he was inducted into the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

Mr. Cruz's success off the track matches his success on the track. Since retiring from the sport, Mr. Cruz has become a teacher and a marvellous example for the youth of Brooklyn, applying the same lessons he learned on the track to everyday life. His example teaches kids always to strive, to work hard and play fair to succeed in life.

I urge my colleagues to recognize Mr. Cruz's excellence both on and off the field and join me in paying tribute to this excellent athlete and role model.

HONORING PASTOR AND MRS.
EDDIE McDONALD, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise before you today to recognize the lifetime achievements of Pastor Eddie A. McDonald, Sr. and his wife, Mary, as they celebrate their 30th anniversary at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. On Saturday, March 14, members of the Friendship family and the Pontiac community will honor Pastor and Mrs. McDonald for their service to our Lord.

The McDonald's joined the family of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on March 28, 1968. They have been instrumental in the expansion of the congregation and the mission of the church. For 30 years, Reverend and Mrs. McDonald have provided sound leadership and spiritual guidance not only to their congregation, but to anyone in need.

Five years ago, I stood before my colleagues, as I do today, speaking of the valuable resource the citizens of Pontiac have in Pastor and Mrs. McDonald. The missions they have undertaken and the vision they possess have enabled them to forge relationships with many diverse groups.

The McDonald's influence extends throughout the community. They are affiliated with a number of professional and charitable organizations including the Pontiac Ecumenical Ministry, Pontiac Citizen's Coalition, Lighthouse and the Pontiac Youth Assistance Program. Pastor McDonald has also served as president of the Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship. Not limiting their good deeds to the State of Michigan, the McDonald's have been instrumental in food and clothing drives benefiting needy individuals throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, once again I am very proud to acknowledge and commend the efforts of my constituents and dear friends, Pastor and Mrs. Eddie A. McDonald Sr. They are an inspiration to us all and I am proud to represent them in the Congress.

THE 42D ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the anniversary of the 42nd year of Independence for the Republic of Tunisia, to be celebrated on March 20, 1998.

Legend has it that more than 200 years ago, Tunis, as token of esteem and friendship, sent one of its finest stallions to U.S. President George Washington. Unfortunately, customs officials in the nascent republic denied entry to the horse, which spent its remaining days in the Port of Baltimore.

After this somewhat rocky start, I am pleased to note that U.S.-Tunisian relations have improved considerably. Tunisia is about to celebrate its 42nd anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Tunisia as an independent country, a time during which Tunisia has enjoyed a strong and healthy relationship with the United States.

I congratulate Tunisia for its many accomplishments, not the least of which is to have established a more democratic system of government, making every effort to broaden political debate, including passage of an electoral law that reserved 19 seats of the National assembly for members of opposition political parties.

Tunisia has a very impressive economic record, having turned to economic programs designed to privatize state owned companies and to reform the banking and financial sectors over the last decade.

As a result Tunisia's economy has grown at an average rate of 4.65 percent just in the last three years, and its economic success has had a beneficial impact on Tunisia's international standing. Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and to join the developed world.

Tunisia has also become a moderating force in the Middle East peace process, taking an active role within the international community in fighting terrorism.

This may not seem so important until you consider that Tunisia's only two neighbors are Algeria which has been racked by civil strife for several years, and Libya, whose dictator has supported the most nefarious and subversive kinds of terrorism.

Tunisia may not live in a good, friendly neighborhood, but they are good neighbors to the United States, maintaining internal stability in the face of external chaos.

With increasing strong ties between us, the American people congratulate the people of Tunisia on this historic occasion, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY KOHLARS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the remarkable and memorable life of Dorothy

Kohlars, perhaps the oldest living veteran alive today at the young age of 102½ years. Dorothy, a resident of the Veterans Home of California in Barstow, was recently inducted into the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Retired Officers Association.

Dorothy Kohlars was born on August 22, 1895 in Hanover, Massachusetts. She joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1918 and enlisted for a second time in 1920 serving for approximately 3½ years all together. As an Army nurse in World War I, Dorothy was one of about 200 nurses working at an allied forces hospital in France during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. She worked as a bandage nurse and spent much of her time applying dressings to wounded soldiers. At that point in time, nurses were not commissioned and did not have a military rank. Barbara Churchill, who served as a Navy nurse in World War II, said that Dorothy Kohlars paved the way for nurses. "There was a dire need for nurses back then and women like Dorothy filled that need," Churchill said.

