

Program at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this remarkable program.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TOM
TAKEHARA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Tom Takehara of Sacramento, California. A memorial service will be held for him in his hometown. I respectfully ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting a truly great citizen, father, and friend.

Mr. Takehara founded Takehara Landscape Inc. which grew to become one of the largest businesses of its kind in the Sacramento area. As a landscape contractor, he handled landscape duties at many of Northern California's most prominent public and private buildings.

As the past president of the California Landscape Contractors Association and an active Rotary Club member, Mr. Takehara earned a reputation for civic involvement. His membership in Bocho Doshi Kai and Wakayama Kenjin Kai, two Japanese American heritage organizations, is especially noteworthy.

Having grown up on a farm in Sacramento County, Mr. Takehara was well-versed in the strong work ethic associated with agriculture in Northern California. He was known for always working hard to build a successful business and to provide for his loving family.

During World War II, Mr. Takehara was forcibly interned with thousands of other Japanese Americans. Yet this social and legal injustice never prevented him for excelling in his chosen professional pursuits.

As a successful entrepreneur, he started a variety of enterprises before founding his own landscape construction business in Sacramento. Yet commerce wasn't Mr. Takehara's sole focus.

Family was also a major force in the life of Tom Takehara. He was married to his wife Toshi for 51 years. They had three children: Brian, Walton, and Denise. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Takehara led a unique life in Northern California. He will be remembered as a loving family man, successful entrepreneur, and a great citizen of Sacramento. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in remembering him as he is eulogized today.

RULE 30 OF THE FEDERAL RULES
OF CIVIL PROCEDURE AND RES-
TORATION OF THE STENO-
GRAPHIC PREFERENCE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will restore the stenographic preference for depositions taken in federal court proceedings. This bill is identical to legislation which I sponsored last term; and is similar to a bill authored by Senator GRASSLEY during the 105th Congress.

For 23 years, Rule 30 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permitted the use of non-stenographic means to record depositions, but only pursuant to court order or the written stipulation of the parties. In December of 1993, however, the Chief Justice submitted a recommendation pursuant to the Rules Enabling Act that eliminated the old Rule 30 requirement of a court order or stipulation. The revision also afforded each party the right to arrange for recording of a deposition by non-stenographic means.

When representatives of the Judicial Conference testified on the subject in 1993, they could not provide the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property with a single justification for their recommendation. As a result, the Subcommittee unanimously approved legislation, H.R. 2814, to prevent implementation of the change. The full House of Representatives followed suit by passing the bill under suspension of the rules on November 3, 1993.

It is my understanding that the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Administrative Practice also held hearings on Rule 30 during the 103rd Congress. I believe the members who participated in those hearings received testimony which generated concerns about the reliability and durability of video or audio tape alternatives to stenographic depositions. Then and since, court reporters have complained of increased difficulty in identifying speakers, deciphering unintelligible passages, and reconstructing accurate testimony from "blank" passages when relying on mechanical recordings. In contrast, information was also submitted at this time which suggested that the stenographic method will become even more cost-effective in the future as a result of improvements in recording technology.

These findings from the 103rd Congress were confirmed in the 104th when the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property again conducted its own hearing on H.R. 1445, the precursor to the bill I am introducing today; and later, when the Committee on the Judiciary reported H.R. 1445 to the full House.

Mr. Speaker, I have never entirely understood why Rule 30 was changed in the first place. Like many others, I have found that experience is the best teacher; and it has been my experience that no one in my district was displeased with the application of the law prior to 1993. I visit my district frequently and maintain good relations with members of the bench and bar, and not one attorney or judge ever complained about the operation of Rule 30 to me before 1993.

I am pleased to continue my ongoing support for reinstating the pre-1993 law on Rule 30 by sponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL RUCKER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joel Rucker, a good friend of many years and a man who cares deeply about the future of the Northeast San Fernando Valley. During the time I have known Joel, I have had many opportunities to see firsthand his extraordinary dedication to the causes in which he believes. I can say without

hesitation that I have rarely met anyone as willing to make the time and effort on behalf of his community.

Joel has made a special point of working tirelessly to improve the economy of Pacoima and surrounding areas. For example, he played an invaluable role in helping my office coordinate an international job fair in 1995. It was Joel who first brought to my attention the need to provide local small businesses with tips on selling their products overseas. At that time Joel was President of the Pacoima Chamber of Commerce, a post he held with distinction for several years.

Joel has also served on the Board of Directors of San Fernando Valley Economic Alliance and is a member of the Minority Business Opportunity Commission of Los Angeles International Trade. He has become a forceful advocate for the economic interests of the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

To be sure, Joel is involved in a variety of organizations, including the Northeast Valley Health Corporation, the NAACP and the Valley Interfaith Council. He has somehow managed to combine running a successful business (Rucker's Mortuary) with many extracurricular activities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Joel Rucker, a deeply spiritual man who has dedicated his life to community service. His selflessness and sense of public duty inspire us all.

IN HONOR OF PETER BERRIO, DIS-
TINGUISHED COLOMBIAN—AMER-
ICAN VETERAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Anthony Berrio for his courageous service on behalf of the United States during World War II. Mr. Berrio, the oldest surviving Colombian-American WWII veteran, was honored on November 19 by the governor of Quindo, in the city of Armenia, Colombia, Peter Berrio's place of birth. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this event, but a representative of the U.S. Embassy in Colombia was there on behalf of all Americans thankful for Mr. Berrio's distinguished service.

Peter Berrio moved to the United States from Colombia in 1929 and served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1942 to 1946, both in the Far East and in Europe. Mr. Berrio served as a gunner, and he also served as a "military mayor" in Italy after the war. By the time he left the service, he had reached the rank of Sergeant and received the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. In 1951, Peter Berrio moved back to Colombia where he continues to live today.

It is important for us to remember the sacrifices made by our elders in the fight for freedom during WWII. The war was the defining event of the 20th century. Over 400,000 of our brave soldiers died during their service in WWII and millions more willingly put their lives on the line for their country.

I was both honored and touched to receive a letter from Edison Berrio, Mr. Berrio's son, about his father's accomplishments. I am