

The four-lane indoor track circles the upper level of the recreation area. Thirteen laps are the equivalent of one mile.

The main gymnasium has two high school regulation basketball courts and a volleyball area. The auxiliary gym is a utility gymnasium which can be used as one high school regulation basketball court, volleyball, indoor soccer, and tennis.

The cardio conditioning area on the upper level is equipped with treadmills, stair stepers, bikes, ski machines, rowing machines, Gravitron and AB trainers.

The strength training center on the complex's lowest level offers Nautilus ZST resistance training equipment, plate loading equipment, free weights, and accessories.

A popular spot for teens will be the game area on the main level which is equipped with billiard tables, air hockey and foosball machines, video/arcade games and snack, soft drink and juice/water vending machines.

The Recreation Center also features two wood floor aerobics and activity studios (1,400-square-foot each), meeting and conference rooms, a tot room for morning and evening child care services and two sets of locker rooms for men and women.

The center, which has ten full-time employees and 75 part-time employees, will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

SENIOR CENTER

The spacious Senior Center located at the west end of the complex is designed to promote the physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being of all seniors in the community.

A major attraction is the Community Room which has a casual and comfortable atmosphere where people can relax, read a book, watch TV, visit and hold meetings.

The back porch off the Community Room is equipped with benches where guests can relax and enjoy the view of the city park.

The center also has a woodworking room which will be used for classes and open shop time; a craft room for quilting, knitting, sewing, needlepoint and other projects; two meeting rooms for seminars, lectures and club meetings; an art room for all types of projects, and a wellness clinic which will be operated in partnership with community health care providers.

A wide variety of activities will be offered for seniors. Including arts and crafts, line dancing, card games, bingo, physical fitness programs and many types of educational and fun classes.

More information on the senior programs can be obtained by calling the center at 238-7111.

CULTURAL CENTER

The Cultural Center on the complex's main floor is a common area which will be shared by users of both the recreation and senior centers. It seats 400 at tables and chairs and has an area of entertainment.

The center will be open to the public for breakfast from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday and for discounted lunches for seniors each weekday at noon.

The dining area and many of the other facilities in the recreation/senior center will be available for rental by the public for nominal fees.

GRAND OPENING

Everyone in Strongsville is invited to come and join the fun and excitement during the Community Open House Monday, March 16, through Saturday, March 28, and for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies on Sunday, March 29.

The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce joins with Mayor Walter F. Ehrnfelt and

other city officials in welcoming the opening of this state-of-the-art facility and encourages everyone to join the Strongsville Recreation and Senior Complex . . . Just for the "Fun of it."

TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE CLAWSON

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Geraldine Clawson, of Chester, South Carolina.

Geraldine Clawson, a former nurse, has spent countless hours as a volunteer in her community, working to help those struggling with homelessness, spousal abuse, alcoholism, and drug dependency. The organization she founded, "The Turning Point," offers counseling, an emergency food bank, a 60-day treatment program for drugs and alcohol, a women's shelter, and a program for abused or homeless women.

Because of her selfless dedication to those in need, Geraldine Clawson received the Jefferson Pilot Award for Public Service in 1993 and the Delta Sigma Phi Sorority Community Service Award in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the outstanding volunteer work of Geraldine Clawson.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. VIETNAM VETERANS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF HOSTILITIES OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the men and women who faithfully served our nation during the Vietnam Conflict, 1954-1973, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the end of hostilities in the Vietnam Conflict.

On Sunday, March 29, 1998, the U.S. Vietnam Veterans of Southern California, Montebello Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2317, and the City of Montebello will host a special ceremony at the Montebello City Memorial Park in observance of the patriotic service of our Vietnam veterans. At this special event, local veteran's organizations, including the Montebello VFW Post 2317, Brother's of Vietnam, Vietnam Veterans Association, Disabled American veterans, Hispanic Airborne Association, and the American Legion Post 323, will come together with the community and local elected and military officials to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the end of hostilities in the Vietnam Conflict.

I commend the members of the U.S. Vietnam Veterans of Southern California for bringing together this patriotic salute to the brave men and women who answered our nation's call during the Vietnam Conflict. I proudly salute the membership of the local chapter of the U.S. Vietnam Veterans of Southern California:

President Michael Delgado (USMC), Vice President Gale Hulett (USAF), Secretary Gilbert Perez (USA), Treasurer Augustine Auggie Galaviz (USA), Chaplain Lance Campbell (USMC), and Color Guard Jose Garcia (USA).

