

1991. Education and personal growth were immensely important values to Reverend Jackson. He truly used a lifetime of learning to inspire and teach others.

In his early pastoral career, Reverend Jackson acted as Interim Pastor to rebuild and develop transitioning churches in the Los Angeles area. He focused his passion for providing youth leadership and family services as Associate Pastor for Menlo Park Presbyterian Church from 1979 to 1983. Later that year, he joined Faith Presbyterian Church in Oakland, thus beginning 26 years of service to our community as Pastor and spiritual guide.

Along with wife Jimmye Jackson, with whom he celebrated 41 years of marriage this month, and daughter Rachel Jackson, Reverend Jackson maintained a dynamic presence in Bay Area community organizing. He was instrumental in organizing numerous collaborations and events including Support for the Families of Homicide Victims, a Community Health Fair Event, Embrace Oakland Day and Faith Network of the East Bay.

Reverend Jackson was passionate about encouraging collaboration between diverse groups. He utilized the clarity of his vision and the strength of his faith to unite people to work for shared goals. In 1992, Reverend Jackson was a founding pastor of the African American & Korean American Fellowship of Churches, a coalition that sought to build better racial relationships between communities of color. He also established the Themus Spencer Learning Center at Faith Presbyterian Church in partnership with Emerson Elementary School to guide at-risk students to academic success.

Deeply moved by the challenges of Katrina Relief in 2006, Reverend Jackson also helped organize a team of Oakland Pastors to raise relief funds during a citywide gathering at the Oakland Coliseum. Whether working with an interfaith coalition to rebuild burned black churches in Boligee, Alabama, or simply lending an ear to a friend in need—Reverend Jackson always made time to help others.

Additionally, he was a great lover of sports, earning his Black Belt in Korean Judo and serving as Chaplain for the Golden State Warriors Basketball Team and other pro- and college teams. In his later years, Reverend Jackson stayed active as trustee, co-chair or committee member for myriad organizations, even earning a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary just last year.

Pastor Jackson was a personal friend and source of inspiration to me. Often times he would leave a prayer on my voicemail and his words of encouragement always came, "right on time." I will always remember the joy and excitement Reverend Jackson felt at the National Prayer Breakfast this year in Washington D.C., when along with Mrs. Jackson and Pastor and Mrs. Pinkard, he witnessed our President Barack Obama and First Lady participate in their first national prayer breakfast. This week, as I looked at the photos once again after learning of Reverend Jackson's untimely death, I was reminded of his kind and gentle spirit. His life was one lived in service to God.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Reverend Frank Jackson. The contributions Reverend Jackson made to his community throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. Reverend Jackson will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to congratulate the Daughters of Penelope on their 80th anniversary. I want to thank Representative MALONEY, my Hellenic Caucus co-chair for introducing this meaningful measure of which I am a proud original cosponsor. The Daughters of Penelope is a premier international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the Nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage and countless Philhellenes.

Founded November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, California, the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the well-being of women and provide them with the opportunity to make significant contributions to American society. Today its mission is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Over its history, the Daughters of Penelope have achieved remarkable accomplishments. It has strengthened the status of women in society, sheltered the elderly and the abused, educated our youth, promoted Hellenic heritage, and raised funds for medical research.

One project adopted by the Daughters of Penelope over the years that is near and dear to my heart is St. Basil Academy, a Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. Beginning in 1954, the Daughters of Penelope have been providing charitable aid to St. Basil Academy when it embarked on a Christmas Seal Campaign to raise funds to build the new water works for the academy. Since then, the Daughters of Penelope contributed to the furnishing of new buildings that have been built on campus, built a heated outdoor swimming pool for the children, and has provided funds for ongoing maintenance and renovations to the academy for such items as replacing outdated appliances and worn-out roofs.

Finally, Daughters of Penelope members exemplify the American dream. With their strong work ethic, Greek-American women have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts. I am honored to have a longtime member of the Daughters working in my district office. My dear friend, Sonja Stefanadis, has been a member of the Daughters of Penelope for 48 years and served as its national president in the early 80's. So, I know first hand the extraordinary work this wonderful organization does. It has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.

Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope. I look forward to many, many years of working together with them.

THANKING COLONEL GENE BLADE FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Gene Blade, a great American who is retiring today after 55 years of service to his country and community.

Colonel Blade started his 40-year military career in 1954, when he joined the Illinois National Guard in Monmouth, Illinois. His first job in the Army was as a radio operator and Jeep driver for the Battery Commander. As his military career advanced, Colonel Blade served in numerous other positions, including Fire Support Officer and eventually Battery Commander. In fact, Colonel Blade held every key staff position in the infantry and artillery battalions, including Infantry Battalion Commander of the 1st Regiment, 123rd Infantry Battalion.

Colonel Blade continued to perform his duties even when no one expected him to do so. In one specific instance, Gene was hospitalized with pneumonia, but a group of top military personnel were scheduled to visit his post to view a demonstration of a nuclear spotter round. The weapons used for this exercise required very specific calculations, and Gene's expertise was needed for the test. Even with pneumonia, Colonel Blade decided to take part in the test and was transported via ambulance to the testing area so he could commence the demonstration. The event occurred without any problems, in fact, it was performed quicker than any previous test. After the demonstration, Gene was transported via ambulance back to the hospital. Gene's commitment to the Army was so evident, that the Army Chief of Staff personally thanked him for going above and beyond the call of duty.

After serving 40 years in the Army, Colonel Blade retired as a United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the Illinois National Guard and joined Hanson Professional Services Inc. as a special consultant, working with Department of Defense clients. Even in the private sector, Gene continued to serve his country. Using his skills and knowledge, he provided consulting services for 15 years and worked on several notable projects for the Illinois, Indiana, Florida, and Missouri National Guards.

Additionally, Colonel Blade has served on the U.S. Department of Defense's Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) for military bases in Illinois, and he continues to serve on the Governor's post-BRAC commission for future economic development efforts. He is also an active member and an employer outreach representative for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program.

Throughout his life and career, Gene's dedication and achievements have made a positive impact on the U.S. military, the State of Illinois, and our great Nation. Today, at 75 years of age, Colonel Blade will celebrate his retirement from Hanson. I'm told he looks forward to spending time golfing, traveling, wood-working, and also writing a book of his memoirs. I thank him for his service, and wish him the very best.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM CLEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND ITS 2009 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR CONNIE MOSER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William Clean Community Council and its 2009 Volunteer of the Year, Connie Moser. With the help of dedicated volunteers like Ms. Moser, the Council works to eliminate litter and graffiti in Prince William neighborhoods and commercial centers.

The Council was conceived in 1982 during a spring cleanup effort led by a group of concerned Prince William County residents. These volunteers, who later became the founding members of the Council, immediately recognized the importance of litter prevention education as a way to long-term environmental protection and preservation. In 1986, the Prince William County Litter Control Council was born. The organization later changed its name to the Clean Community Council, and it became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a nationwide non-profit that uses education and hands-on stewardship to advocate litter control, waste reduction, and community beautification.

The Council's litter prevention and graffiti abatement efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Council's accolades include a 1994 Governors Award for Volunteering Excellence. The Council was a 2000 Virginia Stewardship Award Winner in the Communication/Education Category, and it received the Prince William County 2001 Partners for the Potomac Environmental Patron Award, 2000 and 2002 Keep America Beautiful National Awards and a 2008 Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Recognition Award.

The Council's volunteers always have been essential to its success and the 1st Volunteer of the Year Award is a way to recognize their invaluable support. The recipient, Connie Moser, is a resident of Dale City, Va., and sits on the Council's board of directors. She teaches the Council's principles and goals to a number of other organizations that benefit from her involvement. She is acting Secretary for the Dale City Civic Association, a volunteer for the Prince William County Habitat for Humanity, maintains two "Adopt-A-Spots" for the Prince William Clean Community Council, serves on the Prince William County Neighborhood Leader's Group and is the founder of the Lindendale Community Group. Remarkably, she found time this year to coordinate a clean-up effort for the Dale City Fourth of July parade route, a large scale community beautification effort that inspired others to take up the Council's mission. Ms. Moser is truly devoted to her community's quality of life and does not shy away from a long, hard day of work to make Prince William County a pleasant place to live.

