

are crooks; and, yes, if politicians themselves could restrain some of their impulses to demean not only their opponents but government itself.

But it wouldn't be the United States, where cynicism about public life was a part of the environment in which today's young people grew up. Partly for that reason, voter turnout among young Americans is low—and getting lower. Fewer than one in three Americans under 25 voted in the last two presidential elections. If past trends hold, fewer than one in five will vote in this midterm election.

The past two years have created an opportunity for change. If any event could send the message that "your vote counts," it was the 2000 presidential election, in which the candidates were separated by so few votes that a handful of people might have tipped the balance, kept the election out of the courts and literally changed the course of history. And after Sept. 11, who can say with a straight face that "government doesn't make a difference in my life"?

Young Americans may find in those events a new incentive to vote—but that's a hope, not a guarantee. There's still a lack of communication to overcome. Young people often report that they don't vote because candidates don't speak directly to them; candidates often don't seek out young voters because they don't vote.

No one initiative or individual can break this cycle, but David Skaggs is doing his part. A Democrat who represented the 2d Congressional District for 12 years in the House of Representatives, Skaggs now serves as executive director of a Washington-based outfit called the Center for Democracy and Citizenship. One of its projects is designed to help political candidates reach out to young voters.

The center has made available to thousands of political candidates across the country a "tool kit" of background information and common-sense guidance on reaching young voters. Candidates who study the material will find that it punctures a few stereotypes about young people. They're often disengaged from politics but aren't cynical as a group about the world around them; they're evenly divided in their political preferences and not wedded to any one party.

There's no need to dwell on details intended for candidates rather than the general public. It's worth noting, though, that many of the suggestions for reaching young people would be sound advice for reaching any group of voters. Meet them on their own turf. Make it easy for them to find information. Do not adopt a "youth agenda," because young people care about the same issues their elders do. Do not, under any circumstances, pretend to be one of them; they'll spot a phony in a minute. Show the connection between their concerns and the election results.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. HENRY ANDERSEN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Henry "Hank" Andersen of Lamar, CO who have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Hank and Marjorie Anderson grew up in the small town of Cozad, Nebraska. They were high

school sweethearts who married on July 31, 1942. For their lifetime commitment to each other and their strong example to their family and community, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends Hank and Marjorie and wishes them many more wonderful years together.

After graduating from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, with a major in speech, Miss Marjorie Evelyn Ford married Naval Ensign Henry Stanley Andersen. In 1942, the couple moved to New York City, where Hank, a Naval officer who loved to fly, was stationed as a pilot. There, their small family grew to include a daughter, Sue Ford Andersen. After Hank's tour of duty ended in 1945, the Andersen's moved back to Nebraska. In 1947, they welcomed the birth of their second child, Stanley Ford.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska Dental School in 1949, Hank moved his family to Lamar, Colorado. There, he opened a successful dental practice, which he maintained for almost 35 years.

As their children grew, Hank and Marjorie became very involved in the life of their community. Marjorie joined two women's service organizations, Sorosis and P.E.O., while Hank became an active member of the Southeastern Colorado Dental Association. Both Hank and Marjorie have been active members of Lamar's First Presbyterian Church.

Family has always been very important to Hank and Marjorie. Throughout their married life, the Andersen's made numerous trips back to Cozad, Nebraska to visit their parents, Ralph and Pearl Ford (Pa Ralph and Sweetiepie to their grandchildren) and Henry and Ella Andersen, (affectionately referred to as Pa Henry and Squeezetight). Even after their parents passed away, the Andersen's continued to make the trip to visit their aunt and uncle, Floyd and Kate Mundell.

Hank and Marjorie take great pride in their children, and were very excited when Sue married James Ocken in 1966 and when they became the grandparents of Cassandra "Cassie" Ocken and Staci Ocken Helseth. They have also greatly enjoyed their great-grandchildren, Chase Henry Helseth and Courtney Laura Helseth. The Andersen's are always prepared to show off their most recent family photos.

Always avid sports fans, Hank and Marjorie held season tickets to the Air Force Academy football games during the 1950s, and never missed an opportunity to attend Lamar High School football and basketball games. The Andersen's have also continually encouraged the young people of their community, faithfully attending the school events of neighborhood children, long after their son and daughter left home.

After Dr. Andersen retired in 1983, the couple enjoyed traveling to Kennebunkport, Maine, the home of their favorite president, George Bush, and to the countryside of Wisconsin to see the fall colors.

After 60 years of marriage, Hank and Marjorie Andersen are still a beautiful picture of what it means to be in love. Everyone who knows them can see how much they enjoy being in each other's company. They take care of one another, laugh together and set a meaningful example of commitment in marriage.

Citizens of Colorado, Hank and Marjorie are a truly remarkable couple. I am proud of their

momentous accomplishment, and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Henry Andersen.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS B. AHART, PHILIPSBURG, N.J., ON COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS OF AMERICA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow New Jersey resident and truly outstanding citizen, Thomas B. Ahart of Philipsburg, who is completing his highly successful term as President of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA)—later this month in New Orleans. Tom is president of Ahart, Frinzi & Smith, a Philipsburg, N.J.-based independent insurance agency.

Tom's career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding contribution and relentless dedication to his clients, community, IIABA, the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey (IIANJ), and his independent agent colleagues across the country.

He began his volunteer service with IIANJ where he served as president and chairman of the board. He also represented New Jersey as its representative to IIABA's National Board of State Directors. He was chairman of IIABA's Education Committee for four years before being elected to the Association's executive leadership panel.

Outside IIABA, Tom has served as a member of the board of the New Jersey Joint Underwriting Authority and was president of the Eastern Agents Association. He has served as an advisor to the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and the Insurance Institute of America, and was just appointed to their board.

Tom was honored with several state and local awards. They include the 1982 New Jersey Young Agent of the Year, the 1986 and 1987 New Jersey Executive Committee Chairman of the Year Awards, the 1993 New Jersey Insurance Person of the Year Award, and the 1994 IIA of Hunterdon/Warren County Agent of the Year Award.

Tom also has distinguished himself as an active and concerned member of his community. He was elected to serve on his local school board, served as a trustee at his church, and as a little league coach for 25 years, and he's coached boy's wrestling, boy's baseball, girl's basketball and girl's softball.

I laud Tom for his tireless leadership of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and the many accomplishments benefiting all independent insurance agents and brokers realized during his tenure as President. I know that even though Tom will step aside as IIABA leader soon, he will remain involved with the Association because he is a concerned leader and wants to continue helping his colleagues build for a strong and secure future. Congratulations on a job well done, Tom!