Members who served in the United States Army: Tom Aki, Robert Barrientos, Manny Calazada, Bernie Castaneda, Rudy Espinoza, Henry Galindo, Frank Garza, John Gomez, Mel Henfenfeld, Barry Hardy, Bill Harrell, Lou Hernandez, Marty Intergrand, Ed Kwan, Ed Lara, Romero Lopez, Robert Mejia, Carlos Mendez, John Nay, Frank Nieto, Oscar Ornelas, John Paniagua, Robert Preciado, Manny Ramos, Miguel Reyes, Russ Rivera, Rob Robinson, Ed Rodriguez, Bobby Rodriguez, John Williams, Ignacio Zararte, David Cardenas, Richard Gallego, Louis Guillen, Norman Hagelstorm, Michael Hamblen, Michael Montalvo, Henry Morales, Jr., Albert Rodriguez, Tony Rodriguez, Rudy Rubio, John Sanchez, Leonard Xiochiya, Salvador Pinon, and Ralph De La Torre, Jr.

Members who served in the United States Marine Corps: Carlos Aldona, Ted Barragan, Dave Castillo, David De La Cruz, John Leisure, Rudy Loera, Guillermo Gonzales, Leroy Martinez, Tony Morris, Don Usery, Richard J. Acuna, Robert A. Galis, Javier Gallardo, Henry Garcia, Arthur J. Hurtado, Roger Ortega, and Donald Snyder.

Members who served in the United States Navy: Pete Aragon, Rod Cargonell, John Schembari, Mich Sileck, Pete Walker, Carlos Gomez, Charles A. Holling, and Joe V. Ugarte.

Members who served in the United States Air Force: Joe Balli, Memo Munoz, and William Aguilar.

Mr. Speaker, at this special event ceremonial recognition will be given to our nation's POW/MIA's and to the thousands of men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our grateful nation. It is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and paying tribute to our American Vietnam Veterans and their families for their selfless sacrifice in service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES HATCH STODDARD

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my condolences to the family of Charles Hatch Stoddard, a former and courageous Interior Department official who made a significant contribution to the quality of life of his fellow Minnesotans and all Americans.

In the late 1960's Mr. Stoddard, then a top regional official at the U.S. Department of the Interior, coordinated a study of taconite wastes that a company was dumping into Lake Superior. He found that these asbestos fibers were harmful to human health, but was savagely attacked by opponents who claimed his report was biased and unsubstantiated. Stoddard's health findings, however, were ultimately upheld by federal courts and applauded by the Secretary of the Interior and all the public.

Mr. Stoddard served the United States in several other respects. He was a Naval Reserve officer in World War II, worked as an

employee of the U.S. Forest Service, and held such important posts as Assistant Secretary and director of the Bureau of Land Management.

He was also a highly acclaimed conservationist, one of our nation's most effective environmentalists, spending a year as President of the Wilderness Society.

I have attached Mr. Stoddard's obituary from the Minneapolis Star Tribune for my colleagues' review. It highlights his courage in bringing to the public's attention a matter that was crucial to their health and the health of their children in Minnesota and was repeated many times. The values and integrity that guided his decision and work reflect well upon the purpose of public service and the impact a good man can make.

I applaud Mr. Stoddard and present his model of courage yesterday as a benchmark for the environmentalists and policy making for citizens today and tomorrow.

[From the Star Tribune, Dec. 30, 1997]

CHARLES STODDARD DIES; HE PLAYED KEY
ROLE IN RESERVE MINING CASE

A CONTROVERSIAL 1968 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT
STUDY HE HEADED SAID TACONITE TAILINGS
WERE POLLUTING LAKE SUPERIOR

(By Dean Rebuffoni)

Charles Hatch Stoddard was a besieged man 29 years ago.

As a top regional official of the U.S. Interior Department, Stoddard, who died Thursday at 85, had coordinated a major federal study on the taconite wastes that Reserve Mining Co. of Silver Bay, Minn., was dumping into Lake Superior.

Although the study had just been completed, it hadn't been released to the public.

However, Stoddard had provided copies to Reserve, which quickly went over his head to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

The company urged Udall not to release the study, arguing that it was riddled with errors. Some critics suggested that Stoddard, a Democratic political appointee and longtime conservationist, was biased against Reserve.

Reporters were constantly calling Stoddard's office in Duluth, seeking information about the study.

Also, Stoddard knew that he'd have to resign soon from his federal post: Richard Nixon, a Republican with strong political ties to Reserve, was about to be inaugurated as president.

So Stoddard decided to release the study without Udall's approval.

On Jan. 16, 1969, the biggest headline on the front page of the Minneapolis Tribune read: "U.S. Study Finds Taconite Tailings Pollute Superior."

The study, which quickly became known as "the Stoddard Report," made him a hero among conservationists.

Udall, however, told Congress that the study was "a preliminary staff report," a statement that Reserve repeatedly cited in its effort to discredit it.

The study also was attacked by U.S. Rep. John Blatnik, a Duluth Democrat who called it a preliminary report with no official status.

Ultimately, Stoddard was vindicated by the federal courts, which ruled that Reserve was polluting Lake Superior with potentially injurious asbestos-type fibers.

Reserve was fined more than \$1 million and shifted its taconite wastes to an onland disposal site.

