

The Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group was founded by David Packard, who during the summer of 1977, asked a number of his fellow Silicon Valley CEOs to join him in building an organization that would create a proactive voice for Silicon Valley businesses. The formation in 1978 of the Manufacturing Group was the result of those discussions. The 33 charter members believed that business should work with the community and government to find innovative solutions to the challenges that faced their employees, including energy, transportation, education, and housing.

Today, the Manufacturing Group represents a variety of Silicon Valley businesses from software and manufacturing companies, to health care and education organizations. The 190 member-companies of the Manufacturing Group represent over 200,000 employees in the Silicon Valley.

During the quarter century since it was first founded, the Manufacturing Group has had a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Silicon Valley. They've brought leaders together to discuss the critical issues of our time and create solutions to these challenges. They've been at the forefront of the creation of affordable housing, improving and increasing transportation options, and being key players in addressing California's energy concerns. Today, member-companies do their part by conserving through increased efficiency, and working with regulators and energy companies to find solutions to the State's energy problems.

The Manufacturing Group was a key force in the creation of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County and played a major role in the Trust being able to raise over \$20 million in its first 2 years. This funding, raised during a time when corporate donations began to wane, is an extraordinary achievement, producing housing for first-time home buyers and stands as a model in our country. With the Manufacturing Group's leadership, the Housing Trust will return the investment ten-fold and assist families to realize their dream of homeownership.

The Manufacturing Group's track record on public transportation projects in the Valley has been extraordinary. Their first major initiative was in 1984 when they launched the effort to win the approval of improvements of Highways 85, 237 and 101. The project funded by the Measure A half-cent sales tax proposal was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, and most importantly it was accountable to the people who passed it. The Manufacturing Group went on to spearhead other critical transportation measures in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2002, all of which were successful, even after the law required a two-thirds voter approval.

With the outstanding leadership of Carl Guardino, the Manufacturing Group's President and CEO, annual forums are held to predict economic and infrastructure trends and the examination of what inhibits producing and keeping jobs in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Speaker, we are exceedingly proud of the work and the achievements of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. The organization has been a catalyst for important change and because of its leadership, the quality of life and the vitality of businesses have been enhanced.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group on its

25th anniversary and the great achievements they have brought about, making Silicon Valley known and admired around the world and a source of pride to our entire nation.

HONORING JOHN CALVELLI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to announce that my former Administrative Assistant, John Calvelli, is turning 40. It is hard to believe that the lanky kid I met when 19 is now older than Jack Benny always claimed to be. I guess it makes me realize that I am that much older too, although I constantly remind John that he has more grey hair than me.

I won my first primary election for Congress on September 15, 1988, the day John turned 25. I told him that evening "John, we're going to Washington together" and indeed we did. During those first months in Washington, we would sometimes walk outside, gaze at the Capitol dome and say to each other, "Do you believe we're really here?" I think that at 25, John was the youngest AA on the hill, but he rapidly turned into one of the most effective and well-liked staffers in Washington. Everybody got to know John. Even as a young person, he had what we in New York call the best "gift of gab" I ever heard. He always had that little extra something. He served as my AA for more than 11 years, and our working relationship and friendship during that time could not have been better. In fact, I often refer to John as the kid brother I never had.

During the course of my Congressional terms, John and I would often develop strategy for legislation, committee assignments, and many other things essential to a successful congressional career. We traveled cross country and overseas many times. Our first trip was probably one of the most memorable. It came that first summer in 1989, when I visited the three "I's" of New York City politics, Israel, Italy and Ireland, as well as Egypt. We came back from that trip with a picture of the Pope, stories about Egyptian fruit, grape leaves and the "Kinjedom" down in Luxor. John's complete fluency in Italian made him a great person to travel with. In fact, whenever we met Italian-speaking tour groups, in the many different countries we visited, nobody would believe that John was from New York and not from Italy.

