

Battlefield for \$2.5 million but have resisted placing the land on the open real estate market to provide the local community the opportunity to raise the funds necessary to purchase the land. To date, the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund has raised in excess of \$1 million. The purpose of the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Act of 1998 is to authorize the addition of the Paoli Battlefield site to the Valley Forge National Historical Park and to authorize the appropriation necessary to complement local funds raised to ensure the purchase of the site for preservation purposes.

Having recently been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service recognized the Paoli Battlefield citing its importance "in the area of American military history as a Revolutionary War battle and for honoring the commemorative efforts of the local community to preserve this important site." Patrick McGuigan, retired Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army and President of the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, has put succinctly describes the importance of this bill: "This community of 2,944 people possesses a part of American history in our own backyard, a memorial to the highest price Americans have paid—laying down their lives for our freedoms. We are trying to purchase the site for all Americans, and the Chester County Historical Society wants to hook this up with their education program involving local battlefields. Individually, saving this site is a good thing, but collectively, in conjunction with American history, it's a great thing."

The Battle was a true massacre, henceforth inspiring American Revolutionary troops to cry "Remember Paoli!" This legislation merely seeks to facilitate local efforts to preserve this invaluable land—the site of a massacre that henceforth inspired American Revolutionary troops, and now us today, to cry, "Remember Paoli!"

BLOOMFIELD CITIZENS COUNCIL AWARDS

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of Pittsburgh residents who will be honored on May 1 with Bloomfield Citizens Council Awards. Every year, the Bloomfield Citizens Council makes these awards as a way of recognizing members of the community who have made a significant contribution to the quality of life in Bloomfield. I would like to take this opportunity to mention the 1998 award winners and commend them for their efforts to make Bloomfield a better place to live.

For their work with Operation Charlie, which ministers to the needs of needy children and senior citizens, Donna and Dennis Ramallo have been selected as the 1998 recipients of the Mary Cercone Outstanding Citizen Award. This award is given to individuals who demonstrate "an unselfish commitment to others and a deep love for the community of Bloomfield. Through Operation Charlie, the Ramallos have provided gifts of clothing, toys, personal items, and school supplies to needy local residents. They have also made contributions to local food pantries, and they have college

scholarships to deserving high school students.

A Community Commitment Award will go to Rose Larus, who has volunteered her time and energy in the community for more than 13 years. Over that period of time, she has organized events to educate and screen residents for a host of health-related problems, established the non-profit organization Senior Friends, helped with the annual Senior Festival, co-chaired the Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph blood drives, raised money for Meals on Wheels and local food banks, worked with the Catholic Youth Organization, and volunteered for many worthy causes. She volunteers an average of 100 hours per month.

A Public Safety Award will be bestowed upon Officer Mildred Johnson, who has worked for a number of years out of Zone Five Station to prevent crime and keep young people from using drugs.

The Bloomfield Citizens Council is presenting a number of Youth Dedication Awards this year. One recipient of the Youth Dedication Award this year will be Dan Brannigan, who has been actively involved with the Bloomfield Catholic basketball team, composed of high-school-age boys, for the last four years. Another Youth Dedication Award will go to Lundo DiMarco, who was actively involved in putting together the Tri-Ward Baseball League, which consists of more than 200 boys from the ages of 5 to 17. Lawrence Camerota will also receive a Youth Dedication Award for his many efforts to teach young people the joys of athletic competition. Mr. Camerota coached Little League Baseball with the Bloomfield Youth Athletic Association for more than 30 years. He coached the Immaculate Conception football team for a number of years, and he recently helped to organize the Tri-Ward Baseball League. Dominic Piccola will get a Youth Dedication Award for coaching young people in Little League, the Tri-Ward Baseball League, and the Bloomfield Street Hockey League. Marlene Hennigan and Barbara Zielski—also known as "the Thompson Sisters"—will share a Youth Dedication Award for their more than 20 years of work with the Bloomfield Girls Athletic Association. Finally, Vinessa Gentile Turpin will receive a Youth Dedication Award for more than 25 years of teaching at Immaculate Conception School and Peabody High School, as well as her many after-school volunteer activities, which included the National Junior Honor Society, school yearbooks and newspapers, science fairs, spelling bees, debate leagues, Upward Bound, as well as stints as tennis coach, soccer coach, and basketball coach.

