

social interests and community projects. The Avon Club also established itself as a service organization willing to raise money to support civic improvements and other charitable community organizations.

Each year the Avon Club hosts two major fundraisers to support its many community service activities. An annual fall festival is sponsored in early October and this event features a celebration of the creative, musical, and culinary talents of local district residents. The annual fashion show and luncheon provides an opportunity to enjoy food and good conversation while viewing the latest from the fashion world. In addition to these fundraisers, the Avon Club has published a community telephone directory since 1952. Members canvass their local neighborhoods and all residents, local businesses, and merchants are invited to be listed in this valuable community resource.

Avon Club member dedicated the proceeds from these fundraising activities to the support of several charitable activities. Since 1990, these charitable activities have been managed by the Avon Club Foundation, a nonprofit organization which manages both fundraising activities and the distribution of funds. In 1994, the Avon Club Foundation gave away \$7,671 and brought the total level of philanthropic contributions throughout their 50 years to over \$100,000.

The Avon Club Foundation is guided by long-range goals emphasizing service to education, recreation, the environment and social responsibility. The foundation has donated funds to local parks, schools, sports organizations and also provides assistance to charitable organizations serving women and children. Members of the Avon Club have also volunteered with local recycling efforts and community cleanup days.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting for the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join in saluting an organization like the Avon Club. The Members of the Avon Club are to be commended for their energy and neighborhoods together to the benefit of all local residents.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MIKE TRACY
AND SGT. TOM VANDERPOOL

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 15, the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police will honor over 100 police officers from across the Nation who were slain in the line of duty. Among those officers are two courageous men from the 36th Congressional District of California who gave their lives to protect others. It is with deep sadness that I join in paying tribute to these individuals, Capt. Mike Tracy and Sgt. Tom Vanderpool.

Mike Tracy and Tom Vanderpool were both gunned down by a robber on February 14, 1994, while they attended a management seminar for employees of the city of Palos Verdes Estates, CA. Both men were model police officers who leave behind family, friends, colleagues, and a community made all the better by their service.

Mike, who was raised in Torrance, CA, first joined the PVE Police Department as a reserve officer in 1966. His colleagues described him as a "cop's cop": instinctive, professional, and supportive of his fellow officers. Those close to him say he liked to "live life to the fullest," and many were touched by his humor and humanity. In his spare time, Mike counseled teenagers in trouble. He was also a husband, and father of two.

Tom spent his early years in law enforcement with the Los Angeles Police Department before beginning 13 years of service with the PVE Police Department. He was respected by his colleagues and occupied a special place in the hearts of needy children in the community. Every Christmas, he would use his patrol car to deliver toys, blankets, and clothing to these children and their families. A husband and father of three, Tom was preparing to celebrate his 36th wedding anniversary shortly before he was killed.

My heart fills with sadness when I think of the tragic circumstances surrounding the deaths of these two officers. The job of our law enforcement officers has changed dramatically from earlier times in our Nation's history. Not only must these officers protect our citizens against dangers unimaginable, but they must increasingly protect themselves from mindless expressions of rage and frustration. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those men and women who do the job of law enforcement every day.

A luncheon to award the South Bay Medal of Valor was recently held in my district to honor those who have performed heroic acts in the line of duty. Capt. Mike Tracy and Sgt. Tom Vanderpool were both awarded the medal posthumously. I only wish the legislative schedule had permitted me to be there, as I was when hundreds of Californians including my Governor attended their funeral.

To their families and friends, and to the families and friends of all officers slain in the line of duty, your loved ones were patriots. They gave their lives for ours.

IN HONOR OF GILBERT HERRERA,
OUTSTANDING YOUNG TEXAS-EX

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Gilbert A. Herrera, a recipient of the 1995 Outstanding Young Texas-Ex Award. Gilbert was a page in the Texas Senate during the time that I was a Texas State Senator, and we have been great friends ever since. Gilbert's intelligence, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence have served him well, culminating with this prestigious honor.

The Outstanding Young Texas-Ex Award has been presented annually since 1980 by the Ex-Students' Association to four alumni under the age of 41 who have excelled in their chosen fields of endeavor and have shown loyalty to the University of Texas. The 1995 award will be presented during UT's spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 20.

Gilbert graduated from UT in 1978 with a B.B.A. degree in finance. He is a principal of

G.A. Herrera & Co., a private investment banking firm with offices in Houston and Austin, and he is also a consultant on corporate governance. Gilbert previously served in a variety of corporate finance and banking positions. In 1993 he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, where he serves as chair of its budget committee.

Gilbert also has been active in community service. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Texas Product Development Commission. In Houston he served on the Houston Parks Board and as trustee of the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority, where he chaired the Legislative and Employee Benefits Committees. Gilbert is a life member of the Ex-Students' Association, a lifetime member of the Century Club, a member of the Littlefield Society, the UT Chancellor's Council, the MBA Investment Fund, L.L.C., and the Longhorn Associates for Women's Athletics.

Gilbert and his wife, Kari, have been personal friends of mine for many years. Today I join their family and many friends in offering my sincere congratulations to this outstanding young Texas Ex on his selection for this prestigious award. His achievements are a source of pride for his family, his friends, and the University of Texas, and I know that he will continue to distinguish himself in his profession as well as in his service to his community, his State, and his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEXI-
CAN-AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY
FOUNDATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation [MAOF] as they inaugurate their new facilities on Thursday, May 11, 1995.

MAOF was founded in 1962 by Mr. Dionicio Morales in Los Angeles, CA, and for over 33 years it has provided educational and charitable assistance to the general public and the Latino community. MAOF has developed and administered projects, programs, research and related activities on behalf of the socially and economically disadvantaged youth and adults of our community.

One of the special projects began when Mr. Morales and MAOF recognized the plight of Latina women. Eighteen years ago, MAOF created "Visiones Hispanas", a Hispanic women's conference that focuses on Hispanic women's needs and provides direction on career and education opportunities.

In furthering their mission to assist economically disadvantaged individuals, MAOF has established child care development programs. MAOF founded these centers to provide a bilingual/bicultural learning environment for children. It is a developmental program where children, whether they speak only English or only Spanish, become an integral component of this educational interaction with the teachers. Additionally, MAOF sponsors child nutrition programs, in conjunction with their child