

this spring after 33 years of honorable service to his state and nation.

His steady leadership and hard work earned First Sergeant Parker the respect of his peers and his subordinates throughout the Mississippi National Guard. He is credited with raising the strength level of his unit by more than 50 percent after it was reorganized. His technical, administrative, and leadership skills have been key factors in the company's consistently high performance ratings over the years. First Sergeant Parker has also led by example. In each of the last 14 Army physical fitness tests, he has scored more than 300 point maximum.

His commanding officer said there is no better soldier anywhere in the Mississippi National Guard, citing his positive attitude and willingness to go beyond the call of duty in support of his fellow Guardsmen and their mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in saluting First Sergeant Charles Parker for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF COMDR. DONNA M. LOONEY FOR HER APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMAND OF THE U.S.S. PLATT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to express my congratulations to CDR Donna Looney for her appointment to the command of the U.S.S. *Platt* by the United States Navy tomorrow evening.

CDR Looney, originally from Simsbury, Connecticut, recently graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, in Newport, RI, and is being honored with the command of a U.S. Navy fleet oiler, the U.S.S. *Platt*. As one of the few female pioneers to command a Naval ship, CDR Looney has set herself apart as a fine role model for young women as well as fellow Naval officers. For her leadership and tremendous achievements in the United States Navy, CDR Looney deserves our praise and recognition.

Today, I congratulate CDR Donna Looney for her appointment as commander of the U.S.S. *Platt* and I commend her for the hard work and sacrifices which were instrumental in attaining this meritorious position in the United States Navy.

IN HONOR OF SUNIL AGHI, AN ADVOCATE FOR THE INDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an advocate of the Indo-American community, Mr. Sunil Aghi. Mr. Aghi is founder and President of the Indo-American Political Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing Indo-Americans into the mainstream political process. Through this Foundation, Mr.

Aghi hopes to bring full equality and participation of minorities and other ethnic groups into the political process. Mr. Aghi has also worked hard to ensure that Indo-Americans are fully represented in political and elected offices. He understands that Indo-Americans should have their own voices in all levels of government to ensure that the needs of the Indo-American community are met by our elected officials.

Mr. Aghi looks forward to joining forces with other organizations which represent diverse ethnic groups to form coalitions that will give an even stronger voice to new citizens who are eager to learn more and become involved in American politics.

But the most important work that Mr. Aghi does, in his work as founder of Thank You America. Thank You America is an organization dedicated to providing food and clothing to the homeless of Orange County on Thanksgiving Day. Each year this group assists over 500 homeless individuals and families with warm meals and clothing during the holidays. Mr. Aghi is planning to expand Thank You America's services to help needy families year round.

Mr. Aghi truly understands the meaning of thanks. His tireless efforts are a model for all to follow. Mr. Aghi gives thanks everyday to America through his unselfish work, and I thank Mr. Aghi for his vital role in our communities.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN OF GREAT ESTEEM

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Women of Great Esteem, an organization that supports the advancement of women in a multi-cultural environment. This worthy group assists the homeless, works to combat violence in the community, provides educational training, and conducts AIDS outreach. Each year, Women of Great Esteem honors women who embody these goals of service to others. This week, seven women who have dedicated their lives to the community will be honored at the Second Annual Women of Great Esteem Awards.

The Honorable Una S. Clarke, Dr. Rosalind Jeffries, Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown, Rev. Barbara Pennant, Ms. Waveny Joseph, Ms. Alourdes C. Lovinski and Ms. Ivonne Mercado-Ford each deserve our sincerest thanks for their commitment to bettering the lives of women everywhere. They have challenged the community to recognize the appreciate diversity and affirm the gifts, talents and dignity of all women.

It is a great pleasure to congratulate these women for their achievement, and I too express my gratitude to Women of Great Esteem for their valuable service.

COMMENDING DR. PANAYOTIS IATRIDIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Dr. Panayotis Iatridis, a decorated physician who has devoted his life to the scholarly pursuit of medical education, on his 23rd anniversary as Assistant Dean and Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education at the Indiana University School of Medicine. In honor of his 23 years of outstanding service, the Advisory Council for the Northwest Center for Medical Education will host a recognition dinner on the evening of Saturday, March 28, 1998, at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana.

