

North York was incorporated, encompassing about 146 acres of land. The first official council meeting was held on May 12, 1899.

Today, the population of the Borough of North York is 1689. It is a thriving community and home to many outstanding businesses.

I send my sincere best wishes as the Borough of North York celebrates this milestone in its history. I am proud to represent such a fine place and look forward to watching it grow as we enter the new millennium.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LADY  
OF LOURDES ACADEMY MIAMI,  
FLORIDA

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an outstanding group of girls from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy who won third place at this year's national We the People competition.

Sacrificing their weekends, evenings, and spending countless of hours in preparing diligently for the state and local tournaments which they won, 17 students of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy proudly represented Miami and the state of Florida this year in yesterday's national competition on the Constitution.

I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to devoted teacher Rosie Heffernan and to the following 17 young girls who made evidence their pride in our country's heritage and demonstrated their vast knowledge of the United States' history and of current events: Deerack Ascencio, Deanna Barkett, Melissa Camero, Carly Celmer, Catherine Cone, Jessica Fernandez, Tanya Garcia, Diana Kates, Ingrid Laos, Vivian Lasaga, Claudia MacMaster, Tanya Nelson, Sonya Nelson, Tatiana Perez, Flavia Romero, Melissa Sanchez, and Kristina Velez.

REPORT FROM WAYNE COUNTY

**HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana have not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes."

I recognized this genuine Hoosier Hero in Wayne County at a Lincoln Day dinner speech. She is Violet Backmeyer, whose commitment and service to the needy has been just as strong and successful. By working tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate, Violet epitomizes a Hoosier Hero.

For the past 15 years, Violet has served as a Wayne Township Trustee. She has given invaluable service to the Salvation Army and various food pantries both providing aid to the desperately poor.

Violet's work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. She doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch, she does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Violet Backmeyer deserves the gratitude of her country, state, and nation, and I thank her here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

CALIFORNIA RESOLUTION TO  
HONOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a Resolution from the California State Assembly, Assembly Joint Resolution No. 15 relative to Filipino World War II veterans:

Whereas, The Philippine Islands, as a result of the Spanish-American War, were a possession of the United States between 1898 and 1946; and

Whereas, In 1934, the Philippine Independence Act (P.L. 73-127) set a 10-year timetable for the eventual independence of the Philippines and in the interim established a government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines with certain powers over its own internal affairs; and

Whereas, The granting of full independence ultimately was delayed for two years until 1946 because of the Japanese occupation of the islands from 1942 to 1945; and

Whereas, Between 1934 and the final independence of the Philippine Islands in 1946, the United States retained certain sovereign powers over the Philippines, including the right, upon order of the President of the United States, to call into the service of the United States Armed Forces all military forces organized by the Commonwealth government; and

Whereas, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by Executive order of July 26, 1941, brought the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East under the command of Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur; and

Whereas, Under the Executive Order of July 26, 1941, Filipinos were entitled to full veterans benefits; and

Whereas, Approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers, driven by a sense of honor and dignity, battled under the United States Command after 1941 to preserve our liberty; and

Whereas, There are four groups of Filipino nationals who are entitled to all or some of the benefits to which United States veterans are entitled. These are:

(1) Filipinos who served in the regular components of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) Regular Philippine Scouts, called "Old Scouts," who enlisted in Filipino-manned units of the United States Army prior to October 6, 1945. Prior to World War II, these troops assisted in the maintenance of domestic order in the Philippines and served as a combat-ready force to defend the islands against foreign invasion, and during the war, they participated in the defense and retaking of the islands from Japanese occupation.

(3) Special Philippine Scouts, called "New Scouts," who enlisted in the United States Armed Forces between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific following World War II.

(4) Members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army who on July 26, 1941, were called into the service of the United States Armed Forces. This group includes organized guerrilla resistance units that were recognized by the United States Army; and

Whereas, The first two groups, Filipinos who served in the regular components of the United States Armed Forces and Old Scouts, are considered United States veterans and are generally entitled to the full range of United States veterans benefits; and

Whereas, The other two groups, New Scouts and members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, are eligible for certain veterans benefits, some of which are lower than full veterans benefits; and

Whereas, United States veterans medical benefits vary depending upon whether the person resides in the United States or the Philippines; and

Whereas, The eligibility of Old Scouts for benefits based on military service in the United States Armed Forces has long been established; and

Whereas, The federal Department of Veterans Affairs operates a comprehensive program of veterans benefits in the present government of the Republic of the Philippines, including the operation of a federal Department of Veterans Affairs office in Manila; and

Whereas, The federal Department of Veterans Affairs does not operate a program of this type in any other country; and

Whereas, The program in the Philippines evolved because the Philippine Islands were a United States possession during the period 1898-1946, and many Filipinos have served in the United States Armed Forces, and because the preindependence Philippine Commonwealth Army was called into the service of the United States Armed Forces During World War II (1941-1945); and

Whereas, Our nation has failed to meet the promises made to those Filipino soldiers who fought as American soldiers during World War II; and

Whereas, The Congress passed legislation in 1946 limiting and precluding Filipino veterans that fought in the service of the United States during World War II from receiving most veterans benefits that were available to them before 1946; and

Whereas, Many Filipino veterans have been unfairly treated by the classification of their service as not being service rendered in the United States Armed Forces for purposes of benefits from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, All other nationals who served in the United States Armed Forces have been recognized and granted full rights and benefits, but the Filipinos, as American nationals at the time of service, were and still are denied recognition and singled out for exclusion, and this treatment is unfair and discriminatory; and

Whereas, On October 20, 1996, President Clinton issued a proclamation honoring the nearly 100,000 Filipino veterans of World War II, soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, who fought as a component of the United States Armed Forces alongside allied forces for four long years to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands, and thousands more who joined the United States Armed Forces after the war; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully

memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States during the First Session of the 106th Congress to take action necessary to honor our country's moral obligation to provide these Filipino veterans with the military benefits that they deserve, including, but not limited to, holding related hearings, and acting favorably on legislation pertaining to granting full veterans benefits to Filipino veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE  
CHICKASAW TRAIL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMPACT

**HON. ED BRYANT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the 21st Century, there is a need in our rural communities to find new revenue sources to keep up with the constant changes of our high-tech and booming business community.

