

The history of Nielsen Construction represents the very fabric of America. Mr. Joseph Nielsen immigrated to the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century; a time of tremendous growth and innovation. That young immigrant dedicated himself to hard work and perseverance. The qualities identified as uniquely American in the golden age of industry and expansion and his vision brought him to the growing, but still largely rural, western part of Virginia.

The next phase of Nielsen's success came through the acquisition of the existing W.M. Bucher & Son, a prominent builder in the Shenandoah Valley. This intertwined the futures of a young immigrant and his dream and the growth and development of the Shenandoah Valley.

Today, Nielsen Builders represents the best of American industry. It represents the highest quality in design and build construction. It provides the structure and security to thousands of church goers, students, businesses and families through its homes, churches, schools and businesses.

I wish Nielsen Builders success as it embarks on opening its second century of business and continuing the legacy of commitment, excellence and tradition.

I extend a hearty congratulations to the management and employees of Nielsen Builders of Harrisonburg, Virginia as they celebrate this tremendous milestone.

HONORING CAMERON AUSTIN
LEEDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cameron Austin Leeds of Kansas City, Missouri. Cameron is 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 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cameron has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cameron 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 Cameron Austin Leeds for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HENRY CHANG, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and contributions of Henry Chang, Jr. An energetic public servant and advocate in the Greater Bay Area, Henry will retire this year from his elected position on the Oakland City Council.

Mr. Chang has tirelessly served the community of Oakland, California as a

councilmember-at-large for 14 years, serving as the city's vice mayor for 4 terms. Mr. Chang is sincerely committed to his community, and has employed his diverse life experiences and studies to improving the quality of life for his constituents and to adding greatly to the collective efforts of policy-makers, stake holders, and public advocates in my district.

Henry was born on December 17, 1934 in Shantou, Guangdong Province, China. During the Japanese invasion of Shantou City, Henry and his siblings were separated from their parents for 4 years. In 1950 he moved to Sydney, Australia to study at Knox College. At that time, Mr. Chang was one of only two foreign students at his college. In 1952, Henry again made a bold move to further his education and opportunities, traveling to the United States in the hopes of attending the prestigious University of California, Berkeley.

In 1960, while attending UC Berkeley, Mr. Chang met and married Constance Poon. He graduated in 1961 from the School of Environmental Design at Berkeley. Mr. Chang worked for both the Novelli Engineering Company in Downtown Oakland and the Hugh M. O'Neil Company as an architect before founding his own architectural practice, Henry Chang, Jr. and Associates, Incorporated in 1971. Mr. Chang established his firm in the heart of Oakland's Chinatown District and immediately began using his skills to contribute to the vibrant business community and innovative urban planning needs of that area.

During this time, Mr. Chang began a long and impressive career of service. He has served in countless capacities on local and regional commissions and boards including founding member of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, several State and city anti-crime commissions, the Oakland Cultural Art Committee, the Lincoln Square Advisory Council, the Oakland Chinese Businessmen Association, serving as that board's president for 2 terms, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland Port Commission, the S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Oakland Community Development Commission, and the Oakland City Planning Commission. He was also a founding member of the Friends of Parks and Recreation Board. So great were Mr. Chang's contributions to Oakland, the city named September 27, 1990 "Henry Chang, Jr. Appreciation Day." In more recent years, Mr. Chang has served on the executive board of the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Alameda and Oakland Base Re-Use Commissions, the Alameda County Transportation Authority, and the A.C. Transit Major Investment Steering Committee.

On December 6, 1994 Mr. Chang was elected to the councilmember-at-large seat he has been continuously reelected to until his retirement this year. As a councilmember-at-large, Mr. Chang has sponsored important city legislation and has always been proactive in bringing stakeholders, community leaders, and residents of our area together to work on the complex issues facing the diverse and dynamic city of Oakland and its neighboring cities in Alameda County.

Just one example of Mr. Chang's tireless advocacy and thorough approach to policy making is his comprehensive legislation addressing the serious issue of gun control. Henry has authored bills to ban junk guns and ultra compact guns from being sold in Oakland as well as legislation requiring trigger locks on

all guns sold. He also sponsored a tax on guns and ammunition sold in Oakland to offset the high cost of violence caused by guns. These laws became regional models for urban safety and firearms regulation. While on the city council Mr. Chang also initiated the City Management Academy which trains neighborhood activists so that they can better understand how the city works and established the Citizens' Assistance Center to help residents get the assistance they need from their city officials and agencies.

Perhaps most memorable of Mr. Chang's achievements as a councilmember-at-large is his work to bring giant pandas to the city of Oakland on loan from the China Zoological Garden of the Ministry of Construction and to build a state-of-the-art facility for their care while in the United States. I have had the privilege to travel with Henry to China and Cuba. He has a deep sense of respect for people throughout the world and uses his diplomatic skills to bring good will to our Nation. I am proud to call Henry my colleague and my friend.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional district, I would like to salute the honorable Henry Chang, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from public office. It is clear that his dedication, innovation and involvement in the accomplishments of the city of Oakland will not end here. I wish him all the greatest happiness in his retirement years and thank him for a lifetime of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN PEDROIA OF
WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dustin Pedroia, who is being honored as the American League's Most Valuable Player for 2008, the first second baseman to receive this award since 1959.

From a young age, Mr. Pedroia has shown a passion for baseball. Although, at 5'9", he has never been the largest player on the field, he has shown time and again that he more than makes up for it by playing with his whole heart. After graduating from Woodland High School in 2001 he was recruited by Arizona State University to play for the Sun Devils. While at ASU he quickly made an impression on his teammates as well as his coaches and went on to be named a 3-time first-team all-Pac-10 selection, the 2003 Pac-10 co-player of the year and the 2003 National defensive player of the year. He never missed a game at ASU, all while batting an impressive .384.

Mr. Pedroia debuted in the major leagues in August of 2006 with the Boston Red Sox, becoming the first member of Boston's 2004 draft class to reach the majors. In 2007 he recorded one of the finest rookie seasons ever for a Red Sox player, breaking a 93-year-old major league record for the highest batting average by a rookie second baseman and also winning the Jackie Robinson Award for American League rookie of the year. He was also able to cap off this impressive start with a World Series ring by helping the Red Sox achieve a 4-0 sweep over the Colorado Rockies to win the championship.