The Retired Officers Association is a national group of retired military commissioned and warrant officers. Saul Rosenthal, TROA's liaison, said his organization read about Kohlars in the local newspaper and its membership felt it appropriate to name her as an honorary member. "I think it's wonderful for them to think of me this way," Kohlars said. "That was another time. It seems so long ago."

Dorothy was married in 1932 and worked as a nurse until 1943. Today, she enjoys visiting with friends, and listening to music, talking books, and to the news on Braille talking records.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing the incredible lifetime contributions and achievements of this remarkable woman. Dorothy Kohlars is a living national treasure and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives pay tribute to her today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN CARING CENTER

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to recognize and honor the Christian Caring Center-Pemberton, Inc. for their 15 years of service to the community.

At its inception, emergency food and clothing were distributed from a 20 x 40 foot building one day per week. Remaining there for nine years, 40 to 50 families per day were served with life's necessities.

Today, in a larger facility, nine programs are administered by the caring employees and volunteers. These include emergency food and clothing, thrift store, information and referrals to social service agencies and churches, community lunch/rural homeless program, Bible hour worship services and job training among others.

The families who have been assisted by the dedicated volunteers of this worthy organization are too numerous to be counted.

On April 19, 1998, these volunteers will be honored with a celebration dinner. It is these

devoted individuals, especially, to whom I pay tribute. Their caring and commitment to those in need is worthy of the highest praise and honor.

They have the gratitude of the community for their efforts in behalf of the less fortunate.

HONORING THE EAST SUBURBAN YMCA CAMPAIGN

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East Suburban YMCA of Pittsburgh and the contributions of the men and women who helped to expand this wonderful community institution. On March 22, 1998, they will be holding their Grand Re-Opening Celebration. The East Suburban YMCA has always provided opportunities for people to grow in mind, body and spirit and thanks to their most recent campaign, will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

The initial planning for the East Suburban YMCA was done in 1962 and it has remained a presence in the area for over 30 years. The YMCA strives to develop character and leadership through its programs and applies Christian values and principles to all relationships. The East Suburban YMCA serves men, women, boys and girls in the area through a wide variety of programs and facilities. Thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers and supporters, the YMCA has touched the lives of many people in the community.

I would like to especially salute the group of dedicated individuals who made the East Suburban YMCA Campaign and the upcoming Grand Re-Opening possible. Allow me to first thank the Chairs of the Campaign, A. Richard Kacin and Myles D. Sampson. Their leadership meant so much to the effort. There were also many campaign workers and local donors that I would like to applaud: Claudia Abbondanti, John Beale, Gus Bondi, Lynne Bryan, Jim Cimino, Tim DeBissie, David Dubois, Eddie Edwards, Julius Jones, Alvin Kacin, Ann Klingler, Bud Kuhn, Carol Morris, Eric Lytle, Anthony M. Brusca Jr., State Representative Joseph F. Markosek, Mike McIntyre, Carolyn S. Mento, Mary Anne Norbeck, Margaret Osbourne, Pete Raspanti, Ben Sampson, David Vick, Charles Turner, David Yunov, and the late Jack Cummings. In addition to these fine examples of devoted and committed citizens, I would like to recognize the East Suburban YMCA Board of Management for their strong support of the campaign. The board members are Barbara Agostine, Kathleen Ballina, Dennis D. Dansak, Paul Dern, James End, Clyde Gallagher, Jeff Herbst, Chuck Leyh, Cheryl Lydiard, Gary Miller, Tony Naret, Lynn Papso, Jeffrey Russo, Joe Sciallo, Steve Sebastian, Carol Siefken, Dan Taucher, and Annette Testa-Young. Additionally, I would like to recognize the YMCA staff, Paul Gelles, James Kapsalis, James Rumbaugh, Bud and Jo Sickler, State Representative Terry Van Horne, and the Honorable Paul Zavarella.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to applaud all of these people for their devotion to the East Suburban YMCA Campaign. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their efforts

to improve and build upon the great legacy of service that the YMCA stands for.

