

the Director of Nursing at the Oakwood Infirmary. Her philosophy was to treat each woman with respect and dignity. Since her retirement in 1990, she remains dedicated to Oakwood by volunteering her time to the nuns through the Oakwood Auxiliary and the Children of Mary. She and her husband Paul celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass at the Oakwood Chapel in September 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Ann Robbiano as she is given the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through her countless contributions to her family and friends, and most especially the Sacred Heart community, she has more than earned this Award. Her hard work and commitment to excellence are a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and live on in the life of every student who has come through its distinguished halls. Her deep faith and the practice of it have inspired everyone who knows her. Our community and our country have been bettered because of Mary Ann Robbiano and I consider it a privilege to know her and honor her.

TRIBUTE TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN
DOOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ in Miami, Florida. Since its inception, the church has stood in the community as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration. This historic anniversary of the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ marks a time of remembrance of a storied past and renewal for a bright future.

In April 1958, Marie Faulkner Brown, daughter of Congregational minister Rev. Dr. William F. Faulkner, sought to fulfill a specific need of her Congregational background through spiritual guidance. She called together a group of 10 people with a Congregational denominational background similar to hers to discuss the possibility of forming an interracial Congregational church in Miami.

The small group continued to meet regularly and chose the name, Congregational Christian Fellowship. The superintendent of the Florida Conference, Rev. Dr. Robbins Ralph was impressed with the honesty and eloquence of this beginning group and appointed Dr. Wiley Scott, pastor of Miami Beach Community Church, to chair a steering committee that provided leadership for the group from local Congregational ministers. Superintendent Ralph and Dr. Scott were instrumental in sharing their favorable impression of this beginning church with the national church. The national church was generous with funds to buy a parsonage on Northwest 9th Avenue, and subsidized the group for 5 years. It also gave financial support to purchase the property where the church is now located, the current edifice and the family life center. The group began meeting in the Florida room of Dr. Kelsey L. Pharr and later moved to Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Union Academy for Sunday morning worship services.

The name Church of the Open Door, Congregational, was voted on September 20, 1959. The church was incorporated on September 28, 1959, with 75 charter members. The first interim pastor, a Congregational minister, was Rev. Dr. Charles Wicks. Rev. Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell, a missionary to Angola, West Africa, for 40 years, served as the founding pastor. The current pastor, who previously served as pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ in Maryland, is Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated fellowship. Throughout the past 50 years, the clergy and members have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality, service, and guidance to the church and greater community of Miami, Florida. It is my hope the Church of the Open Door, United Church of Christ continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

HONORING MONTE PISTORESI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Monte Pistoresi and to congratulate him upon being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pistoresi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Monte Pistoresi attended school in Chowchilla, California, and graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1960 with a business administration degree. Upon graduating, he entered into the United States Army. In 1963, he began to work for his family's Chevrolet dealership in Chowchilla. The dealership had one ambulance that was used to provide services to the Chowchilla area. Mr. Pistoresi helped to drive the ambulance on emergency calls. In 1981, the dealership closed, but he was the successful bidder for the city of Madera ambulance contract. By 1982, the company had 3 ambulances and 10 employees. Today, Pistoresi Ambulance has been serving Madera for 26 years and has 8 ambulances and 45 employees.

Mr. Pistoresi is always giving back to the community, everything from umpiring Little League baseball games to his involvement in the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Madera Community Hospital Foundation from 1990 to 1998, and on the board of trustees for the hospital from 1998 to 2008. Mr. Pistoresi is a member of the Madera Kiwanis Club, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Madera Elks, Madera NAACP, Madera County Emergency Medical Care Community, Women's Prison Citizen Advisory Board, and the city of Madera Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Pistoresi also donates time and money to Children's Hospital Central California. Due to his involvement in the community, he has received many awards and recognitions including the Madera Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the

Year, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, Madera Elks and Kiwanis Distinguished Citizenship Award, and the Martin Luther King Committee Humanitarian Award.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Monte Pistoresi upon being awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pistoresi many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT A. HAND'S
25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Bob Hand for his 25 years of untiring service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Bob joined the Commission's professional staff on August 1, 1983, though his human rights advocacy work began years earlier and included a stint as an intern with the Commission. A man of deep principles and convictions, Bob has approached each challenge with determination and diligence.

Driven by a quiet passion for upholding the human rights commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, Bob helped compile lists of individuals denied their fundamental freedoms by regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. His work in promoting free market principles and protection of the environment included efforts specifically aimed at encouraging individual entrepreneurs and strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations. A case in point was his active role in defending environmental activists during the 1989 Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, an event that paved the way for the ouster of the Bulgarian dictatorship. Bob played a leading role in preparations for the 1990 Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe, an historic East-West meeting that embraced key principles, such as rights to private property and the importance of the rule of law in the economic sphere, among others.

For more than two decades, Bob has served as the Commission's point person for the Balkans region. He was an early advocate of raising human rights concerns with Belgrade when Yugoslavia was still included among the ranks of the Neutral and Non-Aligned countries. A keen analyst of developments in the Balkans, Bob began drawing attention to potential flash points like Kosovo long before others. He volunteered to be deployed as an expert on the Mission to Kosovo, Sanjak, and Vojvodina fielded by the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the early 1990s. With his able assistance, the Helsinki Commission remained at the forefront of efforts to uphold Bosnia's right to self defense in the face of armed aggression and genocide. He has persistently worked to document the human toll suffered by victims, among them those who perished during the massacre at Srebrenica, and to press for