

Dr. Owen interned at Philadelphia General Hospital, then entered the United States Army Medical Corps in 1943. He remained in the medical corps until 1946, attaining the rank of major. He served in Hawaii, the United States and the Philippines, and after leaving active duty, he remained in the inactive reserves for six years.

In 1946, he opened a general medical practice in Waynesville. In 1947 he "covered" the Canton practice of his older brother Dr. Charles Owen. Meanwhile his own practice grew until he built the present Owen-Smith Clinic in 1954 after being joined by Dr. A. Heyward Smith. In 1962 he was elected to the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, serving for six years including the last year as president.

Dr. Owen's career has spanned the time period when he could not get a new car because of war-time conditions and he was paid with chickens and wood, to present-day medicine which utilizes computers, lasers and high-tech surgical procedures. He is a member and founding fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, life member of the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practitioners.

Dr. Owen has been a member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees since 1954, longer than any living member. He served on the Trustee Athletic Committee as chairman and was also on the Executive Committee. In 1991, Dr. Owen was made a life trustee. For two decades he belonged to the Wake Forest President's Club, and he worked as class agent for several medical classes. Dr. Owen was president of the Bowman Gray Medical School Alumni and earned a citation for distinguished service. In 1989, he chaired the Medical Center Board which encompasses the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Active in the First Baptist Church of Waynesville, Dr. Owen has served as deacon, trustee and chaired a variety of committees. He has been a member and former president of the Lions Club, the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce, the "30 Club" and is now a member of the Rotary Club.

Dr. Owen recently retired after fifty-one years in active practice and resides in Waynesville. His wife of more than 50 years is the former Helen Bryan. Their four children are: Elizabeth Owen Taylor, William Boyd Owen, James Griffin Owen and Mary Owen Davis. All four children graduated from Wake Forest University as did his wife, Helen. Helen's father, D.B. Bryan, was Dean of Wake Forest College for 26 years. He is the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren one of whom is now enrolled at Wake Forest University.

IN CELEBRATION OF AIRLINE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airline United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, on its 50th Anniversary. On

August 30th, Airline Church will celebrate fifty years of faith, love, and friendship. My family has attended Airline Church for many years now, and I want to personally thank the entire congregation for their fellowship and their contributions to our community.

In 1948, forty-four Houstonians gathered under the leadership and vision of Reverend C.E. Clark to form Airline United Methodist Church. Airline today has expanded from its humble beginnings in surplus Army barracks to become a multi-structure facility with a membership of 700 individuals. While Houston and the United States have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, Airline has remained true to its original mission: to be faithful to God and to provide for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the community.

The strength and longevity of Airline United Methodist comes from its people, their faith, and the relationships they build within our church family. The United Methodist Women encourages its members to study how the Methodist Church is at work in the world and the United Methodist Men participate in several service projects. Planning for the future, Airline youth fellowship seeks to instill Christian values in our younger members in order to prepare them for the challenges that today's youth face.

Airline United Methodist Church believes that its mission extends beyond the membership to the entire community. In collaboration with other Houston food programs, the Society of St. Stephen's operates a food pantry and serves as a food distribution point. At Thanksgiving, Church members furnish meals to local families, and at Christmas, both children and adults provide presents and meals for families identified by the local school district and for children whose parents are incarcerated. Today, church members have established a multicultural program designed to reach out to a rapidly changing community and our church services are translated into Spanish. In recognition of its evangelism efforts, Airline United Methodist Church has twice been presented with the Copeland Evangelism Award by the Texas Annual Conference.

Airline United Methodist's 50th Anniversary is both a milestone and a beginning. This celebration provides us the opportunity to review what has been accomplished through faith in God and to look forward to all that lies ahead.

THE JUSTICE FOR ATOMIC
VETERANS ACT OF 1998—H.R. 4368

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Justice For Atomic Veterans Act of 1998. This legislation will grant a presumption of service-connection for illnesses which have been identified as being significantly or suggestively increased in persons who have been exposed to radiation risk activities to those men and women who, during the course of their military service, were subjected to unknown doses of radioactive material.

Under present law, veterans who engaged in radiation risk activities during military serv-

ice are entitled to a presumption of service-connection for some illnesses, but must prove causation by "dose reconstruction estimates" which many reputable scientists have found fatally flawed. By VA estimates, only about 50 veterans have been able to show the requisite reconstructed dose to establish service-connection.

It is certainly not these veterans who are responsible that accurate records of their exposure were not kept and maintained. In addition, many veterans have been unsuccessful in obtaining access to even the inadequate medical records relating to their exposure during military service. In some cases, records have reportedly been lost. In other cases, records of radiation-related activities were classified and not made available to the veterans seeking compensation. It is also well known that many veterans were not provided with adequate protection to the radiation exposures to which they were subjected during their military service.

Our atomic veterans were put in harm's way in service to our Nation. But our government failed to collect the data and provide the follow-up that would enable our atomic veterans to effectively pursue claims for the harms which resulted. I agree with the statement in the 1995 final report of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments:

When the nation exposes servicemen and women to hazardous substances, there is an obligation to keep appropriate records of both the exposures and the long-term medical outcomes.

We failed to keep the records of the exposures of our atomic veterans. They should not suffer for our neglect. Let us right the injustices visited on our atomic veterans since the days of World War II. Presumption of service-connection for illnesses which are likely to be due to radiation risk activity should be enacted. I thank the Members who have agreed to be original cosponsor of this legislation and urge all other Members to support this legislation.

TO DESIGNATE JULY 6TH AS
"PALOMAR MARKET DAY"

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. and Mrs. James Mellos, a couple in my district whose retirement symbolizes the end of an era.

Since May of 1927, the Mellos family has owned and operated the Palomar Market Liquor & Grocery store located at 1802 W. Washington Street in San Diego, California. Mr. James D. Mellos, his brother Mr. Louis Mellos, and his cousin Mr. George Antonopoulos, started this business which the family has successfully owned and operated for 71 years—through the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and the Cold War. According to the Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Palomar Market has the unique recognition of holding the oldest off-sale liquor license in the State of California. Mr. James Mellos, Jr. worked at Palomar Market since he was nine years old, continuing a family tradition of serving the Mission Hills Community which lasted over four decades.