

Grand River has welcomed the Coast Guard personnel with open arms. They have celebrated their relationship with the Coast Guard since the first community Coast Guard picnic way back in 1924.

In 1943, the city's residents also shared the Coast Guard's pain. They shared the Coast Guard's pain with a memorial service honoring the crew and the crew members of the Coast Guard cutter Escanaba, which had been based in Grand Haven from 1932 to 1940. One hundred and one men were lost when the ship was sunk by a German U-boat in the North Atlantic during World War II on June 13, 1943.

The city shared its pain, but also its resources. The city showed its commitment to the U.S. Coast Guard by raising funds to build a replacement, which was named the Escanaba II. The mast of the original Escanaba was saved and erected as a monument to those fallen heroes in Grand Haven's Escanaba Park, where it still remains today.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Grand Haven, which from Saturday and henceforth will be known officially as Coast Guard City USA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A TRIBUTE TO MARY CRITCHLOW KASTEN, "GRANDMOTHER" OF THE MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my admiration and respect for one of the most caring and effective public servants I have ever had the privilege to know, Representative Mary Kasten is lovingly known as the "grandmother" of the Missouri House of Representatives, and she has served the folks of Cape Girardeau for the last 16 years. She has decided to step down from this calling in January 2001 after serving the "people's body" in Missouri for 18 years.

If Mary's only contribution to her fellow man was this representation, she would be deserving of this special tribute. However, Mary Kasten, the farm girl from Matthews and New Madrid

County, is and has been much more. In fact, Mary's service in the legislature is only a small snapshot of a life that is truly a panorama of helping others. As a mother to her children, Mark, Mike and Meg, a wife to Mel Kasten, her husband of 50 years, and a teacher reaching out to kids and parents alike, Mary always sought to help brighten the lives of others.

In every endeavor Mary honored her personal commitment to God, family, country and her fellow man. Miss Mary, as we know her, honored her Lord by serving as a Sunday school teacher and choir member in the St. Andrews Lutheran Church. As a mom, she was and is the best example I have known of a mom who cares. She volunteered at every level to help her children and be involved in their lives. Later, she served on the Cape Girardeau school board and held various offices for 20 years. She also continued her service to education by serving on the board of regents at Southeast Missouri State University her alma mater. As a wife, Mary and Mel have been inseparable, and except for her times in Jefferson City, Mary and Mel go everywhere together. Their marriage is an inspiration to all of us.

For almost everyone who knows Mary, the first thought that comes to mind is her selflessness and her sensitivity and caring for her fellow man. It is that caring that truly makes Mary worthy of tribute. She is indeed the human manifestation of the golden rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

But in Mary's case it is no quid pro quo but a genuine love of all humankind. I personally have seen this caring when Mary and Mel took care of mine and Bill's daughter Tori when Katharine was being born. Bill was on the campaign trail 3 or 4 hours from home and Mary and Mel became Tori's surrogate parents, and even put her to bed with them. At every turn, the Kastens have been a part of the Emerson family, from the birth of Katharine and even in Bill Emerson's death, Mary and Mel opened their home to our entire family and became the nurturing core for the grieving family and our friends.

In fact, it is probably this empathy with others that inspired Mary to her greatest public service, and that was the beginning of the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council. Mary's brainchild of making programs really work for people began in southern Missouri and is now being replicated in the rest of the State and nationwide. In fact, Mary Kasten and caring are indeed words that are synonymous with me and the hundreds who have known and worked with Miss Mary.

It is indeed an honor to offer this tribute on the floor of the House of Representatives, because I can think of no one more deserving than Mary Kasten to be recognized in the people's House. If Bill Emerson were alive today, I know he would gladly give Mary this very same tribute to her

service to the people. The girl from New Madrid County who served and broke new ground in politics and public service deserves, in my opinion, the same tribute made to bill.

Mary Kasten is truly deserving of the favorite Teddy Roosevelt quote "In the Arena," and I quote:

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is not effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Mary Kasten, our world is a better place because you have served all of us in the arenas of our lives, and for that we truly thank you.

THE TAX BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of partisan talk about the tax bill, and I can understand it. A bill of \$800 billion, exploding to \$3 trillion in the second 10 years, does indeed put our economy at risk. A bill that says lock up the Social Security money for Social Security but then take every bit of the regular general surplus, or virtually all of it, and pay that out as tax cuts. Regardless of whether that surplus actually arises, pay it out, lock it into the law. That could be regarded as fiscally irresponsible by many of us on the Democratic side of the aisle.

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And of course, there are many partisans who would recognize that if we do not use the opportunity to pay off the debt now while the baby-boomers are in their peak earning years, that when the baby-boomers retire, there will not be any capacity to use general fund revenues to help make Social Security last through its most challenging demographic era and that as a result we will hear the cries at the first economic hiccup for cuts in Social Security or increases to FICA taxes.

Yes, indeed, with all that fiscal irresponsibility and all that risk to the Social Security system, some Democrats decry the bill in the most partisan terms. But do my colleagues know, we should not just decry the bill. Because as a tax lawyer, I was just amazed by it as I read each provision.

How is it that they could write a tax bill giving 45 percent of the benefit to only one percent of the people in the country? We should not decry the bill.