I want to tell John that now that he is 40, one of the age categories in my newsletter this year will read, age 40 to 56, and in honor of his birthday we will talk about "Quattro formaggi" in Italian, "Political Party" in English, and the 40-hour work week being sacrosanct. I know that John's family is as proud of him as I am. His wife Maria and son John Domenico, as well as his parents Rose and John, and brother and sister-in-law Louis and Angela all share in his happiness on this special day.

John continues to remain active with many Italian American organizations, including NIAF and FIERI, a group in which he was one of the founders. John and Maria were married ten years ago at Fordham University, John's alma mater. John is an attorney by trade but

since leaving my office he has been a Senior Vice President at the Wildlife Conservation Society also known as the Bronx Zoo. To this day in Washington I get many people asking me, how is John doing?

It is a pleasure to honor John as he turns 40, and whether his future lies in politics or elsewhere I am sure that the phrase "you ain't seen nothing yet" applies to my "kid brother" John Calvelli.

FULL FUNDING URGED FOR HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a tremendous turning point in our country's voting rights history. One year ago today, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which was overwhelmingly passed with bi-partisan support, became a federal law.

The 2000 elections proved to be frustrating for both candidates and voters alike. Sadly, it highlighted issues in our voting system that needed improvement. Thanks to the leadership of the bill's sponsor, my House Administration colleague, Chairman BOB NEY, and the support of former Ranking Member STENY HOYER, we now have the foundation for a much more efficient voting system.

During the past year, this foundation has indeed started to take shape. As a result of HAVA, a program has been established to pay states to replace their punch card and lever voting machines. Last month, my home state of Connecticut unveiled a pilot project with four different types of electronic voting machines that will be used in eight towns next week on Election Day. This is a remarkable advancement for Connecticut voters, who have been using lever voting machines almost exclusively for over 50 years.

What makes HAVA so notable is that it is not solely about financial support. It takes into account the entire voting experience before, during, and after citizens enter polling places. HAVA educates voters on voting procedures as well as on their rights; makes polling places more accessible to people with disabilities; creates statewide voter registration databases that can be more effectively managed and updated; improves ballot review procedures, allowing voters to ensure that the ballots they cast are accurate; and creates provisional balloting systems to guarantee that no eligible voter is ever turned away at the polls.

On Monday, the Senate Rules Committee held a hearing to confirm the four Election Assistance Commissioners nominated by President Bush, who are responsible for implementing HAVA. One of the four nominees, Garcia Hillman was recommended by Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, and I wholeheartedly support the Leader's selection. Garcia Hillman, has effectively handled both domestic and international issues. Her areas of expertise include nonprofit management, public policy and program development, political services, the interests and rights of women and minorities; citizen participation in the development of public policy and community affairs; and elections related issues, including voting rights.

I believe we would be hard-pressed to find someone more dedicated than Ms. Hillman to strengthening the voices of all citizens, including those who are disabled. I hope that Ms. Hillman and the rest of the nominees are confirmed by the full Senate before they adjourn for the year.

I urge full funding of the Help American Vote Act to ensure that the 2004 elections do not repeat the trouble-plagued elections of 2000. The act of voting for our government representatives is a sacred right of all Americans. It is our duty, through HAVA, to inspire them to use that right. President Lyndon Johnson most succinctly stated this duty as he spoke to Congress on March 15, 1965, to explore them to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965: "There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right (to vote)."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, for official business. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes No. 569, No. 570, No. 571, No. 572 and No. 573. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 569, "aye" on No. 570 and no on rollcalls No. 571, No. 572 and No. 573.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness yesterday I was unable to vote for the following rollcall votes and I have listed how I would have voted on them if I had been present.

Rollcall 569: "Yes;" rollcall 570: "yes;" rollcall 571: "no;" rollcall 572: "no;" and rollcall 573: "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to my participation in an International Relations Committee delegation to Iraq, I was unable to vote on rollcall 569 to 573. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

On rollcall vote 569, the rule to recommit the Conference Report on H.R. 2115—the FAA Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 571, the Marked motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6—the Energy conference report, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 572, the Woolsey motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308—the Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 573, the Brown motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug bill, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 570, H.R. 2359—the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003, I would have voted "no."

