

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR.
CLAUDE M. ROHWER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks and congratulations to Mr. Claude M. Rohwer, upon his retirement as Associate Dean of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. After nearly four and a half decades of service as a professor, he now concludes a stellar career in academia.

A native of Dixon, California, Claude grew up raising pigs on his family's Sacramento Valley farm. He received his undergraduate education at the acclaimed University of California at Berkeley, following which he earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1958. That same year, he began service to his country in the U.S. Air Force's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

From 1960 to 1961, Claude was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California. Following this experience, he launched a career in private practice with the firm of Downey, Brand, Seymour and Rohwer in Sacramento. After a few years as an associate in what was then the largest practice in the city, he became a partner from 1965 to 1967.

Mr. Speaker, having taught at the McGeorge School of Law since 1961, Claude decided to leave private practice in 1967 to take a full-time position on the faculty as one of four charter professors. Generations of law students are grateful that he did, for he helped the school develop from a small, unknown entity into a proud institution.

Claude has specialized in international law during his career. From 1982 to 1986, he was the Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs. And since 2003 he has filled duties as the Associate Dean for International Affairs. He has lectured and consulted all over the world. He has taught commercial and contract law courses in cities including Vienna, Salzburg, Edinburgh, Shanghai, and London. Most recently, he has consulted the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Trade to help rewrite that nation's civil code and commercial law respectively.

In addition to being an accomplished teacher, Claude has published many legal works. While much of his writing portfolio has an international emphasis, I benefited from his text "Contracts in a Nutshell" when I was his student at McGeorge.

Claude is a member in good standing of the California Bar Association, American Bar Association, and International Bar Association. Among his professional honors, Professor Rohwer belongs to the Order of the Coif, was named an Amicus Lex Scholar in 1982, and was the University of the Pacific Professor of the Year in 1981.

In retirement, Claude plans to write a history of McGeorge. In addition to spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren, he also intends to continue singing bass with the West Valley Chorale and pursuing the love of hunting he inherited from his own father.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in commending Professor Claude Rohwer for his outstanding service to our country as a member

of the Armed Forces, an able attorney, and a career educator. After all that has been said about him, he is simply a good and decent man, and I am personally thankful for his guidance and instruction he has provided to me and countless other students of the law. May he enjoy this next phase of life with the satisfaction of knowing he has had a tremendous influence on the profession he loves.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR RAYMOND K. DUSZA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great labor leader, public official and dear friend and colleague who at the end of this year will retire from active public service as a member of the Erie County Legislature—the man commonly known as "Mr. Cheektowaga," Legislator Raymond K. Dusza.

During the 1990s, I worked closely with Ray, and saw firsthand his gentle yet persistent leadership style. Ray's leadership on so many issues important to taxpayers and consumers won kudos from countless local residents and praise from local taxpayers' groups.

Ray's call to public service came early in life. He enlisted in the United States Army and defended this country as a Paratrooper in the unit known as "America's Guard of Honor," Ray's beloved 82nd Airborne Division. When Ray came home after his military service, he started at the Westinghouse Electric corporation, where his reputation as a "man of the people" became apparent. Ray rose through the ranks and was chosen to represent 4,000 of his labor brothers and sisters as leader of the International Union of Electrical Workers, Local 1581.

In 1988, the 8th District seat in the Erie County Legislature became vacant. After many years of active service in the community and in the Democratic Party, Ray contested and won election that November, representing the residents of the Town of Cheektowaga and the Village of Depew. Over the past 17 years, Republicans and Democrats alike have bowed to the high regard with which this man has been held—Ray has never been seriously challenged for re-election.

Local consumers soon learned that they had no greater defender of their rights than Ray Dusza. Ray led the fight for a new Item Pricing/Scanner Accuracy law for Erie County, to ensure that prices consumers were charged for goods were properly reflecting prices on store shelves. Through Ray's work, scanners in supermarkets, home centers and other retail stores that were estimated to be accurate only 50 percent to 70 percent of the time must now offer consumers 98 percent accuracy. In addition, Ray will always be remembered as the "Coupon King" for his successful fight against the Proctor & Gamble Corporation's attempt to deny local shoppers free access to manufacturer's coupons. Ray fought hard for consumers, residents and taxpayers as Vice Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, and as Chairman of two legislative standing committees, the Government Affairs

Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee.

Ray Dusza added one more very important element to his service in County Hall: a robust sense of humor. Ray's philosophy was to "be serious about what you do, but don't take yourself too seriously," and he was indeed good to his word. Ray always added a refreshing sense of humor to the deliberations within County Hall, consistently entering committee meetings with the declaration that "the paratroopers have landed," and sarcastically questioning what time the perennially tardy "nine o'clock caucus" would begin.

Ray's dedication to his community was not limited to his role in the Legislature. The following are just a few of the organizations Ray has dedicated his time and energy toward: the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Knights of Columbus—Father Justin Council, Polish Falcons Club, American Legion Gierlach Post, Depew/Cheektowaga Taxpayers' Association, AMVETS Buddy Knaus Post, Catholic War Veterans Post 1313, the Ushers Society at St. Philip the Apostle Church, and St. Josephat's Parish Holy Name Society. In addition, Ray is the leader of the eponymously-named "Ray Dusza Booster Club," a grouping of political supporters that Ray sentimentally refers to as his "commandos."

Mr. Speaker, I am a lifelong resident of another great Western New York community—South Buffalo, NY, and the highest compliment that folks can pay to someone from South Buffalo is that they remember where they come from, and remember the people who sent them to serve in public office. Few public officials remember from whom and from whence they came the way Ray Dusza does. I am delighted that you have allowed me to take a few moments to honor Ray's service to our community here today, and I am honored even more to call Ray Dusza my friend. To Ray, his wife Terry, to their children, grandchildren and to the entire Dusza Family, I want to offer my sincere thanks, and my wishes of good luck and Godspeed for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DONALD
BASYE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor George Donald Basye, a man who through hard work and dedication has become one of the most respected and accomplished water and flood attorneys in California. As his friends, family and colleagues gather to pay tribute to Mr. Basye's remarkable 50-year career with the Central Valley law firm of Downey Brand, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this great American success story.

George was born on June 21, 1926 in Porterville, California. After graduating from high school in 1944, George served in the U.S. Navy. As an enlisted sailor, George held the rank of Seaman Second Class Musician Striker and performed in Navy dance bands.

Upon honorable discharge from the Navy in August of 1946, George enrolled in the College of the Pacific and graduated in February