

RECOGNIZING THE "DEAN OF CALIFORNIA CITY ATTORNEYS" MR. ALLEN E. SPRAGUE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to city attorney Allen E. Sprague for his dedicated years of service to the city of Fremont. During his tenure, Mr. Sprague has provided strong leadership to a city which has risen to new heights.

After graduating from University of California Boalt Law School, Mr. Sprague was hired as the city of Fremont's assistant city attorney in 1963. Six years later, he was appointed as their city attorney, thus attaining the title of "Dean of California City Attorneys," as the longest serving, continuous, and surviving city attorney in northern California. Mr. Sprague served as counsel to 18 separate city councils, and as a mentor to numerous staff members who have gone on to serve other California cities as city attorneys. During a difficult transitional period, Mr. Sprague also acted as interim city manager in 1980 and 1981.

Mr. Sprague's community commitment goes well beyond his years with the city. He was an active participant with the Kiwanis International Club for 20 years, where he served as local chapter president, regional and national officer. Mr. Sprague also shared his fellowship as a lay Eucharist minister at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Fremont and by raising the spirits and bringing comfort to those in need as a volunteer with the Vespers Hospice.

Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to recognize Mr. Allen E. Sprague for all his achievements and commitment to our community. I hope you and my colleagues will join me in congratulating this leader for his illustrious career and wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

HAPPY 50TH BRONNER'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there have been many times when we have wished it could be Christmas 365 days of the year. The special feeling that this wonderful holiday inspires enlightens us, and helps us to focus on kindness toward all.

Well, the people who work at Bronner's CHRISTMAS Wonderland should be the envy of us all because for them it is Christmas every day of the year. This Wednesday, Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store, celebrates its 50th anniversary at its store on 25 Christmas Lane in Frankenmuth, MI. This fantastic store, operated by Wallace "Wally" Bronner, supported by his parents, Herman and Ella Bronner, started as a small sign store to its current enviable position of offering a selection of more than 50,000 items from all over the world. The design and production of Christmas panels for merchants from Clare, MI, marked the first official sale of Christmas decorations to other communities.

Bronner's CHRISTMAS Wonderland is a must-see holiday store for the consumer. And it is also a major supplier for churches, businesses, industries, cities, parks, shopping centers, parades and parties. It is a family-owned and operated business, now including its third generation of Bronners, that has grown from its early days as a small sign shop through several expansions that now allow it to boast a showroom equal to the size of four football fields. At peak time, more than 400 people are employed on a full or part-time basis at this manger of holiday spirit. Much of the merchandise is imported from other manufacturers, but the most special pieces include those designed and produced by Wally Bronner himself.

And not forgetting that the true part of Christmas is its religious heritage; Wally, Irene and other members of the Bronner family 3 years ago opened Bronner's Silent Night Memorial Chapel to both signify their thanks for God's blessings, as well as to provide an opportunity for the millions of people who surely visit Bronner's over the years to pause and offer their own thanks for what life has given them.

Mr. Speaker, Frankenmuth is a community that speaks volumes about what commitment to one's neighbor and hard work can accomplish. Like a sturdy tree, it supports many branches that extend through its commercial, agricultural, educational, and social greatness. It is filled with people who we would all like to have as our own neighbors. When it is crowned with the bright star of Bronner's CHRISTMAS Wonderland, the decoration of this tree is truly complete. I urge you and all of our colleagues to wish the Bronner family and the hundreds of dedicated, good-spirit inspiring employees the very best on the 50th anniversary of Bronner's CHRISTMAS Wonderland.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELAINE STRAUSS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the inspiring story of a woman who has been an active member of the Jewish community in Suffolk County for many years, Helaine Strauss.

Helaine Strauss became a Jewish community center professional on Long Island in 1967. This began a lifetime career in which she vastly changed the landscape of Long Island's Jewish community.

In 1980, a determined board of directors, Suffolk County Y staff and Helaine took a bold step forward. They moved the Y into a brand new setting that provided the first Jewish day care center in the United Jewish Appeal [UJA] federation network, as well as a nursery school, a senior citizen and singles' center. In addition to these conveniences, the Y developed and installed a state-of-the-art fitness center.

When the initial construction of this enormous project was completed, Ms. Strauss breathed a sigh of relief and embarked on a new project: building bridges. Today, the Suffolk

Y Jewish Community Center joins with a multitude of Jewish agencies, synagogues and community organizations sponsoring innovative programs and services.

Ms. Strauss' leadership has been widely recognized. She is past president of the New York chapter of the Metropolitan Association of Jewish Center Workers and participated in Jewish Welfare Board's Executive Development Program and the Jewish Community Center Association's Executive Fellows Program. Ms. Strauss serves on the nation board of the Jewish Community Center Association and on the advisory board of the Adelphi School of Social Work. She received the Woman of the Year Award from Friends of Lubavitch of eastern Long Island.

In 1985, Ms. Strauss received the Samuel W. and Rose Horowitz award from the Commission on Synagogue Relations of UJA-Federation of New York, and she has also been honored by the Women's American Organization of Rehabilitation Training (ORT).

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in saluting Ms. Helaine Strauss, for 20 years of outstanding service, commitment and devotion to not only the Suffolk Y, but the entire Jewish community of Suffolk County, Long Island.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS V.F.W.

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago this summer, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 420 was established in Saratoga Springs, NY. The V.F.W., Mr. Speaker, has been and continues to be an organization of exceptional merit and service to the needs of many veterans. V.F.W. Post 420 was founded upon these principles in the summer of 1920, and continues to serve and remember those veterans who made sacrifices for America.

Post 420 was founded as a memorial to two brothers who courageously fought for America in WWI. On October 20, 1918, the Gurtler brothers were both killed in battle along the Hindenburg line in Germany. It is only appropriate that those brave men who placed themselves in harm's way overseas be represented by such an able organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is comforting to know that those who served the needs of our country and fought for the principles and ideas of America all over the globe can depend on the support of an organization like this post back home in upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, the service of Post 420 in Saratoga Springs is worthy of significant recognition. This post, and others like it, are the reason I fought so hard to attain department-level status for Veterans' Affairs. When President Ronald Reagan signed that legislation into law, veterans were finally afforded the degree of national consideration they deserve. The efforts of V.F.W. posts like this one, having served the needs of veterans since 1920, played a major role in the grassroots efforts by V.F.W. posts across this Nation to enact that bill into law. For this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 420 a tremendous debt.