The Bloomfield Citizens Council will also present a host of awards for Christmas decorations again this year. Nancy Goldberg will receive the Most Festive Award for her Christmas light display in memory of her husband Sam Goldberg. John and Nancy Greegus will receive the Most Artistic Design Award for the decorations adorning their home. Mike and Ortenza Magliocco will receive the Best Use of Frontage Award. John and Norma Feigel will receive the Keeping Christ in Christmas Award for their decorations with a religious theme. Nick and Dolores DiGiacomo will receive the Most Outstanding and Completely Decorated Home Award this year, their third award in as many. And finally, Phyllis Kutosky and Lucille Tortorella—a mother-and-daughter team—will

receive the Most Elaborate Property Decoration Award for decorating the property they share.

The individuals receiving 1998 Bloomfield Citizens Council awards have all helped to improve the quality of life in Bloomfield. I commend them for their efforts.

HONORING THE KIT CARSON WOODWIND ENSEMBLE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kit Carson Woodwind Ensemble from Kit Carson School for representing the state of Colorado at the National Festival of the States in Washington, D.C.

The National Music Festival honors all American music, focusing on patriotic music as our country continues to salute an era of veterans and civilians who served their country, paying the highest price for Liberty.

The Kit Carson Woodwind Ensemble consists of twenty students, ranging from elementary to high school. These students are from a small town, with a population of 300, in the middle of Colorado's most productive farming and ranching community.

Kit Carson is a town of achievers and civic-minded people who realize that nothing comes free. This special community raised more than \$25,000 in two months to send every child in the Wind Ensemble to Washington, D.C. The students and parents recycled aluminum, held spaghetti feeds and washed cars until their hands were raw. I am very proud of these young citizens and their parents for their hard work and dedication to making this trip possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming band members Sarah Wolff, Michelle Wolff, Bethany Schallenberger, Adrienne Steiner, Latisha Robinson, Jennifer Johnson, Helyna Bledsoe, Jessica Kent, Andrea Johnson, Melissa Kliensen, Cheryl Steiner, Matthew Maxcy, Samuel Maxcy, Aaron Perdue, Scott Oswald, Joshua Schnable, David Thatcher, Kent Lewis, Nathan Maxcy and band instructors Brian Edgar and Dan Parmentier to Washington.

TRIBUTE TO BOB LENT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in rising to recognize Bob Lent, UAW Region 1 Director, who will be retiring at the end of June. On May 5, 1998, Bob Lent will celebrate his retirement with his friends and colleagues at Penna's in Sterling Heights.

Through the years, Bob Lent has been a fighter. His tireless efforts have improved the lives of the working families throughout Southeastern Michigan. Bob is a man who has dedicated his life to securing dignity and respect for all people. He has been a champion of civil rights and civil liberties, and has helped create a stronger, more united community.

In 1949, Bob Lent began a career with the UAW that has spanned forty-nine years. He started as a spray painter at the Dodge Main plant of Local 3 in Hamtramck, Michigan. After serving his country as an Army paratrooper from 1951 to 1953, Bob returned to Michigan to become a millwright apprentice and a skilled tradesman at the Chrysler 9-mile Road Press Plant, Local 869.

While at UAW Local 869, Bob's strong leadership and vision were recognized and he was chosen by his colleagues to serve in a distinguished list of appointed and elected positions. He was an alternate chief steward, trustee chairman, vice president, president, education representative, and assistant director. His vast knowledge and experience made him a logical choice for director.

Bob was first elected to the UAW Executive Board as a regional director at the UAW's 27th Constitutional Convention in May, 1983, at Dallas, Texas. After his re-election to a third term, Bob was elected director of UAW Region 1 which covers Detroit's east side, Pontiac, Macomb and St. Clair Counties and part of the thumb area of Southeastern Michigan, and Canada.

Bob is not only an active union leader, but a community leader as well. He served on the Labor Advisory Committee at both Oakland and Wayne State University. He has been a Democratic precinct delegate. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Pontiac-Oakland County and Detroit Area United Foundation.

Few people have given to their community with the vision and commitment that Bob Lent has given to his. He is a person who has inspired the admiration of many. I am honored to call him a friend. I would like to congratulate Bob on his very distinguished career and I wish him and his family all of the best.

MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy contest. This year more than 93,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 56 national scholarships which were distributed among the 54 national winners. The contest theme this year was "My Voice in our Democracy."

Hillary Anne Underwood is this year's Latin America/Caribbean winner. She is the recipient of a \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and its Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship Award.

I want to congratulate Hillary on her accomplishments and her scholarship award. I would also like to share Hillary's award winning script with my colleagues.

1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION, "MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

(Hillary Anne Underwood, Latin America/Caribbean Winner)

Welcome! I'd like to thank each of you for attending choir tryouts. "Democracy" is the theme song for today.

Let's begin rehearsal by reciting the first of three verses.

