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HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS AT VILLA NUEVA SENIOR PARK, PICO RIVERA, CA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 1995*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. These brave men and women fought to protect the freedoms and liberties enjoyed by every citizen of this great country. It was only 50 short years ago that they battled to end the rule of tyrants and dictators throughout the world.

Men and women across this Nation unselfishly answered the call of our Nation to go to war. I commend these individuals for their patriotic deeds in our Nation's time of need. We are proud of our veterans who have defended the United States of America.

On November 9, 1995, the Villa Nueva Senior Park of Pico Rivera, CA, will join thousands of ceremonies across the country in concluding our commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and privilege that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the veterans of Villa Nueva Senior Park to whom we owe a tremendous debt:

Serving in the U.S. Army; Edward Austin, Ed Baker, Grant P. Ellibee—also served in the U.S. Marine Corps, Albert Ely, Irving Fink, Frances Galyon—Army Nurse Corps, Eloy Gomez, Joe Goulet, Ernie Montes, Mac Nakata, Joe Oliver, Herman Oushani, Anthony Palucci, Benito Perez, Charles Perry—Army Air Corps, Harold Phillips, Hank Romines, Frank Ruiz, Jules Sharff—Army Air Corps, Robert W. Smith, Barry Snavely, Andrew Varonin and Cecil E. Waddington. Serving in the U.S. Navy; Gus Garcia—Navy Submarine, Ed Gold, Warren Van Wie, George Weber and Dean Yates. Serving in the U.S. Marine Corps; Barbara Ellibee, Helen Hawk, and Gloria Trujillo.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S EXCHANGE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 1995*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure and a great degree of pride that I draw to your attention the accomplishments of the Women's Exchange, a volunteer organization in the St. Louis area, dedicated to the mission of helping others help themselves.

Established in 1883, the Women's Exchange was founded by a group of volunteers to help women support themselves and their families by working out of the home. In an era when males dominated the work force, the Women's Exchange provided a marketplace where creative women could display and sell

their products, while still allowing them to be at home to educate and raise their children. The organization also offered working women inexpensive lunches, and a library of resources, all in an effort to enable women to earn their own living and provide an atmosphere to change the tide.

Over the past 112 years, the need has not subsided nor has this organization's fine service and devotion to quality. They remain faithful to the founders' mission to help people help themselves by continuing to provide training and quality materials to their consignors. Approximately 100 families are supported by Women's Exchange consignors, many of whom receive up to 100 percent of the profit from the sale of their goods. Today, under the direction of president Mary Fort, the St. Louis Women's Exchange is the largest chapter in the National Federation of Women's Exchanges. They now operate a tearoom in addition to the gift shop which helps attract customers for the consignor merchandise and generates income to maintain the shop's excellence and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to recognize this fine organization. I commend the Women's Exchange on its first 100 years of service and dedication to the St. Louis community and wish them well on 100 more.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHELDON FAMILY AND REID-SHELDON & COMPANY

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 1995*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to those who have served us in so many ways: the Sheldon family and Reid-Sheldon & Co. in New Hartford, NY.

On November 7, 1995, Reid-Sheldon celebrated 150 years of successful business endeavors. By donating 10 percent of its sales on that day to charity, the Sheldon family maintains the store's fine tradition of sharing its fortune with the community since 1845. What started as a country harness shop has emerged as a successful luggage and leather goods store.

I submit for my colleagues history of Reid-Sheldon, written in 1945 by Artemas Barnard Sheldon whose grandfather, Ebenezer, was its founder. It is not simply a profile of one store in one locality, rather it is a welcome and unique perspective on hometown enterprises—the backbone of American business—across our Nation:

THE SHELDON BUSINESS

In giving an outline of the Sheldon business I could start with a certain Isaac Sheldon who our records show was living in Massachusetts in 1629. However, I do not know what his trade was so I will stick to the men of the family who I do know were leather workers.

My grandfather, Ebenezer Sheldon, was born in Bernardston, Massachusetts, in 1796. He learned the trade of harness maker and in 1825 migrated to the village of Burlington, New York, where he operated a country harness shop.

The city directory of 1840 shows that he had a harness shop on Catharine Street. In

1845 he had as his partner his oldest son, George, and the firm name because Ebenezer Sheldon & Son. Their store and shop was located at that time at 45 Genesee Street and there it stayed with some enlargements for eighty-five years.

In the early fifties the firm became Moore & Sheldon, Ebenezer having taken his son-in-law, LeGrand Moore, into partnership.

My own father, Artemas H. Sheldon, the youngest of eight children, was born in 1836 shortly before my grandfather moved his family to Utica. He learned the trade of harness maker and assumed his father's interest in the business in 1862.

In 1880 the firm name was again changed to Moore, Sheldon & Company when Mr. Moore's son-in-law, Robert H. Reid, was admitted to the firm.

My father died in 1899 when I was eighteen years old, and I represented my mother's interest in the firm until her death in 1917.

At that time I became a partner, and the firm name was changed to Reid-Sheldon & Company under which title we still operate.

I was married in 1901 just after I had passed my twenty-first birthday. My wife and I have been blessed with three children, a daughter and two sons.

My daughter, Rosemary, graduated from Cornell University in 1925, and my older son, Robert, was graduated from the Syracuse University the same year.

In 1928 Mr. Reid died very suddenly and my son, Robert, took over his interest and became my partner in the business.

It was in this year of 1928 that I was elected this executive secretary of the National Luggage Dealers Association, which position I still hold. My daughter who had taken a secretarial course after leaving Cornell was my secretary until her marriage in 1932.

My younger son, Richard, on completing high school came into the store as a salesman and is now serving in the Navy as a second class petty officer. His place will be here when he comes back.

My son, Robert, was married in 1933 and has four children, two girls and two boys. For a number of years they lived on a farm located about ten miles from Utica in a large old house built in 1797 and dating back to the days of George Washington and DeWitt Clinton.

During this year he purchased a comfortable home in Utica about two miles from the store in order to give his children easier accessibility to the public schools. He has, however, kept the old farm as an "ace in the hole" should we ever go through another period like, what I term as "the terrible thirties".

In 1930 about two years after the death of Mr. Reid we left the old store at 43 and 45 Genesee Street, where we had been for eighty-five years, and moved to our present location at 241 Genesee Street, a section given over to better class specialty stores.

Up to the time we moved uptown we had always maintained a harness department.

During my early days in the store this was the most important part of our business. We specialized in fine coach harness and track harness. These were always made to order, and during the years that preceded the coming of the automobile we employed a dozen or more mechanics.

As the demand for harness decreased other lines of merchandise were added. While we had always carried trunks and hand luggage, it had been a minor part of our business.

Now we were forced to expand our lines of luggage, and to gradually feel our way into kindred lines such as Personal Leather Goods, Ladies Hand Bags and Gifts.

When we move to our present location we were obliged to discontinue the harness shop, but as it was necessary to maintain a repair