

a Forest inholding currently owned and managed by Pitkin County as open space.

Endorsements: As of September 7, 2004 proposed the exchange has been endorsed by: Aspen Valley Land Trust; Aspen Historical Society; Ashcroft Ski Touring; The Conservation Fund; Crystal River Caucus; Friends of Ashcroft; Wilderness Workshop; Aspen Center for Environmental Studies; Aspen Skiing Company; Board of County Commissioners, Pitkin County; City of Aspen; Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Assn.; Roaring Fork Conservancy; Crystal-Maroon Caucus.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Francisco Gonzalez in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Francisco "Pancho" Gonzalez works for Webb County as the Center Director for the Larga Vista Community Center. Besides overseeing the center's operations, a large part of Gonzalez's job consists of meeting with the people in the community he serves and helping them solve a variety of problems. Gonzalez regularly intervenes on behalf of families having difficulties paying their utility bills, or buying food for their families. He is a man who goes out of his way to help others.

Gonzalez says, being on the United ISD Board gives him the chance to help the district move in a positive direction. Gonzalez likens the Board to an eight member team that must work together to realize its full potential. He also realizes that not all ideas come from the top. Gonzalez likes to listen to people's concerns and ideas. "I'm open minded to suggestions. I don't mind giving credit where credit is due."

Gonzalez, a Laredo native, earned a Bachelor in Business Administration degree from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. Despite his early business training, Gonzalez says he has always been attracted to social work. "I'm going on 20 years in the social services field," Gonzalez said.

He has worked for the Housing Authority of Laredo as a Drug Elimination Program coordinator. In that position, he organized drug prevention workshops and anti-drug activities for housing development residents. He has helped prisoners get their G.E.D.s when he worked with Laredo Junior College while stationed at the Corrections Corporation of America. As an employee with the Laredo-Webb County Health Department, he counseled people and referred them to agencies that could help them with their transportation and medical needs. Gonzalez has worked for the Texas Department of Human Resources, and the Texas Employment Commission. He has also spent time in the private sector, purchasing materials and parts for his father's auto painting business.

He says he enjoys doing community service work. "If it's for a good cause, I'll do it." He was a previous board member with the Gate-

way Community Health Center where he served as president of the finance committee. He serves as a board member for the Salvation Army and is a court appointed special advocate-CASA. He has also donated time to Cancer Patient Services, United I.S.D.'s anti-drug program, and the Bringing Everyone Special Together organization. Gonzalez says one of the best ways to put his knowledge to good use is to help others in need. "One of my goals is to continue helping people. When I get tired, I seek guidance from the Lord."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Board Member Francisco Gonzalez.

STANLEY WARREN REMEMBERED

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of a tremendous community leader in San Francisco, Mr. Stanley E. Warren. Stan Warren sadly lost his battle against a brain tumor on January 31, 2005. He led our community with great distinction as the Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council.

Stan Warren dedicated his professional career to helping his fellow workers build a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities. Born in Fresno, Stan moved to the Bay Area where he attended Sequoia High School and Canada College in Redwood City. At 18, he became an apprentice with the Roofers and Waterproofers Union, Local 40, in San Francisco and worked his way up to Journeyman. Dedication to union affairs, Stan was elected business manager for Local 40 in 1994. In 2000, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council with 30 affiliated union locals.

We were all stunned when Stan was diagnosed with a life threatening brain tumor a few years ago. He fought back valiantly and we were encouraged by the improvement he showed. Yet, in recent months the struggle overcame him.

Stan was a powerful advocate for labor in the Bay Area and worked in Washington as an effective voice in support of worker safety, better health care, protecting pensions and the Davis Bacon Act ensuring prevailing wages in federal contracts.

I have always been proud to represent working people in the Bay Area and have worked closely with organized labor. My job has been made easier because I have had the privilege of representing and working with dedicated citizens and leaders like Stan Warren.

Many friends and neighbors recently shared our loss at a memorial service for Stan in Redwood City, CA. Stan's wife Geri, their three sons, Tren, Spencer, and Gage and Stan's parents Troy and Maria Warren proudly know him as a wonderful husband, father, and son. I was proud to know him as a friend. I extend to his family and friends our deepest condolences and ask my colleagues to join me in this expression of sympathy.

HONORING DON DEMERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Don DeMers of Fresno, California. Mr. DeMers, Fresno County Transportation Authority Executive Director, recently lost his battle against cancer.

Mr. DeMers had a long list of work experience in various places. Prior to becoming Administrator of the Fresno County Transportation Authority, Don was the Manager of Transportation Planning and Implementation in Anchorage, Alaska. He served as the Executive Director of the Bi-State Planning Agency in Minnesota, and as a stockbroker for Shearson Lehman in Minnesota. Don even spent time in Washington, DC, as a law clerk to a U.S. Attorney.

He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of University of North Dakota. Don holds a PhD in Political Science, and a Master's in Political Science/Public Administration. After his education in North Dakota, he attended Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC and the New York Institute of Finance in New York.

Mr. DeMers is survived by his wife, Deborah; sons Robert and wife Dawn, and Tony and wife Teena; daughters Barbarah and husband Michael Livorsi and Tressa and Crystal DeMers; his "pride and joys," eight grandchildren, Nicholas, Alexas, Brogen, Tyler, Lauren, Destany, Kaitlyn and one on the way; and his brothers Jim, Denny and Mike.

Don had a zest for life and a smile and sense of humor that made everybody laugh. He liked skiing, dancing, reading and biking, but most of all, golf with Deborah. All who knew and loved him will miss Don greatly.

RECOGNIZING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE BY ST. VINCENT MERCY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize an historic anniversary in my district in Northern Ohio. St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center celebrates 150 years of service. On Wednesday, February 23, 2005, the hospital will mark this sesquicentennial with a dedication and blessing of its Historic Donor Wall and Marguerite d'Youville Sanctuary.

In 1737 Marguerite d'Youville and three friends dedicated their lives to serving the poor. They established a Hospital General, a hostel for the destitute. Because the hospital only admitted men at first, Marguerite took poor women into her home. In 1747, Marguerite and her companions took over the administration of the Hospital General, restored the buildings and provided a combination veteran's hospital, nursing home, orphanage, mental asylum, VD clinic, reformatory for prostitutes, and overflow ward in case of epidemics. The religious order Marguerite thus established was the Grey Nuns. Their successors continue her work.

In 1855 four courageous and idealistic Grey Nuns took their lead from their foundress and