On July 1, 1975, Dr. Iatridis was named Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education, where he had served as Associate Professor and Director of the Physiology Course for medical students since 1972. During his 25 years with the Northwest Center, he has been integrally involved in every aspect of its operation, including the curriculum, administration, and service to students. As a member of the faculty, Dr. Iatridis organized and implemented a variety of courses, seminars, educational programs, and conferences for medical students, graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, faculty, and physicians in Northwest Indiana. Perhaps Dr. Iatridis' most noteworthy contribution to the Northwest Center's curriculum came in 1990, with his development and implementation of the "Regional Center Alternative Pathway", which is the educational program for first- and second-year medical students. Dr. Iatridis is also responsible for all administrative and academic affairs of the Northwest Center, and he has devoted much of his time to assisting medical students through different aspects of counseling and advising, including pre-medical student counseling and research project advising.

In addition to his dedicated work with the Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Iatridis has utilized his talents for the betterment of the Northwest Indiana community. Some of the organizations he has served include the City of Gary Economic Development Commission, the Gary Community School Corporation, the Lake and Porter County Medical Society Care of the Indigent Committee, and the Northwest Indiana Forum Foundation. Dr. Iatridis has also served as a board member of the Porter County Mental Health Association, Vice-Chairman of the Lake County Community Health Association, Chairman of the Lake County Medical Advisory Committee of the Community Health Association, the Program Committee of the Gary Rotary Club, and the Porter Starke Infection Control Committee.

Dr. Iatridis has received numerous prestigious awards, honors, and recognitions for his many professional and public service achievements. In recognition of his professional accomplishments, he received a Special Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Medical Education by the Asian-American Medical Society, in 1991; a commendation from the Asian-American Medical Society for Outstanding Contribution to Medical Education in Northwest Indiana, in 1997; and the Wisdom Award of Honor from the Wisdom Society

for the Advancement of Knowledge, Learning, and Research in Education, earlier this year. For his service to the community, Dr. Iatridis earned the Hank Jacobsen Award from the Gary Rotary Club, in 1985; the Edgar L. Mills Community Service Award from the Post-Tribune, in 1987; and the Medal of St. Paul from the Archdiocese of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Panayotis Iatridis on the occasion of his 23rd anniversary as Assistant Dean and Director of the Northwest Center for Medical Education. His wife, Catherine, their two daughters, Yanna and Mary, and their two granddaughters, Katerina and Anastasia, should be proud of his achievements. Indeed, Dr. Iatridis' efforts have made an indelible mark on the advancement of medical education, as well as an improvement in the quality of life for everyone in Northwest Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANK L.
SELKIRK

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church and its congregation. This Sunday, March 29, Dr. Frank L. Selkirk III, a respected leader and friend in Kansas City, Missouri will be installed as the Senior Pastor.

The history of Rev. Selkirk and Zion Grove are very much intertwined. At the age of eight, Rev. Selkirk became a member of Zion Grove, and at the age of twelve, preached his first trial sermon there. He was fondly referred to as the "Boy Wonder" by ministers in our community. Rev. Selkirk has more than the name of his father and grandfather, he continues to follow the Selkirk tradition by becoming a third generation preacher in his family.

After graduating from the University of Kansas, he received his Master of Divinity at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard University. He has traveled extensively to sixty countries serving as a minister in several of them. Rev. Selkirk has established an outstanding reputation among his peers and is known for his down home preaching. Rev. Selkirk has served as senior pastor in California and as an area minister for the American Baptist Churches where he served ninety churches as "pastor to pastors."

Under his direction as Pastor, the Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church raised one hundred thousand dollars in ninety days to pay off the Church mortgage. In celebration of this feat, I joined the entire congregation and many guests from our area in January for a mortgage Burning Service whose theme was "Burning the Past—Blazing on Toward the New."

This is an appropriate theme for Rev. Selkirk's ongoing mission to his growing congregation. His goal is to provide day care and after school services as additional resources for his congregation. As a counselor, gang prevention specialist, and revival preacher, he uses his faith as an influential tool to solve the problems which afflict our community.

