

contributions to his family and friends and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and through his special leadership and commitment to excellence, he has built a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools and in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Ken Thompson and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING BERNARD JARVIS
ROBINSON

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 Bernard "Jake" Robinson and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Robinson will be honored at a reception on Thursday August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Jake Robinson was born on August 19, 1933 in Arkansas. Mr. Robinson was born during a time of great societal barriers, and continually worked to overcome those barriers. As a child he loved to play basketball, and even fabricated a make-shift hoop. As a freshman in high school he wanted to play, but was told that he was not good enough. He continued to practice with his hoop and as a sophomore he made the basketball team at Scipio A. Jones High School. The team was unbeatable and Mr. Robinson was awarded All-State, All-Regional and All-American honors. He was the first African American in Arkansas to make the All-Star basketball team. After high school he continued to play basketball in college at Arkansas AM and N College.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Robinson went to work for Forehand Motors washing cars. He quickly moved up the ladder and became a parts manager. Mr. Robinson was the only African American in management in the Northern Division of General Motors. During his career he received numerous accolades and awards for his commitment to excellence from General Motors. He retired after 39 years. His commitment to his career was equal to his commitment to his community.

Mr. Robinson served 17 years on the Board of Trustees of Madera Unified School District. The B.J. Robinson Gymnasium at Thomas Jefferson Middle School was erected as a tribute to his dedicated service. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club, worked on the Citizens Committee for Measure E, is a former member of the Madera Linkage Foundation, involved with the NAACP and an advocate for youth athletics. He worked tirelessly to see the completion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and successfully lobbied to have the canal by the school covered for the safety of the students and neighborhood.

Due to his endless efforts, Madera High School honored Mr. Robinson as the Grand Marshall for the 1999 Homecoming Parade and Football game. Martin Luther King, Jr Middle School named him as Humanitarian of the Year in 1995. He was recognized by Kiwanis

International for Distinguished Service for 1999–2000. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were named as the Couple of the Year in 1988 during Black History Month and received the NAACP's Curtis Collier Award.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB
WAYNE THORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great community activist, excellent farmer and friend, Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton of Van Alstyne, Texas.

Bob Thorton was a fourth-generation farmer, working land in Grayson and Collin counties for more than 65 years. Though he could do just about anything from carpentry to plumbing, he loved farming the most. The Thortons were leaders in the farming industry, as they were the first to bring in equipment, the first to mechanize their operations and usually the first to help another farmer get past a rough spot with the loan of money and equipment. As a result of his many contributions, Bob was named Collin County's Conservationist Farmer of the Year in 1986.

Bob was a community activist most of his life, but unless one had firsthand knowledge of his activities, his achievements would have gone unknown because he was such a humble individual. He was one of the original members of the American Agriculture Movement, a grassroots organization to help farmers become involved with government, politics and the public policy that affects their livelihoods, and served as National Vice President and 3 years as National President. He spent many years lobbying at the state and national levels, during which time he participated in the 1979 "tractor-cade" that rolled into Washington, DC, more than 6,000 tractors strong. He was a founding member and president of South Grayson Water Supply, a charter member of the Hurricane Creek Country Club, and served on the Van Alstyne Library Board. Through his political activist endeavors, Bob became friends with several elected representatives, such as former U.S. Sen. John Tower, former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, and Secretary of Agriculture John Block. Because of Willie Nelson's support of family farmers, Bob and Nelson also became good friends.

Bob is survived by daughters Sheryl Priest of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Brenda Baggett of Friendswood and Linda Wood of Van Alstyne, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister JoAnn Cavender of Van Alstyne. He was one who believed in family and held his family heritage as a life-time priority.

Madam Speaker, we are privileged to have known such an honest man and humble public servant. Please join me today as we honor his memory and celebrate the life of Mr. Bob Wayne Thorton.

HONORING PRAIRIE CREEK
GREENWAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Prairie Creek Greenway in Platte County, MO. On September 8, 2008, the National Recreation Trail (NRT) Dedication and Tour of Missouri Watch Event is publicly announcing Prairie Creek Greenway as the only trail in Missouri to receive NRT designation this year. This distinguished award is one of the highest honors a local government can receive for a trail project.

I would also like to recognize and thank the Platte County Commissioners: Betty Knight, Jim Plunkett, and Tom Pryor. Due to their constant work and dedication, they truly made the Prairie Creek Greenway a success and an asset to the community. The creation of this trail in Platte County will help preserve the natural beauty of Missouri.

This honor for the Prairie Creek Greenway would not have been possible without the help of private partnerships between the county, developers, and homes association connected to the Greenway. I applaud the effort and devotion that has been put into this trail in Platte County, MO and commend the recognition of the Greenway.

CONGRATULATING THE WAR IN
THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK ON ITS 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. In August 1978, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park was established by Public Law 95–348 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifices of those involved in the Pacific Theater of World War II and to preserve the historic sites on Guam. As we join together for this celebration, let us also remember the Park's mission to preserve a unique story in American history that strives to honor not only the courage of our liberators, but the patriotism of the liberated.

For the past 30 years, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park has preserved seven units on Guam. These units include battlefields, trenches, gun emplacements, and historic structures throughout the island. Because of the diligent efforts made by the National Park Service to preserve the story of the occupation and liberation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944, visitors are able to learn about the battle for Guam by visiting sites at the Asan Bay Overlook, Agat Beach Unit and Ga'an Point, Asan Beach Unit, Fonte Plateau Unit, Mt. Alifan Unit, Mt. Chachao/Mt. Tenjo Unit, and Piti Guns Unit.

During this 30th anniversary, we are especially honored to commend the National Park Service for the 2008 restoration project of the