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like myself who will never address thousands from a podium or bandwagon but whose voice counts. We all have a hand in the working of this country. It is not necessary to achieve wealth, power and fame, being an American, a citizen, a doer, brings as many rewards and fulfillments. Here is my role. I am an American.●

WELCOME TO JONATHAN
FREDERICK BARBEE

HON. JOE WYATT, JR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 1980

● Mr. WYATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this most happy occasion to let you and my colleagues here in the House of Representatives know that we have a new citizen. Jonathan Frederick Barbee was born today in El Campo, Tex. Jonathan, the son of Chris and Carol Barbee, was born at 9 o'clock this Monday morning, September 22, 1980.

I want to welcome Jonathan to Texas, and on behalf of the rest of the Texas delegation and the entire Congress, express my sincerest congratulations to the parents; and to Jonathan express my sincerest best wishes on beginning a new adventure in one of the best spots in the whole world. It is not every child who has the good fortune to have parents such as yours, and to live in such a fine community as El Campo, Tex. With a beginning like that I know there will be great things to come from him.●

TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE L. POE

HON. GLADYS NOON SPELLMAN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 1980

● Mrs. SPELLMAN. Mr. Speaker, poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man." Had he known Gertrude Poe he would have added the words "or one woman." For Miss Poe, although slight of build, has for more than four decades cast an imposing shadow over my own community of Laurel, Md., and one of its institutions.

The institution is our town newspaper, the Laurel News Leader. Throughout her 41-year association with the paper, Gertrude L. Poe was more than its editor and its publisher—she was its guiding force and spirit. And, as such, she had an unequalled and unique impact on both the newspaper and the community it serves.

A slim, trim, magnificently groomed, exquisitely dressed, useful woman, Gertrude belies the fact of a 41-year career. Her charm, her wit, and her ever-pleasant demeanor have earned her the love of countless friends while her competence in her profession is recognized by the entire community of the fourth estate.

Oddly, initially she had no desire to be a journalist. She took over as editor of what was then an 8-page tabloid in 1939, at the request of the paper's owner, G. Bowie McCeney. Fresh out of law school, she had hoped to join Mr. McCeney's law firm, not edit his newspaper.

But, fortunately for all of us, Miss Poe quickly found things she liked about journalism. In the end, she shepherded Mr. McCeney's newspaper through 2,132 weekly editions. And it flourished under her stewardship.

Originally called the Laurel Leader, the newspaper became the chief recorder of events in and around Laurel. It grew in size and, more importantly, in staff. Miss Poe no longer had to be editor, reporter, seller of ads, all wrapped up into one.

In 1946, the tabloid Leader became full size. It merged with the Bowie Register and College Park News to become the Laurel News Leader. And, somewhere along the way, it became financially sound. That development, together with Miss Poe's leadership, insured its survival to the present day.

Through it all, Gertrude Poe's steady hand at the helm guided its growth. Her standards were high; her integrity unquestioned. Through a period of vast changes in attitudes and lifestyles, hers was a thoughtful voice of reason and stability. Through years when the role of journalism itself underwent revolutionary changes, she never lost sight of her basic objective: to chronicle, as she put it, "Laurel's saga" over time.

I've heard it said that a newspaper is "the first rough draft of history." And that is exactly what the News Leader has been under Gertrude L. Poe, the first rough draft of Laurel's history for 41 years.

Of course, Miss Poe was not afraid to prod when she thought prodding was necessary. The city took her advice on more than one occasion and is better off today for having done so. She was a consummate journalist, tempered with concern and love for her neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, Gertrude Poe decided to step down as editor and publisher of the News Leader. She relinquished control to a team which, from all indications, will continue to provide a journalistic product in keeping with the standards she set for more than four decades. That she is missed—greatly—by the many readers of the News Leader and others in the community, goes without saying. Certainly, we are all pleased that she now has the chance to enjoy life at a quieter pace. And we know that new projects and new challenges will occupy her in retirement. But we cannot help a touch of sadness at the thought that the woman who has been called Maryland's first lady of journalism no longer edits what we think of as our newspaper.

In characteristic manner, Gertrude Poe, in a farewell column, credited

others more than herself for the News Leader's success. She praised the paper's staff, its advertisers, its readers, and its supporters and thanked them all for helping her put the News Leader together each week for 41 years.

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, many of Gertrude Poe's friends and admirers will have the chance to return that praise when we gather in Baltimore to pay tribute to Miss Poe's own contribution and unmatched efforts over those same 41 years. I will be proud to be among those helping to chronicle the career of Laurel's own chronicler at that affair. And I will be most honored to be among those paying high tribute to one whose imprint on the community of Laurel has been so significant.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will want to join in acknowledging the many fine achievements of Gertrude L. Poe. I know, too, they will want to wish Miss Poe happiness and good health in all her future years. And most of all, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will want to join in offering heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Gertrude Poe for her years of dedication and commitment. The News Leader is truly an institution, and Gertrude L. Poe, its beloved editor and guiding spirit, will long cast a lengthened shadow.●

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS
LAUDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY ACT OF 1980 EFFORTS
BY SMALL CITIES, TOWNS, AND
RURAL AREAS

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 1980

● Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, on September 15 and 16, 1980, the House and Senate, respectively, passed H.R. 3580, the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980, which provides for the establishment and coordination of a comprehensive nationwide rural development policy, and the authorization of appropriations for title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972, and for other purposes.

This measure will be signed into law by President Carter in the near future and the President will address the importance of the act as a major step in implementation of the Carter administration small community and rural development policy statement of December 1979, the Rural Development Act of 1972, and the newly authorized Under Secretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development.

As chairman of the CRC and its advisory team, I reaffirm our continued cooperation with the President, executive branch, Congress, and the private and public sector to insure positive and effective implementation of these policies, programs, and strategies.