

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,

ranked as one of Arizona's fastest growing communities, and it is my great privilege to acknowledge this important milestone.

Avondale began as an agricultural community, as many in Arizona. William Moore built the community's first establishments. As the area attracted more settlers through its pleasant climate and favorable farming conditions, a post office was built at the Avondale Ranch in the early 1900's, lending the town its current name. On December 16, 1946, Avondale was incorporated as a city, and by then was an important part of the state's capitol.

Today, Avondale has reached a population exceeding 70,000, and has much to offer its residents. To keep up with the population's demands, the city offers a wide variety of academic establishments, arts festivals, among other cultural attractions, and is a favored destination of NASCAR fans. Because of these draws and the accomplishments of residents, Avondale enjoys a growth rate among the Nation's highest, and expects to reach 120,000 residents by 2020.

Avondale has come a long way from its agricultural beginnings. It is my great pleasure to congratulate them on this landmark.

**A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL JERRY SINN**

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the leadership and dedication to public service of Lieutenant General Jerry Sinn, who has provided exemplary stewardship of the Army's resources and budgeting for the past 7 years. Beginning as a "tunnel rat" in Vietnam, Lieutenant General Sinn has retired as the Army's budget chief after 39 years in uniform.

After being drafted in 1968, Jerry Sinn was soon commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. The Army sent him to Vietnam shortly thereafter, where he fought as a tunnel rat—one of the deadliest missions in that conflict—and led a Rome Plow team. Throughout his career, he has never stopped inspiring, guiding and teaching soldiers—whether as a company commander in Korea, a mathematics instructor at West Point, a battalion commander with the Big Red One, an assistant chief of staff of VII Corps, a brigade commander in the 3rd Infantry Division, or commander of the Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division.

Lieutenant General Sinn has spent the last 7 years of his military career in the Pentagon as the Army's top uniformed budget official. His ideas, acumen, finesse and good humor were essential to guiding the Army from being a force at peace to a force at war. General Sinn oversaw the unprecedented growth in resources and mission since 2001, dedicating himself to ensuring that every soldier was properly equipped and trained. He looked after families, initiating and pushing numerous programs to improve their quality of life. And he made sure that everyone involved in financial management understood the importance of their work. General Sinn inspired the civilians and the uniformed members of Army financial management to do their very best and ap-

proach their tasks with the same vigor as the soldier on the battlefield. He also provided counsel to the Army leadership, the Defense Department, the Office of Management and Budget and many members of Congress.

General Sinn earned a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars, both with oak leaf clusters and one with a V Device, among many other medals and awards. He lived the Soldier's Creed with great pride and dignity. He always placed the mission first. He never accepted defeat. He never quit. And though he could have, he never left a fallen comrade.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his youth in North Dakota, Jerry Sinn thought he would follow in his parents' footsteps, raising cattle and growing wheat. The U.S. Army, and his many supporters in Congress, are grateful that he devoted his life to public service instead. Please join me in thanking him for those 39 years of selflessness, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Church in the Borough of Madison, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On November 4, 2006, the good citizens of Madison celebrated Grace Church's 150th Anniversary.

Grace Church, the oldest building in Madison, New Jersey still being used for its original purpose, is one of the largest congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The first church service was held on April 13, 1856. When completed, the building, including bell and organ, cost about \$9000 and seated two hundred persons. One hundred and fifty years later Grace Church is undergoing a \$3,000,000 capital campaign to enlarge the existing structure to meet the needs of a still growing congregation.

The earlier years in the history of Grace Church were marked by building and consolidating, participation of a wide segment of the community: black and white, abolitionist and slave owners, recent immigrants and colonial heirs. A new era for Grace Church arrived when more than ninety millionaires moved to Morristown and neighboring towns, many of whom were Episcopalian. Their generosity enabled the church to enlarge, but, unfortunately, membership did not grow as there was no need to broaden the financial base with increased membership. That changed after World War II, with the population explosion that followed the war and the resulting exodus to the suburbs. This brought Grace Church to a new era in its history and in the 1950's the church underwent a major expansion.

Today Grace Church's congregation includes parishioners from all the neighboring towns and its primary focus is outreach. A wonderful choir, with members of all ages, a large and active youth program, and many adult ministries fill the church 7 days a week. Under the leadership of the Reverend Lauren Ackland, the membership continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Grace Church of

Madison on the celebration of its 150 years serving its parishioners County.

**TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATED
STAFF OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS**

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of patriots whose dedication and contributions to the United States space community has been exceptional. For the past 2 years I have served as the Chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics and have had the honor to work with a staff comprised of some of the best and brightest in the fields of space and earth science, aeronautics and space exploration.

In the 2 years that I've been Chairman, the staff has worked diligently to implement the President's Vision for Space Exploration, maintain robust science and aeronautics programs and open opportunities for the private sector and space entrepreneurs. In short, they have tried to give America's space-farers the "Rules and Tools" to succeed in the Second Space Age. Last year, the President signed into law the first NASA Authorization Act in 5 years. Anyone can tell you how difficult it is to draft legislation that must balance the many needs of the Agency's various stakeholders while keeping the original Vision intact. The majority subcommittee staff worked tirelessly to secure passage and I commend their hard work and dedication. It certainly has paid off—NASA is charging full speed ahead with the Vision for Space Exploration and a commitment to ten healthy centers.

The subcommittee completed several resolutions commending successful shuttle launches and their crews; conducted hearings on a wide range of topics including "The Future of Aeronautics at NASA," "Future Market for Commercial Space," and "The NASA Workforce"; and conducted several legislative mark-up hearings on other relevant bills. The subcommittee even conducted the first hearing in Congressional history with a witness testifying from space when NASA astronaut John Phillips, a member of the crew aboard the International Space Station in June 2005, participated via satellite. The efforts of the subcommittee staff also enabled me to visit all of NASA's Centers, including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Applied Physics Laboratory, during the 109th Congress. None of this would have been possible without the intelligence and perseverance of the staff.

At this time I would like to recognize the individuals responsible for the subcommittee's many accomplishments:

Bill Adkins, former Staff Director. Bill was a thoughtful advisor and an influential force in the passage of the NASA Authorization Act during the 18 months we worked together.

Johannes Loschnigg, current Staff Director. Johannes has done a terrific job and has offered solid leadership to the subcommittee.

Ed Feddeman, Professional Staff. Ed is the resident expert on aeronautics and space science. I have appreciated his depth of