I recognize Rev. Selkirk today because of his distinguished accomplishments. He continues to deliver positive messages to encourage a legacy of new beginnings. Rev. Selkirk envisions a future brimming with opportunity and charity for all people. Our community is blessed to have a leader who creates a significant difference in the lives of everyone he encounters. Those that hear his sermons or work with him on civic projects realize that he leaves his impression upon their lives. Recipients of his message walk away with a lasting feeling that motivates them to take action and use their talents to better the lives of everyone.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Rev. Frank Selkirk III, and the Zion Grove congregation. Together they have formed a union devoted to serving the needs of our community through Christian example and duty.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. HARRISON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that makes America great is that in towns and cities across our nation there are citizens who are willing to step forward to dedicate their talent and energy to make life better for their friends and neighbors. The city of Perris, California has been fortunate to have many citizens who have given so freely of themselves in their dedication to the future of the youngest members of our district. Mr. John R. Harrison is one of these outstanding individuals.

Mr. Harrison has been an instrumental part of Perris Valley area business and youth programs for many years. After graduating from college, he became a partner in Dan's Feed & Seed, a business which supplies the Perris Valley and surrounding areas with animal feed, seed, veterinary supplies, hardware and plumbing items. He has since become a 100% shareholder in Dan's Feed & Seed and expanded his operation to include stores in Perris, Hemet, and Temecula. He also owns a grain handling facility in Blythe. As a result of his dedication to the business community, Mr. Harris is active in various civic groups in Perris. He is the past president and only remaining charter member of the Perris Rotary Club, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Perris Farm Bureau, and the current president of the Perris Alumni Association. In 1994, Mr. Harrison received the Howie Award from the Riverside County Farm Bureau.

In 1953, he started the Perris Panthers 4-H club and was its leader until the mid-1960's. His continued involvement in the organization has produced one of the strongest 4-H clubs in Riverside County. Mr. Harrison has also been instrumental in the original organization of Perris Little League. Mr. Harrison has been a member and past president of the Farmers Fair Board and has served as chairman of the Farmers Fair Livestock Auction for 30 years. Due to his dedication, this auction is one of the most prosperous in the fair system, successfully raising money for the 4-H club and Future Farmers of America member's college tuition.

In recognition of his many accomplishments in various business and youth organizations in Perris, I commend John Harrison for his contributions and dedicated service to his community. I encourage Mr. Harrison to continue with his involvement and wish him much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE POLISH
FALCONS, NEST 725

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Milwaukee-based Nest 725 of the Polish Falcons of America, as they celebrate their 82nd anniversary with a banquet dedicated to the Mystical Rose, Our Lady of Czestochowa, on Sunday, April 19, 1998.

A nationwide fraternal organization, the Polish Falcons are dedicated to the physical fitness of youth. By offering classes in tumbling, dance (traditional Polish, modern, and tap), aerobics, track and field, basketball, volleyball, and soccer, the Polish Falcons provide a varied program for all skills levels and ages. The group believes in a strong mind and a strong body.

Organized in Milwaukee of December 10, 1916, Nest 725 members have participated in numerous national and district athletic competitions, gaining the National All Around Championships in 1984, 1988 and 1992. Furthermore, Nest 725 was crowned National Gymnastics Champions in 1984 and the Adult Dance Class achieved the National Championship in both 1986 and 1994.

To the adult leaders of the Polish Falcons, Nest 725, I commend you on your fine example of providing structured athletic guidance for today's youth, while maintaining an all-important tie to our proud Polish history and traditions. And to all the members, best wishes for the future and Sto Lat!

HONORING MAJOR ROBERT A.
PORTZ, NORTH MIAMI POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 26, 1998, Major Robert "Bob" Portz will bid farewell to his duties with the North Miami Police Department and retire to the Texas wilderness. He has received numerous commendations during his 22 years of service and is highly regarded by his peers.

Major Portz was then the youngest member of the North Miami force when he assumed his duties at the age of 20 on December 29, 1975. Over the years, he has demonstrated his talents in the patrol division, detective bureau, traffic unit, and tactical unit. He was promoted to Major on July 7, 1992, and made a lasting impression on the department by introducing the community policing concept to North Miami.

Major Portz assumed command of the Patrol Division in October 1994, where he still oversees operations.