Udall eventually retracted his statement, telling the New York Times that the study was an official Interior Department report.

He said his original discrediting of it was prompted by concerns raised by Blatnik, who in 1969 was a powerful politician whose support on many issues was needed by the Interior Department. Blatnik died in 1991.

Udall's recanting also was vindication for Stoddard, who died Thursday at a nursing home in Spooner, Wis. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years.

"Chuck Stoddard was a fearless public servant," said Grant Merritt, a Minnesota conservationist who played a key role in the campaign to end Reserve's discharge into Lake Superior.

"Chuck did his job regardless of the heat he had to take," Merritt said. "The Stoddard Report gave us the scientific basis we needed to seek on-land disposal of Reserve's tailings."

Stoddard was born in Milwaukee in 1912 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan in the 1930s. He later did graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin and at Princeton.

He was a Naval Reserve officer during World War II, and while serving in the South Pacific, he discovered a species of tropical tree that later was named after him: *Mastixiodendron stoddardii*.

He had several stints as a federal employee specializing in conservation issues, including work as a U.S. Forest Service economist in the 1930s.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, he was a private forestry consultant in Minnesota and Wisconsin and was active in several conservation groups.

From 1955 to 1961, he worked for Resources for the Future, a nonprofit conservation research organization based in Washington, D.C.

Stoddard also was involved in Democratic Party politics, and during the 1960 presidential campaign, he worked first for candidate Hubert Humphrey, then as an adviser to John F. Kennedy on conservation issues.

After Kennedy was elected, Stoddard was named an assistant secretary of the Interior Department and, later, was appointed director of the Bureau of Land Management.

After retiring from federal employment, he served for a year as president of the Wilderness Society.

He wrote numerous reports on environmental issues, often focusing on land-use matters, and was the author or coauthor of three books on forestry and conservation practices.

Shortly after the lawsuit, *United States v. Reserve Mining Co.*, went to trial in 1973, Stoddard encountered the trial judge, Miles Lord, in a hall of the federal courthouse in Minneapolis.

"Do you know me, Judge Lord?" he asked. When Lord said he didn't, Stoddard explained: "I'm the guy who got you into this."

Stoddard is survived by his former wife, Patricia Coulter Stoddard of Duluth; a daughter, Abby Marrier of Milaca, Minn.; four sons: Charles Jr. and Paul, both of St. Paul, and Glenn and Jeffrey, who live in Wisconsin, and five grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held at Wolf Springs Forest, the Stoddard family's nature preserve near Minong, Wis. The family suggests that memorials go to the Sigurd Olson Institute for Environmental Studies at Northland College in Ashland, Wis.

THE MEDICARE HOME HEALTH EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce today The Medicare Home Health Equity Act of 1997. This legislation will return equity to the Medicare system of reimbursing home health agencies for the valuable care they provide throughout our country.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 had the unintended effect of creating an inequity in the way Home Health Agencies are reimbursed for services provided to America's seniors and the chronically ill through Medicare. My legislation will correct this inequity and accomplish the following:

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act removes the IPS penalty on cost-efficiency and levels the playing field. The Interim Payment System (IPS) inadvertently penalizes cost-efficient home health agencies (HHA) by basing 75% of agencies' per patient payment limits in fiscal years (FY's) 1998-99 on their FY 1994 average cost per patient. Because an agency's average cost per patient in FY 1994 is based on the number of visits the agency provided per patient that year, agencies that provided the most visits to patients—regardless of whether the care was medically necessary or not—now have the highest per patient cost limits. As a result, high-cost agencies continue to receive a disproportionate share of Medicare home health dollars. This outcome is the opposite of what Congress sought last year.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act is budget neutral according to Price Waterhouse. It does not bust the balanced budget agreement reached last year. It also does not jettison the many good steps taken in the Balanced Budget Act to address the very real problems of fraud and abuse in the Medicare home health benefit. However, it does address the one provision that rewards high cost agencies and penalizes low cost agencies.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act moves Medicare home health reimbursement more quickly to prospective payment by basing payments on national and regional cost data rather than on agency-specific data. Prospective payment will bring Medicare home health expenditures under control by reversing the incentive under cost-reimbursement to maximize patient costs. The incentive for HHAs under prospective payment will be to manage costs efficiently over an episode of care. Prospective payment in hospitals has demonstrated that this can be done while maintaining high quality of health services.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act recognizes that Medicare home health costs have been managed effectively in 34 states. The average cost per patient in these states is below the national average cost per patient. Agencies in these states should not be penalized by the higher than national average costs experienced in 16 states.

The Medicare Home Health Equity Act will not harm patient care by lowering the per beneficiary cost limit for home health agencies with costs above the 75% national—25% regional cost limit. HCFA data shows little difference among types of home health agencies (e.g. non-profit, for-profit, hospital-based, government-affiliated) in regard to their level of