FREEDOM. Isn't it amazing how just one word can hold so much? We live in a democracy, and HERE people are free to say what they please, ask what they may, and be whatever they want to be.

Our forefathers fought endlessly for freedom through the American Revolution and the Civil War. Through these two very significant wars, the government of the United States separated itself from the threshold of the church, developed the sovereignty of the people that still lives today, wrote the constitution, and have offered insights that have aided other countries in their quests for democracy.

Today, my voice for democracy can be heard through my greatest freedom . . . the right to vote.

Freedom is the core of democracy. Without the freedom of speech . . . press . . . and religion . . . Our society would sound like this: ----- Perfectly silent. No opinions, No thoughts, No voices, . . . ALL of our voices would be mute.

My Voice, Your Voice
We are the voices of freedom,
We are the Chorus of Democracy.

Excuse me, before we continue, you two, in the back, . . . tyranny and prejudice . . . I am going to have to ask you BOTH to leave. There is absolutely no room for you in a democracy.

Now, Let us continue with the second verse . . . EQUALITY.

In our Declaration of Independence and in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, "All men are created equal."

Some people are still struggling in their never ending fight for equality; where women are regarded as inferior. They are not acknowledged as equal human beings.

If you listen carefully, you can hear the desperate cries for help from the heart-broken little girls in orphanages, abandoned by their families.

Can you imagine living in a society like that . . . Where you are practically non-existent because of your gender or race? I consider myself fortunate, we've never had to experience a situation of this kind . . . Because we . . . live in a democracy. There is only ONE single race . . . HUMANITY.

My Voice, Your Voice
We are the voices of Equality,
We are the Chorus of Democracy.

Congratulations, you are all doing a wonderful job, and are all strong candidates for the choir. Now, let us continue with the final verse . . . JUSTICE. This . . . is the foundation of a government.

Thomas Jefferson stated: "Democracy is the only form of government which is not externally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind."

This is Justice. This is what people risk their lives everyday in search of . . . democracy, where "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law"; where we are "innocent until proven guilty"; where we are guaranteed "the right to a fair trial."

Imagine yourself, your children, your family, being used as an object. A human shield used to protect weapons, people, and their power. You are a pawn with no individual liberties, where a single person has taken your fate into their own hands. This is not justice.

My Voice, Your Voice
We are the voices of Justice,
We are the Chorus of Democracy.

Democracy is defined as a government in which the supreme power rests in its people. But in defining the word democracy, we are encompassing an endless wilderness of ideas within a tiny barrier of words. The Freedom,

Equality, and Justice in a democracy are enjoyed by all of us today.

This concludes our tryouts. All candidates have had an equal opportunity to become part of a democratic choir. The finalists have been chosen, and they are . . . ALL of us. Each of us is important to the choir, just as every citizen plays an important role in America.

We must always remember that Our America is unified and free. So raise your voices! Sing out America! Let our voices be heard! Let our song echo throughout generations, as we harmonize in the words of Gerald Lee

... "America is a single tune, and it must be sung together."

WELFARE REFORM JUST ENDS WELFARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post article about Arkansas Governor Huckabee's flight from a group of welfare protesters confirms my greatest fear about the 1996 welfare law—welfare reform was about cutting caseloads, not about helping ex-welfare recipients become self-sufficient. In the first 13 months after welfare reform was signed into law in August 1996, welfare caseloads dropped 19 percent nationwide. Almost 2.4 million fewer people received welfare assistance in September 1997 than in August 1996. The rate of welfare reciprocity in the United States has reached its lowest level since 1969.

What's happening to these families and children? Olivia Golden, the Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary responsible for implementing the welfare reform law, told the Ways and Means Committee last month that "one of the challenges we face is to get better information about what is happening to families who are leaving assistance." The protest's in Little Rock complained that they haven't been able to find jobs. Ms. Golden confirmed that, when she reported that research from several states suggests that 50 to 60 percent of families leaving welfare are employed at follow-up. That means 40 to 50 percent were not employed.

The Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation recently released an interim report on its multi-year evaluation of Florida's Family Transition Program, one of the first programs to include a time limit on the receipt of cash assistance. Although claiming that longer-term follow-up is needed to track how people fare in the aftermath of reaching the time limits, MDRC found that only 52 percent of the FTP group were employed two years after entering the study despite an unusually generous array of support services and financial incentives. Nonetheless, almost everyone who reached the time limit had their benefits entirely canceled.

In the almost two years since passage of the Republican welfare reform law, a period of sustained economic growth and low unemployment, we have learned two things about the effects of the law—nearly one million families are no longer receiving welfare assistance and only about one-half of the families who have left welfare are working. Unfortunately,