

from all walks of life and backgrounds. A generous benefactor, Mr. Thomas Fortune Ryan, made significant contributions that allowed the Church to build a magnificent new building that could accommodate 1,200 worshippers. The international prize-winning design by Nicholas Serracino provided a church of the purest Renaissance style, constructed of Indiana limestone, with twin towers surmounting the edifice, arches and fluted pilasters supporting the rounded ceiling that covering three naves, a wide cornice extending around the nave and at the middle height of the apse, and an impressive approach of church-wide steps. The new building's cornerstone at Lexington Avenue and East 76th Street in Manhattan was laid in 1912, and the new Church was fully completed two years later.

Today, Saint Jean Baptiste Church remains a thriving institution, offering spiritual sanctuary, education, social services, and a wide range of other programs to the people of New York City. Under the able stewardship of the Reverend Anthony Schueller, S.S.S., the Saint Jean Baptiste Church continues to uphold its proud history and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions to the civic and spiritual good of the people of New York City made by the historic Saint Jean Baptiste Catholic Church and its parishioners, past, present and future.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. MARION RAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sgt. Marion Ray on the book signing release for his book, *Damn Cold and Starving*, which tells his story as a prisoner of war. He was part of the 106th Infantry Division, 424th Regiment, First Battalion.

Sgt. Ray and fellow infantrymen were captured on December 17, 1944, by two German soldiers in Winterspelt, Germany, and were held until the spring of 1945. This was the first day of the Battle of the Bulge. During his time as a POW, Sgt. Ray was held in three different internment camps. He uses his book to describe the main hardships and difficulties he encountered.

It is a pleasure to thank Sgt. Marion Ray for his service to our great Nation. I appreciate his service and sacrifice and know his book makes a great contribution to our Nation's history.

HONORING GARY STEWART OF DUCKS UNLIMITED

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gary Stewart for his decades of work as one of North America's finest waterfowl biologists, and to thank him for all that he has done to mobilize a diverse group of interested parties to further the goals

of conservation. His leadership has aided conservationists throughout the Pacific Flyway in maintaining viable waterfowl populations and protecting key landscapes. He is retiring from a prestigious career with Ducks Unlimited Canada in December 2006.

Mr. Stewart began his efforts with waterfowl on the Prairies of Manitoba studying blue-winged teal. His career with Ducks Unlimited Canada ignited in 1979 as a young, energetic Area Biologist starting a program in New Brunswick. After 5 years, he traveled west to take on the challenge of Alberta Provincial Biologist. In that role, Gary advanced many important scientific and program delivery components of the vital Alberta landscape for over a dozen years, including critical planning and delivery of early NAWMP activities.

From his knowledge of the key waterfowl breeding areas, Mr. Stewart stimulated Flyway concern and support for conservation in the Prairies and Boreal Forest. This conservation outreach extended to the western U.S., major donors, industry partners, First Nations, and governments. A key linkage was established among Ducks Unlimited, Pacific Flyway waterfowl biologists, and especially the State of California. He was instrumental in coordinating the first Flyway biologist meeting with Ducks Unlimited Canada staff, and he built a strong cross-border working relationship with the Western Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and U.S. partners.

In 1997 Mr. Stewart pioneered work in the Western Boreal Forest as Manager of Conservation Programs, a task at which he excelled. Under his leadership, the Western Boreal Forest readily became known across the continent as "the other duck factory," with a unique set of values and challenges. His entrepreneurial spirit, passion, energetic approach and strategic thinking have resulted in a greatly increased understanding of the landscape and several specific examples of critical conservation.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, Mr. Stewart has earned a great deal of personal and professional respect from those who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with him. He readily shared his knowledge with younger staff and partners. I would like to personally thank Gary for working with me, and extend the thanks of all who have benefit from his leadership.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND DOLLY FIDDYMENT

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to thank and congratulate my friends, David and Dolly Fiddymment of Roseville, California, for their generous contributions to furthering the field of education. They have made an extraordinary gift of \$1.09 million to establish the first endowed chair at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) School of Education. With this contribution, they are furthering their family's heritage as education pioneers in Northern California.

The Fiddymment Family's roots in the greater Sacramento area predate both the advent of railroad and the founding of the City of Rose-

ville—which the family helped to start. David's greatgrandmother, Jane Fiddymment, acquired an 80-acre parcel in 1856. The parcel eventually grew to encompass 2,200 acres of livestock, grain, and pistachio farms. David and Dolly themselves have been growing pistachios at Fiddymment Farms in Roseville since 1969 and have helped shape the State's vibrant pistachio industry.

Mr. Speaker, the Fiddymment Family's commitment to education runs as deep as their rich history in agriculture. Great-grandmother Jane Fiddymment gave a portion of her land for one of the first schools in the Roseville area in the 1880s. She felt that the school building and playground were essential so that children in the area could receive needed instruction. It was a one-room structure with an oblong iron wood stove in the center of the room, a tall pine flag pole in the front, a good well, and a shed for stabling the horses ridden by youngsters from near and far. It was known as the Pleasant Grove School, and Jane became its first teacher. The school continued in operation until 1911.

Continuing the tradition, the mothers of both David and Dolly taught school in the early 1900s, and Dolly was a teacher in the San Juan Unified School District for 25 years.

Like the Fiddymments, UC Davis has a long history of working to strengthen schools, dating back to the first teacher-training program held on the University Farm in 1918. With the founding of the School of Education in 2002, the university revitalized its commitment to K-12 education.

The Fiddymments' financial gift will enhance UC Davis' leadership position in preparing the next generation of teachers to respond to the critical issues facing our schools. This is the largest private donation made to the School of Education and one of the few in the Nation given to support an endowed chair in teacher education.

Mr. Speaker, as Harold Levine, Dean of the School of Education said, "This gift is a milestone in our growth and signals the importance of teachers and teacher education to all of us. We are honored to have the Fiddymments as partners in our mission to strengthen teaching and learning for all."

David added, "It is such a joy for us to be able to stand up and take a position on something of such importance. With this gift, we are hoping to make a difference in the education of children everywhere." They were inspired, in part, by a visit to the classroom of one of UC Davis alumna, Dawn Imamoto, a 2004 California Teacher of the Year. Dolly Fiddymment said that, "Dawn embodies the kind of teacher we'd like every child to have."

Today, I am proud to honor my friends and constituents, David and Dolly Fiddymment. They are truly pioneering the way to a brighter future for the next generation of students.

TRIBUTE TO AVONDALE ARIZONA ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the city of Avondale, Arizona on its 60th anniversary. Avondale is a vibrant city,