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House of Representatives

VISCLOSKY HONORS CROATIAN LODGE 170

Madam Speaker: It is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 104th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Geraldine M. Doll, Marko Frankovich, Anthony R. Glibota, Sharon Haynes, Domenica Jakska, Mary Ann Maggi, Thomas D. Meeks, Mary Ann Pala, Dennis R. Pollack, Mary Kay Rhodes, Judy A. Rodriguez, Anthony A. Samanich, Lorna Gail Scott, Patricia C. Tonkovich, Dennis Tuskan, Diana M. Voyt, and Katherine M. Zarth.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 324 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

In addition to celebrating its 104th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet, the Croatian Lodge 170 will honor Sister Violet Bade as its Woman of the Year. Violet Bade will be recognized for her dedication to the Lodge and for her many years of distinguished service.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The banquet will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170 for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.