

of Italy," opened the first DiCicco's Restaurant in Fresno. The brothers were famous for their sing-alongs with Italian songs played on the jukebox in their restaurant. Eventually, they would be accompanied by their younger brother, Paul, and would cook into the stomachs and sing into the hearts of the people of Fresno. In 1958, Nicola returned to Italy to marry his wonderful wife, Anna Vitucci. Ten years later, the DiCicco family opened their second restaurant in Fresno and then expanded to nearby Clovis.

DiCicco family members now operate 18 restaurants in Fresno, Clovis, Madera, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Hanford, Visalia and one in Colorado. In addition, the family has spun off several other well-known local restaurants, including Vitucci's, Fratelli's, LaRocca's, Ovidio's, and Giulia's. Mr. DiCicco is survived by his wife of 44 years, Anna; his mother, Maria DiCicco; his sons: Pasquale, Giuliano, Vittorio, and Enrico; four sisters: Lucia Santeuffemia, Josephine LaRocca, Giulia Paolilli, and Rosaria Defendis; three brothers: Paul, Frank, and Roberto; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicola DiCicco for the contribution of his many restaurants, for sharing the great cuisine of Italy with the community, and for the warm atmosphere which he and his family have provided in their restaurants for numerous years. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Nicola, and in wishing his family many years of continued success.

NO ABORTIONS ON OVERSEAS
MILITARY BASES

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) the majority of my colleagues and I rejected a proposal by one of the Committee's members to permit abortions on military bases overseas.

This proposal would have turned our overseas military bases into abortion clinics. This would not only be wrong, but would also be a prime example of wasteful spending for political gain.

The proposed amendment to the Armed Services authorization bill would have changed a Department of Defense (DoD) policy that has been in place since 1996, and before that, from 1988 to 1993, which prohibits using DoD funds for abortions, except when necessary to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.

The amendment follows the same flawed logic as President Clinton's executive order which overturned this policy in 1993 and allowed abortions to take place at military medical facilities. During the years that the executive order was in place, the DoD was not only unsuccessful in identifying obstetricians and gynecologists stationed overseas who would perform abortions, but the number of abortions actually provided during those years was very small.

Some of my colleagues argue for this amendment based on a perceived "necessity" for safe abortions at overseas military bases. However, this "necessity" does not exist. Even

if this amendment were to have been adopted, DoD policy would still prohibit military doctors from performing abortions in those countries where abortion is restricted or not permitted.

Also, in most overseas locations where legal abortions are not available, military beneficiaries have the option of using space-available travel to return to the U.S. or travel to another overseas location for the purpose of obtaining an abortion just as do other service personnel and their family members who desire other elective procedures.

This amendment would also go against the DoD's official position on this policy. The Department opposes changing the policy for a number of reasons. First, it would involve the military in performing abortions for family planning purposes. Also, a change is not needed and is not considered to be necessary to protect the health of women in or affiliated with the armed forces overseas. Lastly, this change would create an assumption that practitioners adequately familiar with and willing to perform abortion services are available in overseas military facilities, which may not be true.

This amendment not only violates the spirit of the Hyde amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortions, but it also would encourage a very dangerous precedent of providing federal funds for elective procedures. The non-elective exemptions for abortions in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the mother is at risk are already in place and no further expansion is needed. Consequently, the use of tax-payer dollars for an elective procedure will only lead to a slippery slope of fiscal irresponsibility and soaring healthcare costs.

The House has defeated this amendment every year since 1996, and we defeated it again last evening in the Armed Services Committee. We have done so for the sound reasons I mentioned above, and I applaud my HASC colleagues for their good judgment and unwillingness to diminish the sanctity of life at the nation's overseas military bases.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the brave men and women who, during the past 75 years, have dedicated their lives to the service of others as members of the Ventura County Fire Department.

The Ventura County Fire Department has changed dramatically since May 11, 1928, when 277 voters went to the polls and 230 voted to form the department. Ventura County then was mostly rural and populated by ranchers and farmers. Wildfires were the primary concern. In 1928 the county experienced six house fires, but 2,820 acres of wildlands burned. The Fire Department's budget was \$20,000. Its first equipment was a Ford truck equipped with a portable pump and 1,000 feet of hose.

The county has been blessed through the years by attracting visionary Fire Chiefs, from Walter Emerick in 1928 to Bob Roper today. Together they built a fire department worthy of envy.

During its first decade, the Fire Department built 10 new fire stations situated throughout the county. In the years following World War II the department instituted a building program to modernize some stations, adopted the County Civil Service Retirement Plan and appointed the first battalion chiefs.

In the 1950s and 1960s, firefighting methods were updated, and the latest protective equipment, tools and fire engines were obtained. In the 1970s, a central Dispatch Communications Center was established and the Ventura County Public Safety Aviation Unit was formed. A hazmat trailer and suburban command modules for battalion chiefs were added in the 1980s.

The 1990s were a buzz of activity: The Department's computerized Incident Reporting System was developed and implemented, the communication center was designed and centralized, and a state-of-the-art Training Center and new fire stations were built.

But the best equipment is useless without highly trained and qualified fire fighters who put their lives on the line time and again to protect the residents of Ventura County. The Ventura County Fire Department currently employs 549 professional and dedicated men and women, 417 of whom are in uniform. Together, they protect 865 square miles and more than 450,000 people in Ventura County.

But their dedication does not stop at Ventura County's borders. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, a number of Ventura County firefighters volunteered to go to New York City to help with recovery efforts. They have joined their colleagues from other jurisdictions to battle wildfires across the United States again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I know many of Ventura County's firefighters and I can personally attest to their bravery, their professionalism, and their dedication to protecting the lives and property of their neighbors. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Ventura County Fire Department on its 75th anniversary and in thanking its brave men and women for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF DR. AND MRS.
JOHN W. PACE

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Dr. John W. Pace faithfully serves as Pastor of Red Oak United Methodist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia. Pastor Pace, affectionately known as "Big Daddy", is a native of the state Georgia. He is married to the lovely First Lady, Reba Pace. They have eight children, eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Pastor Pace has one brother who is also a minister/pastor.

Dr. Pace and First Lady Pace came to Red Oak U.M.C. in 1989 from Golden United Methodist Church in Douglasville, GA. Upon their arrival, they were truly united in God's mission and as a result of much hard work, many prayers and many sacrifices made under his fine leadership, the "New" Red Oak was built along with the Christian Life Center.

Certainly, Red Oak U.M.C. has served all congregation members and many others