

Most recently, however, Rafael has truly shown what it means to be a community leader. In 1999, he ran for a seat on the Watsonville City Council in a special election, and won with over 70 percent of the vote. At the time, Rafael was the youngest person in Watsonville's history to serve on the council, and he approached this position with a passion and commitment that reflected his love of his hometown. As in all things in his life, he felt called to serve his constituency to the best of his ability, and reached out to those he served in an unprecedented manner.

Shortly after his election victory he was tapped as the founding Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County, a countywide program implemented through the passage of the California Children and Families First Act (Proposition 10). Once again Rafael rose to the challenge of working with and implementing a program aimed at serving children from zero to five years old and their families out of whole cloth. While the act itself does provide many specifications for how each county's commission would operate, it also provides the flexibility necessary for each commission to implement the act in a way that helps its constituency best. For Rafael and the commissioners, this included grant funding to large and small programs; countywide analysis with partners such as the United Way on the state of families and children in Santa Cruz County; and perhaps most groundbreaking is the upcoming implementation of guaranteed health care for all children from zero to eighteen. This last program has been the vision of many individuals and organizations in the county, and is the result of a unique and exciting partnership, but without a doubt Rafael's energy, focus and passion for this program shines through.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals who have left as large an impact on the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County as Rafael López. I am honored to know him, and equally saddened to see him go. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him and his wife, Rosa Ramirez, all of the best in success and happiness as they enter this new stage in their lives.

REMEMBERING MR. CHARLES HAWKINS, NOTED BUSINESSMAN, COMMUNITY LEADER, NASHVILLE BENEFACTOR

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life of Mr. Charles Hawkins of Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Hawkins was a beloved figure in our community, recognized for his leadership in the business community, his enthusiastic and generous support to so many Nashville organizations and his constant willingness to offer a helping hand to anyone in need.

Charlie Hawkins was Nashville through-and-through. You might say it was a role in life he was simply born to do. His ancestors first called Nashville home in the 1860s, making Charlie, who was born there in 1932, the fourth generation in his family committed to building a greater Nashville for all.

Whatever Charlie did, he did with passion, loyalty and a commitment that was lifelong. He graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy in 1950 where we was named an all-city athlete in three sports. Years later, he would return to serve the school in many ways, including time spent on its board of directors. And Charlie's love of MBA went beyond his affection for the school itself. It was through MBA that he met the love of his life and his wife of 49 years, Lee Ann Allen Hawkins, the daughter of Howard Lee Allen, his high school coach.

From MBA Charlie went to Vanderbilt University and graduated in 1954. Charlie followed in the footsteps of his father and played baseball at Vanderbilt from 1952 to 1954. He became a star pitcher for the Commodores, celebrated as the first Vanderbilt pitcher to earn all-Southeastern Conference honors. His time on the Vanderbilt baseball team was just the beginning of his commitment to the sport, the Vanderbilt team and sharing his passion for the game with others. He donated \$2 million to Vanderbilt for the construction of new stadium for the Commodores which opened in 2002. Today, the Charles Hawkins Field is enjoyed by Nashville families and the university community alike, as well as being recognized as one of the best baseball stadiums in the South.

Charlie Hawkins was a generous financial supporter of the Vanderbilt Commodores but it was his generosity of spirit and daily support to the individual students on the team that was truly outstanding. He never missed a game. He rode on the bus with the team to away games. His daughter, Leslie, baked 'good luck' cookies for the team before every game. And his door at home was always open to any player in need of a home cooked meal or a little grandfatherly advice and support. As news of his recent battle with cancer became known, this year's Commodores rallied to his support. When his illness prevented his joining the team for one recent road trip, the team took the bus to Charlie, dropping by for a good luck send-off as they headed out of town. Even though he was not able to make some of the Commodores' final games this season, Charlie was there on the field with his team who had his initials added to their baseball caps. Clearly, Charlie inspired his beloved team. The Commodores finished the season with its best record ever, winning its first NCAA Regional title and its first appearance in an NCAA Super Regional.

Charlie Hawkins touched and helped Nashvillians in many walks of life. He founded one of the city's most respected real estate development companies, the Charles Hawkins Company. Headquartered in downtown Nashville, Charlie and his company were active in bringing new growth to the area in recent years. He served on the board of the Nashville Red Cross, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Watkins Institute, Big Brothers of Nashville, the Junior League of Nashville and the Downtown Rotary of Nashville. He also served as President of the Nashville Board of Realtors and a member of the Metropolitan Port Authority. He was also a charter member of the Woodmont Christian Church where he served as an elder and Sunday school teacher. In addition for 20 years, he conducted church services at the Retired Teachers Home in his Green Hills neighborhood.

My hometown lost a very special friend with the recent death of Charlie Hawkins at the age

of 72. On behalf of the fifth district of Tennessee, I send my deepest condolences to Lee Ann Hawkins and to their four children, daughters Leslie, Mary, Julia Ann and son Bill. Charlie Hawkins' generous and joyful presence will be missed in Nashville but his spirit lives on in the many programs and individuals he inspired and supported every day.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
PAUL OLLILA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding educator in my district. Paul Ollila is retiring this year as the Superintendent of the Copper Country Intermediate School District (ISD), closing the final chapter of a career dedicated to the children of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Mr. Ollila's 40 years as a teacher, administrator, and leader serve as a shining example of his profession.

Paul Ollila earned his bachelor's degree in social work/sociology and secondary education from Northern Michigan University in 1964. That same year, he began his career as a special education teacher and teacher consultant with the Adams Township School District. In addition to working with his own students, Mr. Ollila taught special education students throughout the Copper Country ISD.

In 1976, after twelve years as a teacher for both Adams Township Schools and the Copper Country ISD, Mr. Ollila was asked to become the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Special Education for the ISD. He accepted this position, and for the next 16 years, special needs students throughout the Copper Country benefited from his experience, leadership, and compassion.

In 1993, Mr. Ollila became the Superintendent of the Copper Country ISD. In this role, he has been responsible for delivering a range of services to school districts and their students. In addition to special education, the ISD assists school districts with compliance and coordination services, and provides a number of specialized programs for students. These include alternative education, outdoor education, career preparation, vocational education, gifted and talented programs, and health curriculum. The ISD also operates the outstanding Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education.

Throughout his years as an educator, Paul Ollila has recognized the importance of ongoing education both for his own career, and for his ability to better serve his students. In 1966, he earned a Master's degree in special education/educational administration, and in 1989 he earned a Specialist's degree in educational administration, both from Northern Michigan University.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Ollila's service as a teacher and administrator has been outstanding, but it is even more remarkable when you consider the numerous leadership roles he has taken on at the state, Upper Peninsula, and local levels. In addition to taking leadership roles in various professional associations, Mr. Ollila has served on the State Special Education Advisory Committee, the UP Center