

had previously committed to events in the district that forced me to miss my first three votes of the second session last night. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of the following rollcall votes:

Rollcall vote No. 75, on H. Res. 1072, Recognizing Louisiana State University for 150 years of service and excellence in higher education; rollcall vote No. 76, on H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009; and rollcall vote No. 77, on H. Res. 1097, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE  
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my friend, John Murtha.

John was an extraordinary man, patriot and Congressman. He served with distinction as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee where his knowledge and expertise on military issues was unparalleled. Our troops and veterans had no greater advocate than John Murtha and the country that he loved so dearly is better for his years of service.

His personal commitment to our troops was extraordinary. He visited our war zones to learn firsthand about the need on the ground and always made time to visit with our soldiers. No matter how busy he was, he would always ask me about my two sons who served as captains in the U.S. Army, and I knew that he genuinely cared, from the bottom of his heart.

We all know that Jack was a proud marine, and their motto 'Semper Fidelis,' was indeed the motto of his life.

Madam Speaker, I am a better Member of Congress for knowing John Murtha and Congress as a whole is richer for his many years of service. I am honored to call him colleague and friend, and I will dearly miss his strength, dedication and friendship. God bless you John and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 26, 2010, I missed the last vote in a series of six votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 74.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote No. 74: "yea" (On agreeing to H. Con. Res. 238).

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE DISASTER IN HAITI

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to join my colleagues today in recognizing the extraordinary American response to the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. I am proud to support H. Res. 1048, H. Res. 1059, and H. Res. 1066. Each of these resolutions honors the courage and sacrifice of the Americans who rushed to aid the people of Haiti in their time of need.

The United States, with its swift and steadfast response, has once again demonstrated the common decency and compassion of its citizens. When the lives of our neighbors are at stake, Americans do not hesitate. In the first 10 days after the catastrophic earthquake—the worst to strike Haiti in 200 years—over 14,000 members of the Armed Forces, thousands of U.S. Army Reserve rescue workers, and hundreds of government and volunteer personnel were on the ground to provide immediate assistance to the Haitian people. While American search and rescue teams pulled survivors from the rubble, and Federal employees raced to distribute water, food, and medical supplies, the American public donated hundreds of millions of dollars to support relief efforts. Remarkably, a recent poll found that nearly half of American families had donated, even in the midst of this difficult economic recession.

As I express my gratitude today to every American that has taken part in the disaster response, it is not without a heavy heart. Haitians and the Haitian-American community have endured unspeakable loss, and the road to recovery will be long and difficult. America must continue to stand by Haiti and lead the international effort toward its recovery.

HONORING THE MARISCOTTI FAMILY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mariscotti family upon being honored by the Fresno Chapter of the California Restaurant Association with the Best of the Valley "Lifetime Achievement Award." The Mariscotti family will be honored on Monday, March 1, 2010 at the 2009 Best of the Valley Restaurant Awards at the Saroyan Theatre in Fresno, California.

Rasmeo Mariscotti came to America in 1905 with his parents, Angelo and Caroline, and his sister, Louisa. Entering the United States through Ellis Island, the Mariscotti family made their way to Louisiana and worked on a sugar plantation. Once the family satisfied their debt to the sugar company, they boarded a train and settled in Madera, California where they had family and friends waiting for them.

Upon arriving in Madera, Rasmeo began working at the Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company. Later, he went to work on the Rob-

erts Ranch, where he met and married Pearl Pistoresi. Eventually, Rasmeo went into business with his cousin, opening a butchering business in Berenda; they butchered the meat and peddled it to the surrounding ranches. The butcher business grew from a meat market, into a grocery store and eventually to a gas station with an open-air soda stand. Once Prohibition ended, the open-air soda stand was transformed into a restaurant and the Mariscottis obtained a beer and wine sales license.

Rasmeo and Pearl had four children: Maybelle, Ethalae, Robert and Dino. With a growing family and a growing business, the Mariscottis were doing well. In 1947, the family hit a bump in the road when the State of California decided to develop Route 99 into a four-lane highway that cut directly through the town of Berenda. With the completion of the new highway, the city was gone. The Mariscottis decided to stay and build their next business, the Berenda Café.

After their son Robert returned from serving in the military, he began to work for his sister, Maybelle, and her husband at the Chowchilla Market. In 1953, Robert married Helen Hodina and they returned to the Berenda Café. The Berenda Café was operated by Rasmeo and Pearl until 1970 when Rasmeo passed away. After that, Robert and Helen continued operating the restaurant. Robert and Helen added a gift shop and renamed it the Berenda Ranch Restaurant.

In 1976, Highway 99 was expanded once again. With this alteration to the highway, the Berenda Restaurant gave way to progress. Robert and Helen continued the legacy of adaptation within the Mariscotti family and established the Vineyard Restaurant in Madera. In 1977 the Vineyard Restaurant opened its doors as a twenty-four hour diner, a comfort-food place that depended on traffic passing by on Highway 99. In 1985, Mr. and Mrs. Mariscotti added a bar and began to focus on lunch and dinner, with a priority of serving high-quality local food from local farms. The Vineyard Restaurant continues to operate by these principles.

Today, their son, Chris, carries on the family legacy in foodservice, running the family restaurant and continuing local philanthropic efforts with various organizations. The family hosted the "Giving Tree" program through the Madera Christmas Basket. They are also involved in the Kampus Kettle program, the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Chris Mariscotti has co-founded the local chapter of Slow Food International, Slow Food Madera. The Mariscotti family has been awarded the Crystal Tower Award from the Madera Compact, and the Vineyard Restaurant has been recognized by Spectator Magazine as one of the top restaurants in the Central Valley's wine-growing region and was featured by Via Magazine as one of the highlights of a trip down Highway 99.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Mariscotti family for their hard work, commitment to community, leadership, and their tradition of success in business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Mariscotti family many years of continued success.