

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization with a distinguished history of community service to the Sacramento capital region. Legal Services of Northern California is celebrating 50 years of providing free legal services to the low-income residents of Sacramento County and 22 other counties in Northern California. As the staff and supporters of Legal Services of Northern California gather to celebrate this momentous milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most important and respected organizations.

In 1956, Legal Services of Northern California, then known as the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County, was born out of the insight of prominent members of the Sacramento Bar Association and a budget of \$12,000. With the assistance of volunteer pro bono attorneys and a staff consisting of one part-time attorney and one social worker, the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County finished its first year having provided assistance to nearly 2,900 low-income clients.

From these humble beginnings 50 years ago, the Legal Aid Society has grown significantly. In 1967, the organization began to expand its services beyond Sacramento County and opened offices in Yolo County. By the late 1970s, the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County had acquired a state-wide reputation for resolute and effective advocacy on behalf of the poor and disabled, and had won significant victories on behalf of its clients. To reflect its expanding geographic reach, the organization changed its name in 1979 to Legal Services of Northern California, which today operates offices serving 23 counties, with a budget of over \$7 million and a staff of over 120 employees and 1,000 volunteers.

Legal Services of Northern California has also greatly expanded its scope of services beyond providing traditional legal assistance to low-income individuals. The organization now operates the Senior Legal Hotline, the Health Rights Hotline, Ombudsman Services of Northern California, and the Disability Employment Rights Advocacy Program. As a testament to its far-reaching services, the Senior Legal Hotline fields almost 9,000 calls each year from seniors all over California. Also notable was in early 2006 when Legal Services of Northern California acquired the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, an organization that advises thousands of seniors on the different prescription drug plans available to them under Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the good men and women of Legal Services of Northern California have dedicated countless hours to identifying and defeating the causes of poverty and injustice. As the staff and volunteer attorneys gather to reflect upon a half century of exemplary service to the community, I am proud to recognize such a reputable organization. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Legal Services of Northern California and wishing them many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELMO LOPEZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Elmo Lopez, Sr., as a recipient of the 2006 Longhorn Legacy Awards, given to him on October 5, 2006 by the Laredo Chapter of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association.

Elmo Lopez, Sr. is a native of the city of Rio Grande and now currently resides in the city of Laredo in the State of Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in music, a Bachelor of Arts in 1953 and a Masters in 1957, and thus began a long, accomplished musical career. Shortly after graduation, he worked as Band Director for the Laredo Independent School District, bringing his experience as a band member of the UT Longhorns Band to Lamar Junior High, Martin High School, and Nixon High School from 1953 to 1967. During this time, he served in several posts with the Texas Music Educators Association.

Mr. Lopez's passion for music was recognized by the Texas Legislature for promoting good will between the United States and Mexico through musical exchange programs. He also was honored in 1963 with Laredo Paso Doble, a musical composition written by Professor Clifton Williams at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to having guest conducted the UT Longhorn Band on numerous occasions, he also conducted the United States Armed Forces band and the Special Presidential Band of Mexico.

In 1987, Mr. Lopez founded the Laredo Chapter of the UT-Exes as a way to keep the connection between the University of Texas at Austin and its alumni in the city of Laredo. He dedicated his time and energy to the University including 12 years of service on the Board of Directors of the UT Dad's Association, and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 1993 and honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Laredo UT-Exes.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mr. Elmo Lopez, Sr. to his music and to the community of the city of Laredo.

A TRIBUTE TO ESMERALDA BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Esmeralda Brown, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, New York, and contributor to the world community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

As the Resource Center Specialist for Economic and Environmental Justice at the United Methodist Office for the United Nations, Esmeralda Brown deals with issues of concern to the Women's Division constituency in the area of economics, the environment, and development. Ms. Brown has been involved in

organizing several workshops and meetings in Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America. Issues discussed include racism, militarization, and the situation of women in the Americas.

