

Isle have arrived on our shores. Irish-Americans have been instrumental in building up our strong, free, and prosperous Nation at every turn in our Nation's rich history. Despite initial discrimination, Irish-Americans used the freedom and opportunity of the United States to build strong communities and businesses and prove themselves great Americans.

Though many Irish came to American shores with little but the clothes on their backs, their hard work and integrity made them great American leaders. While we are all aware of President Kennedy's pride in his Irish heritage, 18 other presidents are of Irish descent including Andrew Jackson, Woodrow Wilson, and Ronald Reagan.

There is a great legacy of Irish-American service in our military with many recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor claiming Irish heritage or birth. Irish immigrants have contributed significantly in our Armed Services as well, ensuring full freedom for all Americans.

While many Americans remember their Irish heritage on St. Patrick's Day, because of the great contribution of Irish-Americans to our Nation, it is fitting that we dedicate an entire month of ceremonies and celebrations to their achievements.

TRIBUTE TO BUSINESSES IN  
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
THAT DO NOT SELL TOBACCO  
PRODUCTS

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the businesses in Marin County, California, that have stopped selling tobacco products in order to protect the health of the public.

Recently, I attended an event with the American Heart Association at Mollie Stone's Market in Greenbrae to officially announce the removal of all tobacco products in their Bay Area stores, including two in Marin County. At that time, Michael Stone, cofounder Mollie Stone's, said, "I don't think there's been a company our size taking this proactive action . . . we did it for health reasons for the community." The American Heart Association described this as "an aggressive, positive approach to help stop the spread of smoking."

Larry Meredith, Director of Marin County Health and Human Services, added, "Tobacco is the No. 1 cause of preventable death in the United States today . . . The decision by Mollie Stone's to go tobacco free is another jewel given to the community." A survey by this department found that other stores are considering the same move, citing concerns for general public health and youth smoking. Two years ago when United Markets, a small Marin independent chain, pulled their tobacco products, coowner Bill Daniels announced that "it's just the right thing to do."

Other Marin County stores that have decided it's the right thing to do are: AG Ferrari Foods, Golden Gate Pharmacy, Golden Point Produce/Tomales Bay Foods, Good Earth Natural Foods, Cornucopia Gourmet Deli, Elephant Pharmacy, Jack's Drug Store, Kaiser, Marin Medical Pharmacy, Pharmaca Integra-

Pharmacy, Paradise Foods, Peoples Market, Pueblo Latino Market, Olema Liquor and Deli, Ross Valley Pharmacy, Royal Coach Car Wash, Target, Trader Joe's, Western Sport Shop, and Whole Foods.

The County of Marin is also setting an example in protecting public health. For example, with funding from a tobacco settlement agreement, the Department of Health and Human Services has developed a program to crack down on illegal sales of tobacco products to minors, and the Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance expanding smoking bans to outdoor public gathering spaces such as parks and ATM lines.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that smoking is a major cause of diseases that are hurting public health, straining our medical system, and putting millions of individuals at risk. I commend these businesses and the County of Marin for their courage and foresight in responding to this threat by limiting tobacco use and availability, and I honor all businesses that add their names to this growing list.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 526; Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

TRIBUTE TO DON TALLEY

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Don Talley, who was both a nationally recognized leader in the agriculture industry as well as a local community leader. Sadly, Don passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at the age of 66, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Don's wife, Rosemary, his son, Brian, and the rest of his family for their loss.

Don was president and a coowner of Talley Farms, a specialty crop operation in the Arroyo Grande area, which I represent. Founded in 1948, under Don's auspices, Talley Farms grew to encompass more than 1,150 acres. In 1982, he established Talley Vineyards, which produces a collection of fine wines. Over his lifetime, Don successfully worked to build Talley Farms and Vineyards into nationally respected entities. Talley Farms grew a variety of specialty crops and was especially renowned for growing the best bell peppers.

As president of Talley Farms, Don established and implemented environmentally sound farming practices, developed innovative agricultural techniques for growing, harvesting, and packaging produce, and was noted for treating his employees well. Moreover, Don served in leadership positions with the Western Growers Association, Ag Box, the Council of California Growers, the California Agriculture Leadership Foundation, and Farm Credit West.

One of Don's hallmark legacies was his strong personal leadership efforts to improve

relations between the California agriculture industry and local communities. Notably Don was named Agriculturist of the Year in 1992 by the County of San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau and was voted Grower of the Year in 2004 by the Western Growers Association. In addition to Don's leadership in the agricultural industry, he served on the Arroyo Grande City Council and as mayor from 1974 to 1976. He also was a commissioner for the Parks and Recreation Commission and a member of the Cuesta College Board of Trustees.

Don will be remembered not only for his leadership and achievements, but also for his community service, selflessness, and compassion for his employees. California agriculture suffered a significant loss with the death of Don Talley.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NANCY  
ROBERTS GARRITY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Nancy Roberts Garrity, a teacher at St. John Fisher School and recipient of the National Catholic Educational Association's Distinguished Teacher Award. Mrs. Garrity will receive her award at the NCEA annual conference on April 10, 2007. She was selected out of a pool of more than 100,000 nominees.

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the largest professional association in the world, offers guidance and educational services to its 200,000 members. During the Fall of each year, every member school is invited to nominate one teacher for the Distinguished Teacher Award. This award was established in honor of Sister Miriam Joseph Farrell, who served as executive secretary of the NCEA's Department of Elementary Schools. The NCEA divides the country into 12 geographic regions, with one teacher in each region receiving this award.

St. John Fisher School is located in Chicago's West Beverly neighborhood. This parochial school provides educational opportunities for preschool through eighth grade students, where teachers serve as influential figures in developing students' lives.

Mrs. Garrity is guided by the belief that each student uniquely contributes to her classroom. She utilizes creative teaching methods in order to cater to individual educational needs. For example, when teaching her class about A Christmas Carol, she plays the part of Jacob Marley's ghost, complete with chains and a ghostly voice. During the poetry section of her reading class she dresses up as a hippie. Mrs. Garrity's creative methods of teaching allow her students to reach their full potential.

Mrs. Garrity has been a teacher at St. John Fisher School since 1990. The Catholic educational system has given her the ability to influence her student's lives with her passion for teaching, which is evident in her students' drive to succeed.

It is my honor to recognize Mrs. Nancy Roberts Garrity as a recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award. Teachers, like Mrs. Garrity, are key to our children's futures.