OHIO HUNGER TOUR TRIP REPORT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we commend to our colleagues' attention the following report from a March 2-3, 1998 "hunger tour" of central and southeastern Ohio, in which we participated. The purpose of the trip was to investigate reports of increasing demand for emergency food at Ohio's food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens. We were surprised by what we found. Despite Ohio's strong economy, significant numbers of working poor and senior citizens are having great difficulty making ends meet, and are turning to charities to obtain adequate food. We encourage our colleagues to consider a similar tour in their own communities, to get a close-up view of the changing face of hunger, and the challenges facing the working poor and senior citizens in particular.

INTRODUCTION

Despite a booming economy, record low unemployment, a balanced federal budget, and unprecedented surpluses in many state coffers, there is mounting evidence of worsening hunger among the poorest Americans.

For more than a year now, foodbanks, pantries, and soup kitchens across Ohio and around the country have reported sharp increases in demand for emergency food, which are outstripping the charitable sector's capacity to respond to growing needs. A December, 1997 report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that demand for food relief was up by 16%. In January, 1998, my own informal survey of 200 of the nation's foodbanks revealed even sharper increases in hunger relief needs in many parts of the country. A September 1997 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that in the Dayton area, one in eight people seek emergency food assistance every month.

To investigate such reports, and better understand the nature of this trend, I conducted a fact-finding mission to feeding programs in urban and rural Ohio communities from March 2-3, 1998. I was joined by my colleagues Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (OH-15th), Representative BOB NEY (OH-18th), Representative TED STRICKLAND (OH-6th) at site visits located in their districts. Ohio Senator MIKE DEWINE also was represented by an aide who accompanied the delegation for a full day.

Non-profit groups who supported the trip included the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, the Ohio Food Policy & Anti-Poverty Action Center, and the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland, as well as individual foodbanks, pantries, and soup kitchens who hosted the delegation at stops in Columbus, Zanesville, Logan, MacArthur, and Dayton.

FINDINGS

What we saw and heard in the communities we visited strongly confirmed several emerging trends reported by foodbanks across Ohio and around the country:

Working people account for a large share of the increase in demand for emergency food, specifically people in low-wage and part-time jobs that offer few benefits and do not cover the cost of basic needs, including food.

Ohio is attempting to move over 148,000 households containing 386,239 persons from welfare to work over the next three years. The latest national data for December 1997 found that Ohio's twelve month growth in employment since December 1996 was 52,800 jobs, a slow growth rate of 1.0%. During the same period, Ohio lost 3,900 manufacturing jobs. New job growth has been in service sector employment, which generally paying minimum or just above minimum wage with few or no medical benefits. Despite a robust economy and an abundance of low-wage jobs in Columbus and other urban centers, significant pockets of joblessness and high unemployment persist in the more economically depressed parts of the state's Appalachian region.

The delegation visited the Southeastern Ohio Foodbank, which provides food to local charities in one of the poorest and most economically depressed areas of the state. In three of the nine counties served by that foodbank, between 40% and 50% of the people requesting emergency food were working full or part-time. In Meigs county, more than half of the people seeking emergency food assistance were working.

Not one person we spoke with did not want to work, and all expressed their shame and frustration at having to resort to foodbanks to put food on the table at the end of the month. One woman explained: "My children get excited to see food coming into the house—kids should get excited about toys, and circuses, and special treats, not the food we need to feed our family." According to the pantry director in MacArthur, Ohio, a rare job opening for a clerking position at a video store recently drew more than 100 applicants. Highest on that pantry's wish list were buses to transport people to minimum-wage jobs in Columbus.

At the Franklinton Food Pantry, the largest pantry in Franklin County, where more than 11,000 people seek food assistance each month, over 60% of all households in the community have incomes below \$15,000 per year (well below the \$16,050 poverty line for a family of four). A visit to the home of one food pantry client belied the common stereotype that people seeking charitable assistance are lazy freeloaders. Here was a couple with strong faith and family values, struggling to keep their family of seven together. Like many Ohio working families, for these people the pantry is no longer an emergency food source, but a regular part of their monthly coping and budgeting process to keep their family from going hungry. Their net income of \$600 every two weeks barely affords a food budget of \$100 a week, which must stretch to feed five teenagers (two of them taken in from a troubled family member). Their coping mechanisms include purchasing low-cost food, limiting the types of food they consume, and once a month getting food from the local food pantry, which helps feed the family "between pay checks." Such families have no cushion against unexpected expenses, such as major