Ms. Brown is the chairperson of the United Nation's NGO committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Brown is also the Southern Co-Chair of the NGO Steering committee to the NGO Commission on Sustainable Development. Ms. Brown holds the chairperson position for the Southern Caucus of NGO's that form part of the Regional and National Networks on Sustainable Development in developing countries of the world. She is also the Economic and Environmental Justice Specialist at the United Methodist Office for the United Nations. Additionally, Ms. Brown is a United Nations representative for the Commission of Human Rights in Central America and the Pan African Movement for the Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

In 1992, Ms. Brown was co-founder of the Peoples' Alliance for the Earth Summit. This organization did the preparatory work for the Non-Governmental Organizations invited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Ms. Brown's work has not gone unnoticed. In June 1990, she was honored by the Ecumenical Program for Inter-American Communication and Action (EPICA) in Washington for Outstanding Contributions to the Struggle for Human Rights in Central America.

Esmeralda Brown is a native of Panama, and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Esmeralda Brown. Her deep commitment to the international community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John G. Shedd Aquarium, the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services. It comes as no surprise to me that this superior institution was selected as the recipient of this award. The Shedd Aquarium has served not only Chicago, but the entire Nation, for well over 75 years. It very much deserves our admiration and respect.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is a world class institution that enjoys a national reputation for excellence. The Shedd Aquarium is truly the world's aquarium. In addition to being the largest indoor aquarium in the world, the Shedd was one of the first aquariums to offer an education program. Through its unique ability to make education fun, the Shedd has touched the lives of the more than 2 million of people who walk through its doors every year.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is so much more than a museum; the scientists and staff are leaders throughout the world in research and conservation. The research initiatives that

the Shedd undertakes are vital to understanding and preserving our environment, especially in the Chicago area.

As a Chicagoan, I am proud to have the Shedd Aquarium located in my congressional district. The Shedd's genuine commitment to serving the greater Chicagoland community has for decades made it one of the most distinguished non-profits in our area. In particular, the Shedd demonstrates an exceptional commitment to the community in Chicago through education programs and other service-related initiatives. One of its most important projects is its participation in the Great Lakes Forever initiative. Roughly 37 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, and livelihood. The Shedd is committed to ensuring that the Great Lakes are healthy and continue to serve those around them for centuries to come.

Clearly, the Shedd understands its role as a community leader and gives a great deal back to the people of Chicago. Mr. Speaker, as Gifford Pinchot once said of conservation, "Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men." Conservation is paramount at the Shedd Aquarium, and every operation is carried out to reflect this ideal; it is truly working for the lasting good of man. Chicago and its citizens are privileged to call its city the home of the John G. Shedd Aquarium. The Shedd Aquarium works tirelessly to give back to the community, including both Chicago and the Nation. Again, it is my great honor to announce that the John G. Shedd Aquarium is the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOURNALIST MIKE
BOYD

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mike Boyd, a legendary television reporter and anchor whose level of career achievement was matched only by his passion for living life to its fullest. Sadly, Mr. Boyd passed away on October 14, 2006 at the age of 74. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Mike's remarkable life, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this outstanding citizen and model reporter.

Mike Boyd was born in Maine in 1932, the son and grandson of attorneys. He graduated from the University of Maine and after a number of broadcasting jobs along the East Coast, he joined Sacramento's KCRA Channel 3 News in 1963 where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Mike became an institution in Sacramento as thousands of Sacramento residents tuned into his hard-hitting, exclusive stories throughout his 38-year tenure at KCRA. His memorable, deep, and booming voice made him ideal for a career in broadcast journalism.

His tenacity as an investigative reporter led him to cover some of the past half-century's most unforgettable stories. In 1968, Mike Boyd was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated and his reporting of the tragic event was broadcast across the country. When the ru-

mors began to circulate about Ronald Regan running for President, it was to Mike Boyd that Nancy Reagan admitted that she hoped Ronald would not run.

