

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
BYRON BERNARD, B.B., BOON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of Byron Bernard, B.B., Boon, of Linden, Texas. Mr. Boon was born January 10, 1919, in Carterville, Texas, to Andrew Camp Boon and Eudora Kerr Boon.

B.B. attended East Texas Teachers College with my wife Mary Ellen. He began his career teaching school at Warren Springs. He later became principal at Almira Schools, and from 1940 to 1941 supervised the National Youth Administration in Linden.

He joined the Army on Christmas Day in 1941 and entered the Army Air Corps on the 12th of January in 1942. B.B. ferried all types of airplanes throughout the United States and Canada. He flew BT-13s, AT-6s, B-17s, B-24s, B-25s, P-51s and was involved in the moving of troops and cargo. One of his flying assignments was to keep the route from Alaska to the Hudson Bay open so the Germans could not get a foothold in Newfoundland.

Between 1947 and 1949, he was an instructor in the Pilot's Aircraft Instrument Training School at Barksdale AFB in Shreveport, Louisiana. On one particular flight to Richmond, Virginia, his plane caught on fire. True to his sense of humor, he announced "Byron Bernard Boon says bail out boys, she's burning." All the crew bailed out, and everyone survived.

On February 2, 1949, he was in a midair collision at Barksdale AFB, was critically injured and spent over a year of rehabilitation in Walter Reed Hospital. Captain Boon married Louise Bozeman in the chapel at Walter Reed Hospital on September 24, 1949. Shortly after their marriage he was forced to retire from the Air Force due to injuries sustained in the crash.

In October 1950, B.B. returned to Cass County and bought an insurance agency in Linden. He became active in the community, serving various community and church boards. He was a member of the Linden Masonic Lodge #192, a Shriner, a member of the Linden Lions Club, Linden Chamber of Commerce, former mayor of Linden and served on the Linden Municipal Hospital Board of Directors. He was also an avid pilot, owning and flying airplanes until he was 80.

He is survived by two daughters and one son-in-law, Sue and Larry Hill and Brenda Deming all of Linden; five grandchildren and spouses, Tanya and Kenneth Recer and Chris and Sonya Hill of Longview, Tammy and Andy Kozsuch of Tyler, Justin and Kim Deming of Pflugerville and Jonathan and Katherine Deming of Mesquite; seven great-grandchildren, Ryan Recer, Seth Kozsuch, Sarah Kozsuch, Kate Kozsuch, Kaden Kozsuch, Emma Hill and Payton Deming; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, please join me in a final salute to Captain Byron Bernard Boone, a man who gave so much to his family, his community and his country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA CITY HALL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma City Hall. This iconic building has long stood as a symbol of the unique community that is the city of Sonoma.

City Hall sits in the center of the 8-acre Sonoma Plaza, the largest town square in the State of California. Dedicated on September 7, 1908, the city hall was built using local basalt stone and originally designed with four identical facades, allowing merchants from any side of the square to boast that city hall faced their business.

Surrounding the city hall on Sonoma Plaza are many historical buildings, including the Mission San Francisco Solana, Captain Salvador Vallejo's Casa Grande, the Presidio of Sonoma, the Blue Wing Inn, the Sebastiani Theatre, and the Toscano Hotel. Not far from city hall, on the northeast corner of the plaza, John C. Fremont led the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, which would lead to California becoming the 31st State 4 years later. The plaza has been a National Historic Landmark since 1960 and still serves as the town's focal point, hosting many community festivals and drawing tourists all year round.

In honor of this anniversary, City of Sonoma Historian George McKale has organized a commemoration committee to help celebrate this event with the community. Over the last year, members of the committee have arranged for a photo exhibition, as well as sponsoring a poster contest for local students, a lecture series, and a historic quarry hike, all to honor Sonoma's City Hall.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Sonoma City Hall. In years to come, this beautiful and historic structure will continue to be one of the most memorable images of the city of Sonoma to residents and visitors alike.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONOMA CITY HALL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma City Hall. This iconic building has long stood as a symbol of the unique community that is the city of Sonoma.

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TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On Saturday, September 13, 2008, a centennial dinner will celebrate this extraordinary milestone, and it is a privilege to recognize and honor Rev. Theodore J. Kozlowski and the congregation of this remarkable church for the model of Christian service and the beacon of hope they have offered to the Grand Rapids community over the past century.

From the first mass celebrated on September 20, 1908, by their young energetic priest, Father Salvatore Cianci, Our Lady of Sorrows was founded primarily to provide for the growing Italian community in Grand Rapids. Meeting in the basement chapel of St. Andrew's Cathedral, this fledgling church offered the opportunity for Italians to worship and continue their faithful prayer life in the language of their childhood. Through the devoted efforts of Fr. Cianci and the small but very dedicated congregation, a dream became reality on Easter Sunday 1921, when a new structure intended as a temporary church, and also a second building intended to house a future school, were blessed and dedicated. Even though the Great Depression prevented the parish from fulfilling its dream of a permanent house of worship for almost 40 years, Our Lady of Sorrows School did open its doors for the first time on September 25, 1922, with 56 students in attendance. Certainly this was an exceptional accomplishment for a church which originated from the hard work and perseverance of just a handful of Italian immigrant families.