This scenario rings true in many areas of rural Tennessee. Several of the counties within the seventh-district are doing what they can to attract businesses to their communities to provide jobs and revenue to help their counties, cities, and towns grow in the new century.

That is what we have in front of us today. The Chickasaw Trail Economic Development Compact gives Congressional consent to an interstate compact between Tennessee and Mississippi that will promote interstate cooperation and economic development in an area straddling Fayette County, Tennessee and Marshall County, Mississippi.

Under the bill, the Chickasaw Compact would conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing an industrial park in this area. Should that study turn out to be favorable, the states would then negotiate a new compact implementing the details needed to establish a 4,000 to 5,000 acre industrial park. This location is adjacent to metro Memphis, which is shot of available land for future industrial growth, and it is hoped that the development would attract sophisticated high technology industries to the area.

The compact has already established a board of directors representing the two states, the two counties and the private sector. Financial support from local, state and federal sources have allowed the project to proceed with an initial feasibility study.

COMMEMORATE THE PASSING OF  
ROBERT LAWRENCE RUMSEY

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this sad occasion to commemorate someone very dear to me, my father-in-law, Robert Lawrence Rumsey.

Robert passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 85 on January 28, 1999 at his home in Glendora, California. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Evelyn Rumsey; his sister Dorothy Lawrence; his three daughters and two sons-in-law, Charles and Judy Nichols of Huntington Beach; Loretta Rojas of Pomona; my wife, Cathy, and me.

He will be deeply missed by his seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great great-grandchild.

Robert was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1913 to Silas and Nellie Rumsey. When he was five years old, he moved to Los Angeles, California. In 1930, Robert graduated from Manual Arts High School and soon thereafter moved to Detroit, Michigan where he met his beautiful wife Evelyn. The two were married on August 21, 1934. Robert then attended the Ford Motor Company Trade School and graduated with honors. He proceeded to become a master Tool and Die Maker and Mold Maker.

In 1941, Robert and Evelyn moved to Southern California and in 1947 began building their home in Glendora. For many years, Robert worked for United Engravers in Los Angeles.

Services were held on Monday, February 1, 1999 at Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora, California.

You will be greatly missed.

COMMEMORATING THE CORNER-  
STONE CEREMONY FOR JOHN A.  
O'CONNELL TECHNICAL HIGH  
SCHOOL

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cornerstone Ceremony for John A. O'Connell Technical High School in San Francisco.

In 1989 the Loma Prieta earthquake virtually destroyed the facilities at John A. O'Connell Technical High School, and forced them to relocate the school temporarily for a period of ten years. In the year 2000 the John A. O'Connell Technical High School will return to its former site and a new building structure in the Mission District of San Francisco. John A. O'Connell Technical High School will be the first San Francisco public school of the Millennium. Its curriculum will be revised to reflect the role of technology for today's classrooms and workplaces as its focus moves from a traditional trade school to a school emphasizing a curriculum that will embody a "school to career" principle.

On May 10, 1999, the Cornerstone Ceremony for John A. O'Connell Technical High School will be hosted by officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California. It is a true reflection of our diversity of interests to bring together so many organizations in support of public education. The Masons have a rich tradition of serving our communities, particularly education, and we are grateful for their support over these many years. The man whose name we honor today—John O'Connell—served the San Francisco community as its labor leader for almost half a century as a founder of the Teamsters Union and the San Francisco Labor Council.

Their extraordinary vision and commitment bring us once again to the doorsteps of a new center for education and learning in the Mission District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congress, let us join in celebrating our continued support for public education by commending the leaders and representatives of the San Francisco Mission District community, labor community, and Masonic Lodges and organizations and other individuals who have contributed to this historic occasion.

DALLAS COWBOYS OWNER JERRY  
JONES

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us are aware of the contributions that Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has made to the sport of football. His focus on excellence in sportmanship and successful stewardship of the Dallas Cowboys will be forever cemented in the history of the game.

However, Mr. Jones has also made a significant contribution to the history of our country and the ideas of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, who drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jones along with his wife Gene, donated \$1 million to a Library of Congress program that is currently rebuilding Thomas Jefferson's personal book collection that was lost in a fire.

This gracious gift allows the Library of Congress to obtain lost copies of books destroyed in 1851. It will be a labor and financially intensive undertaking that will be helped by Mr. Jones's assistance.

Cicero once said that "to be ignorant of the past is to remain a child." Mr. Speaker, the donation by Mr. Jones will assure that we will be able to hold onto history and be less ignorant of it, while being wiser.

Thomas Jefferson was not only the drafter of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. President, he was also an enlightened thinker whose ideas helped us build this country and guide her through dark times. His ideas and thoughts were shaped and influenced by books.

It is appropriate that the gift from Mr. and Mrs. Jones will help restore Jefferson's rare books as he helped found the Library of Congress.

As this country still wrestles with issues of equality and freedom well into the 21st century, it is incumbent upon us to refer to the high-minded ideals of our Founding Fathers. The \$1 million donation to the Library of Congress will help this country locate those books and remind us of our collective vision and history.

On behalf of the residents of the 30th Congressional District and all Americans, I would like to thank Jerry and Gene Jones for their donation to the Library of Congress. For me, this also represents their service to our country, support of democratic ideas and persevering history.