Madam Speaker, we create safer, cleaner neighborhoods when residents take ownership over their communities. The Clean Community Council asks Prince William residents to take pride in their county and work to eliminate not just litter and graffiti but the carelessness that allows these community plagues to proliferate.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the successes of the Prince William Clean Community Council and congratulating Connie Moser on being named the recipient of its 1st Volunteer of the Year Award.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RICHARD C. SHADYAC SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Richard C. Shadyac Sr. who served on the Board of Directors and Governors of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) for more than forty years. Mr. Shadyac had a true passion and devotion to the children and families that fight catastrophic pediatric diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Mr. Shadyac began his illustrious and influential career as a member of ALSAC and of St. Jude Hospital Boards of Directors and Governors in 1963. He also served as ALSAC's general counsel. In 1992, after the passing of Danny Thomas, the founder of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Mr. Shadyac became the CEO of ALSAC. Upon taking on his new leadership role, Mr. Shadyac worked tirelessly to continue the legacy and dream of his friend, Danny Thomas who said, "No child should die in the dawn of life." Mr. Shadyac served as the CEO until his retirement in 2005.

During the 13 years he led ALSAC, public funding for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital quadrupled. By 2005, ALSAC had become the third largest health-care charity in the U.S. and is currently the second largest. During Mr. Shadyac's tenure, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was also able to undergo a \$1 billion expansion that strengthened the hospital's capacity to focus on patient and family care and to conduct research for children with catastrophic diseases. His compassion and dedication to provide free care for the children and families who seek treatment was immeasurable and the driving force of his work.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Richard Shadyac Sr. who spent years of his life working on behalf of the countless sick and struggling children who come to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to fight, treat and care for what are often life threatening illnesses. It is clear that without his dedication and hard work, the triumphs in research, treatment and patient and family care that the hospital provides would not be possible. Mr. Shadyac will be missed by those whose lives were in some way touched by him.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 266, celebrating 90 years of United States-Polish diplomatic relations. It was April of 1919 when the United States first established a diplomatic relationship with the Polish Republic, and for nearly a century our two countries have worked together to maintain this important bond. Throughout the course of this lasting friendship, we have seen Poland overcome a period of communist rule and a legacy of foreign occupation to emerge as the free and democratic nation it is today, showing the great strength and resolve of the Polish people.

The mark of a great nation, however, is not measured solely by the distance of its own advancement, but by its ability and willingness to help advance and protect other nations in the world community. Poland has collaborated closely with the United States in efforts to promote democratization and human rights in regions beyond the nation's borders. Additionally, the great nation of Poland has assisted the United States in fundamental efforts to limit nuclear proliferation, facilitate regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform the United Nations.

As a proud member of the Polish Caucus, it is my honor to recognize Poland for its indispensable support and committed partnership with the United States in advancing worldwide liberty. Poland has continually supported the United States, both militarily and diplomatically, in efforts aimed at combating global terrorism.

I am proud to say that my home state of Connecticut has one of the largest Polish-American populations in the country. Polish-Americans play an active role in the community through the many cultural and civic organizations established in my district. This includes the Greater Hartford Polish Cultural Club, which was proud to host the 61st Annual National Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture in August of this year. The continued celebration of the vibrant heritage of Polish-Americans is a testament to the strength of the enduring partnership between our two great nations.

It is with great appreciation for Poland's efforts in upholding the ideals of freedom that I rise in support of House Resolution 266, celebrating 90 years of United States-Polish diplomatic relations.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISION OF A THOUSAND "POINTS OF LIGHT"

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the vision of a thousand "Points of