Perhaps Mike Boyd will be most remembered for his coverage of some of the nation's most notorious crimes. Boyd was always looking for the scoop, and he was often successful. He was the first reporter to interview Charles Manson in prison. Manson went so far as to offer Boyd his steak dinner. Years later, in 1988, he had an exclusive interview with the infamous landlady Dorthea Puente, who was convicted of killing eight of her tenants in downtown Sacramento. His ability to connect with his interview subjects clearly showed through, as evidenced by the retirement gift Puente sent Boyd from prison.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike Boyd's friends and family gather to honor this great American, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected citizens. His integrity, morals and enthusiasm for his job were inspirations to young reporters everywhere. He will be deeply missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Mike's invaluable contributions to Sacramento and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENISE
ASHBAUGH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denise Ashbaugh in commemoration of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Denise is a 17-year survivor of breast cancer who has dedicated herself to the fight to eradicate breast cancer.

Denise has exhibited unparalleled commitment to the push for breast cancer awareness in Southern Nevada. She has served both as the vice president and president of the Las Vegas, Nevada, Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She has organized volunteers to conduct fundraising events, educational events, support groups and early detection programs. Denise also participated in establishing the MammoVan, a state-wide program to provide mammography to underserved and uninsured women, and a local news station's buddy check program.

At the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's National Headquarters, Denise was the National Spokeswoman for the Cure. She also served as Special Program Director of Board Breaks for the Cure, a national fundraising and breast cancer awareness program that she conceived and developed. She represented the Foundation on national talk shows, ad campaigns, speaking engagements, and local news networks. Denise's dedication and commitment to this cause has not only increased awareness in her own community, but nationwide.

Currently, Denise is involved with breast care specialists and other experts in developing a breast prosthetic device that can be worn immediately after mastectomies. She is personally working to provide these devices free to underserved breast cancer patients. As a result of her activism, Denise has been designated as a Lifetime Honorary Mrs. United

States and has received numerous other awards including the Governor's Certificate of Commendation.

Throughout her years of extensive commitment to the fight against breast cancer, Denise has maintained a balanced family life. She is a loving wife and mother of two outstanding children. Through her example, she has instilled in her children the importance of community service, civic involvement and positive activism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Denise Ashbaugh on the floor of the House today. Denise has not only made a difference in our community through her commitment to breast cancer education and fundraising, but she has been a beacon of hope for countless women and families who have confronted the challenges of breast cancer. Her tireless dedication and unwavering optimism, despite her own health challenges, is truly admirable. I commend Denise for her leadership in the fight against breast cancer and I thank her for her incredible commitment to this most important cause.

CONGRATULATING LEONARD
VERRASTRO AS THE LACKA-
WANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY
ASSOCIATION NAMES HIM 2006
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Leonard A. Verrastro, a prominent businessman and community leader in the borough of Dunmore, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Verrastro was selected by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County as their 2006 "Man of the Year," an honor he truly deserves.

Born in 1923, Mr. Verrastro was one of eight children of the late Dominic Verrastro and the former Vita Grace Bochicchio. His father was a veteran of World War I and then worked in the anthracite coal mines before starting Leonard's Bar and Grill in Dunmore.

Leonard was the oldest of six boys, five of whom served in World War II. Mr. Verrastro was educated in Dunmore public schools after which he attended the University of Scranton.

Mr. Verrastro founded Best Dry Cleaners and later operated Leonard's Bar and Grill. He also founded the Dunmore Hoagie Shop and later went into the real estate business where he acquired many homes and converted them into remodeled apartments.

He is the last surviving charter member of the Dunmore Lions Club. He is also a member of the Dunmore American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Saint Anthony's Holy Name Society, the Willow Club, the Dunmore Senior Citizens Center, the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association and the San Cataldo Club.

Mr. Verrastro is also well known for his political activity, having been first elected to the Dunmore Borough Council in 1963 where he has served for 44 years. He also served as Dunmore's representative on the Scranton Sewer Authority and as Lackawanna County