The Basic Pilot Program currently enables participating employers in various industries to verify if employees are legally authorized to work in the United States. H.R. 2359 goes much further than a simple extension of the program.

In fact, this bill would enable states and local governments to use the databases to obtain citizenship and immigration status information on anyone—citizen or immigrant—for any purpose within their purview. This would expand the pilot program far beyond the context of employment and close to a national ID program with no privacy protections or safeguards against abuse by individuals within state and local governments.

This bill would also expand the availability of the program from just 6 states to all 50, without first addressing the many privacy and inaccuracy concerns in the current program. For example, the immigration databases used to verify work authorization are inaccurate and outdated. In some cases, workers with authorization have been fired because of incorrect data in the system. Moreover, some employers have inappropriately used the database to pre-screen employees, without providing an opportunity for the prospective employee to challenge the accuracy of the data.

Additionally, the House Judiciary Committee did not hold any hearings or mark-ups on the changes contained in H.R. 2359 despite the fact that this bill makes significant changes to existing law. For these reasons, I would have voted "no" on H.R. 2359, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003.

I ask for unanimous consent that this be inserted into the RECORD.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONS ASSOCIATION CHARITIES OF FORT MEYERS, FLORIDA

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Nations Association Charities of Fort Myers, Florida. This grass roots organization has been successfully meeting the needs of the poor and destitute in Southwest Florida, and for that we are grateful.

I have personally supported and followed the development of the Nations Association since its founding in 1978 by the Reverend Doctor Israel Suarez, his wife Ruth, and a small group of dedicated citizens. Israel and Ruth have unselfishly committed their lives to this labor of love, reaching out to the less fortunate in our area. They have touched hundreds of people with their kindness and caring, and they have inspired countless others to become involved in ministering to the poor.

The Nations Association provides emergency food, hundreds of hot holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the homeless, free furniture for families in crisis, job placement services, Survival English classes, free

immigration law services, and recreational activities for disadvantaged youth and many more services too numerous to name.

The Nations Association has touched the lives of over 11 thousand individuals with only a small paid staff and 144 volunteers who provide over 7000 hours of service annually to the community. In 1990 the Association was deservedly named the 276th Point of Light by President George H. W. Bush.

After 25 years, the Nations Association is going strong—its energies dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of hundreds of families and individuals everyday. I pay tribute today to the tremendous work of Israel and Ruth Suarez and the staff and volunteers of the Nations Association. Theirs is a shining example of the true American spirit of helping others.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CAPTAIN RICHARD C. YEEND, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Captain Richard C. Yeend, Jr. Capt. Yeend was serving as the co-pilot of an HH-3E, "Jolly Green Giant" helicopter sent to rescue a Marine pilot when the helicopter was shot down over Laos on June 9, 1968. Captain Yeend was listed as killed in action/body not recovered until his remains, along with the rest of the crew, were identified and returned home in September. He was buried September 28, 2003, thirty-five years after his helicopter was shot down.

Captain Yeend was raised in Mobile, Alabama, as the second of five children. He was a member of the Air Force ROTC at Auburn University and went on to flight school. After flying B-52s for several years, he volunteered for helicopter flight school as the Vietnam conflict escalated. Captain Yeend was deployed to Vietnam in February of 1968. His service to our country is evidenced by the awards he was awarded posthumously, including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart.

On October 11, 2003, on what would have been his 65th birthday, hundreds gathered at the Lower Alabama Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile to pay tribute to Captain Yeend, a man whose heroic efforts have not been forgotten. Retired Navy Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, who was a prisoner of war for over seven years during Vietnam, was the featured speaker. Admiral Denton praised Captain Yeend for his service and the Yeend family for its continued devotion to their country throughout their years of hardship, waiting while their loved one's remains were unaccounted for. He praised Captain Yeend along with all the Vietnam veterans in the audience for their service and assured everyone that their efforts were appreciated by all.

Captain Richard Yeend was a man whose honor and devotion to his family and his country were seen in his daily acts of courage and his willingness to take on heroic acts. A man of great character and respect, Captain Yeend