

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
FRANCESCO VITUCCI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Francesco "Frank" Vitucci, who passed away on September 26, 2012 at the age of 74. Frank will be remembered in the hearts of many as a generous and ambitious man whose drive gave him unprecedented achievement in business. His memory will live on through his family whom he loved deeply.

Frank was born on September 29, 1937 in Pacentro, Italy and his family lived there until the German invasion during World War II. When Frank was only five years old his father, Paolo passed away, so his mother, Maria was left with two young children, Frank and his younger brother Roberto. When the war ended, Maria met Pasquale DiCicco. He was a widower with four young children: Nick, Alberto, Giuseppina, and Lucia. Shortly after meeting, Maria and Pasquale married and conjoined their families.

In 1952, Frank and his younger brother Roberto made the journey to America to join the rest of their loved ones as well as three new additions to the family: Giulia, Paul, and Rosaria. After living in Detroit for a few years, the DiCicco's uprooted their lives again and moved to Fresno, California.

Frank and Alberto washed dishes at Maselli's Italian Restaurant. Money was tight, but with hard work and dedication, Frank, Roberto, Alberto, and Nick seized the opportunity to buy Maselli's Restaurant when the owner, Sam Maselli was looking to sell.

Subsequently, the four brothers became widely known as the Four Sons of Italy. Frank was in charge of the pizzas while his other brothers handled the other functions of the business. DiCicco's Italian Restaurant quickly became a family business requiring long hours of hard work. Successfully, Frank and his brothers were able to open various locations across California for a total of 15, twelve of which are in the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1972, Frank married Lindain, which resulted in a 40-year marriage with four children: Greg, Ron, Mario, and Joanna.

In his final years, Frank spent time most of his time with family, playing with his grandchildren, and catching up with close friends. One of Frank's greatest joys was traveling, and he did it very often. Going back to his hometown, Pacentro, Italy, was something Frank loved to do. His roots were there and even though he was a part of a successful restaurant business in America, he never forgot where he came from.

Frank exemplified the American Dream through his hard work, dedication and compassion. A lasting legacy has been built not only by his business achievements but because of the generosity and endearment created by all those who were blessed to enjoy his companionship. As the last of the DiCicco's founders passes on, we shall not forget the legacy and impact Frank has had on the community. A model to follow, Frank will be remembered for his kind gestures and enthusiasm for creating a better life for his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN CARLOS ADULT COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SAN CARLOS ADULT COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the San Carlos Adult Community Center on the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and the Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center on the 20th anniversary of its founding as a nonprofit. The center is dedicated to providing programs and activities for persons age 50 and above while recognizing the importance of people of all ages.

Groundbreaking for the 17,000 square foot center took place in 1982 and at the time the building was the most completely equipped facility of its kind in the nation. It cost \$1.5 million to build and about \$550,000 of that funding came from federal and county sources. The remainder was contributed by San Carlos. The residents received quite a bargain, given all of the amenities of this facility.

The center has a modern kitchen and its meeting room, which I've been privileged to speak in, is first-rate. The center also has a paperback library and computer lab, regular health screenings and is available for community events. In short, the San Carlos Adult Community Center is a place where people come to refresh themselves after a hard day's work or to maintain their connections to others while in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, there are a handful of public services that connect people to their governments. One such service is recreation, including physical activity and continuing education classes. The San Carlos Adult Community Center draws people out of their homes and into recreational activities and thereby knits the community together. For example, the AARP offers driver safety classes. Adults can create lasting friendships by participating in health and wellness classes or by learning a new hobby such as painting, cooking or gardening. Adults can become better creative writers by taking a class and the current events sessions often feature local experts. Pedro tournaments draw persons from age 18 and up, while the moonlight and roses social dance draws people who remain young at heart.

There is another aspect to the San Carlos Adult Community Center that also merits special mention because not everyone in San Carlos is self-sufficient. Some need additional assistance, and this is where the Caring Cupboard Food Program becomes important. Twice per month, the Caring Cupboard, operated in part by center volunteers, delivers canned food, boxed food or packages that are non-perishable to seniors whose budgets do not stretch through an entire month. The volunteers in the Caring Cupboard also check on the welfare of the seniors who are served, and provide companionship for those who might not see another face for many days in a row. The center also helps seniors understand their Medicare choices by supplying HICAP volunteers who can explain options during open enrollment, a vital way to ensure that seniors remain independent.

The Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center provide extensive fundraising support for the budget of the center. Anchored by a strong board of directors, the "Friends" are a group of volunteers who know that communities thrive when their volunteers build local institutions that provide great services. I'm sure that this mission of providing a place for adults to learn and to build bonds with the community makes the "Friends" one of the largest official matchmakers on the San Francisco Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, there are quite a few strong community institutions in San Carlos. The city prides itself on being the City of Good Living. The San Carlos Adult Community Center is a concrete example of why people love this town. In his book "Democracy in America," the 19th Century French historian Alexis de Tocqueville remarked on the role of volunteerism in the young nation known as America. He contrasted it with the lack of a similar ethic of volunteerism in France at that time—a nation that he said required an official act to create even the smallest civic accomplishment. San Carlos is very much like America in its early years, filled with the warmth of volunteerism and the ethic that actions speak louder than words. We salute the San Carlos Adult Community Center on the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and the Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center on its 20th anniversary. During every single day, they make a difference for the better in the lives of countless persons in the special community on the San Francisco Peninsula known as San Carlos.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ANASTASE POMONIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Anastase Pomonis, lifelong entrepreneur and community icon. He was born in Athens, Greece on May 3, 1941 and passed away on July 10, 2012. He was an inspiration to the local Greek community and the community at large. He came to the Champaign-Urbana area in the 1960s and soon developed many entrepreneurial ventures.

Anastase, or Stacy as he was commonly known, was an excellent example of what living the American dream is all about. He came from a far away land to become a life story of great American success. Stacy developed The Brown Jug club in Champaign, whose house bands included the now famous REO Speedwagon. He went on to establish several local restaurant and diner chains, as well as several other businesses that thrive to this day.

He was proclaimed a Patriarch of the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church upon his passing. It is important to also remember him as a good father and husband. He was a man who was a mentor to many people. Speaking five languages and capable of reciting philosophical doctrine from heart, he was known as an intelligent and insightful man. He offered himself to the community through his words, heart and charity. Thank you, Anastase, for