

HONORING KENNETH TUCKER
GORMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth Tucker Gorman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kenneth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kenneth has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kenneth Tucker Gorman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GULA STOUGH ADAMS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a business woman from Las Animas, Colorado. Mrs. Gula Stough Adams has poured her heart and soul into a business that has been owned and operated by Mrs. Adams and her family for 70 years.

Gula owns and operates Stough's Flower Shop, and has weathered the economic storms of rural Colorado going back to the days of the Great Depression and WWII.

"It's wonderful work. I wish I were 20 years younger," said Gula, who is 85 and still going strong. Her mother Inez Stough, established the business in 1938. Of course, Gula's personal history goes back a little farther than that. Before her family moved to Las Animas they ranched at Ninaview, Colorado, 35 miles south of Las Animas. "We still have the ranch we homesteaded in 1915," she noted. In those long ago days she attended Pine Hill School, which her family and relatives helped build by bringing in rock and then assembling the one-room school. She reports the structure is still standing, and a memento from it hangs on a wall in her flower shop, the Regulator clock. When the school was reorganized she asked her parents to obtain the clock. She walked over and pointed to four letters in the clock manufacturer's name . . . Gula.

The Depression years were not the happiest of times, but the hard times brought the family into town from the ranch. Gula's mother knew the family had to do something. So Inez thought she would open a flower shop. The original flower shop was downtown, but the rent was too high. So her mother had a small stucco shop built.

"You just think back about the Depression years and you wonder how we ever did it, but we did. During the Depression people were able to survive," Gula noted, adding that people may have managed their money better than they do now.

Over the last 70 years that she has been in business, Gula remembers when Las Animas was thriving. Though it saddens her to see the current economic state of this rural community, she still carries on in her business despite what some would think to be insurmountable odds. Gula never took an opportunity to pull back from the challenges of running a small business in rural America. She believes in working hard and sound financial management, and it is my firm belief that these two things have contributed to her long and productive life. When other businesses failed around her she worked hard and spent wisely.

During World War II Gula married Pete Jerman, Jr., a B-24 pilot who went down over the Mediterranean, leaving her a widow. Those were sad days for Gula and her family. In 1947, her mother insisted she go to Denver and study at the first floral school to be established in Colorado. Her mother told her she would be more confident in herself if she took the classes.

Back in Las Animas she married again to Mr. Lloyd Adams. They built their current flower shop in 1968 at 702 Grove Avenue in Las Animas, Colorado. This will be her 40th year at this location. Gula loves her business and the community in which she has run her business for 70 years.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to Mrs. Gula Adams for her dedication and courage. She is an example to all of the small businesses within my district. It is an honor to represent her in Congress, and it is an honor to recognize this small business owner who has been a part of this family business for 70 years. She is a tribute to her trade and a treasure to her community.

"MR. AMIGO 2007" ANGÉLICA VALE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2007 "Mr. Amigo," Angélica Vale, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Ms. Vale has achieved popularity on both sides of the border for her television, film, and theater work.

The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" acts as an ambassador between our two countries and presides over the annual Charro Days festival.

The Charro Days festival, held in Brownsville and Matamoros, is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area. A Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the festival was organized in 1937 by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce to recognize Mexican culture and was named in honor of the charros, "dashing Mexican gentlemen cowboys." The festival includes parades complete with floats, as well as street dances, a rodeo, mariachi and marimba concerts, and ballet folklorico performances by school students.

This year's Charro Days festivities will be held February 28 through March 2 and will include appearances by Ms. Vale. An actress

since a child, Ms. Vale has received acclaim for her roles in films and television shows. She recently starred in the Mexican show *La Fea Mas Bella*, which inspired the popular American show, *Ugly Betty*. She has also been named one of *People En Español's* "50 Most Beautiful Women."

This is the second time in the history of the Mr. Amigo Award that a parent and child have received such recognition. Ms. Vale's mother, singer Angélica María, received the award in 1996.

The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers. The Charro Days festival reflects that deep sense of shared history and experiences, which is needed now more than ever. It is a time for all of us to not only remember our past, but to celebrate our future.

The Charro Days festival and the Mr. Amigo Award unite sister cities on both sides of the border and send a message that we are neighbors, and friends that trust, understand, and respect each other. We share a language, customs, and experiences unique to our communities, and during Charro Days we take time to celebrate our distinctive culture.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Angélica Vale, the 2007 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING THE ERIE CHAPTER OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE
OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of the Erie Chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. This year, the members of this organization celebrate their 50th anniversary.

After splitting from the Northwest Chapter of the PICPA, 21 founding members held the first meeting of the Erie Chapter on January 31, 1958. From those first 21 CPAs, the chapter has grown to a membership of more than 320, including members working in public accounting, industry, financial services, healthcare, non-profit, government and education.

While the Erie Chapter has the second smallest membership in the State, its members are clearly among the best and the brightest within their industry. In fact, two of the Chapter's members have served as president of the PICPA, while seven others have served as vice president and four have served as State representatives on the national council.

The chapter's contributions to the Erie community go far beyond the professional realm. Chapter members donate thousands of hours to local charitable organizations serving on boards of directors, finance committees, and as volunteer staff, among others. The chapter has promoted participation in community events, including local blood drives, Hooked