

the national forest or by Alaska Native corporations.

I intend to hold a hearing on this bill early in the next session and begin the process to move the bill through the House to final passage in the Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN AND TRACY ROGERS UPON THE BIRTH OF THEIR DAUGHTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of a grand occasion, and one which my family will celebrate for many years to come. On October 5th, 1999 at 12:28 p.m., my son John and his wife Tracy experienced the miracle of birth for the first time, becoming the proud parents of a baby girl. Madeleine Claire Rogers weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. I am happy to report that Tracy and Madeleine are doing extremely well, with both mother and daughter in perfect health.

Mr. Speaker, this is my first grandchild, and I couldn't be more proud or exhilarated. God has truly blessed my family, and I am fortunate to have this opportunity today. As this body toils through yet another year, we should all keep in mind the effect our actions will have on our children, and our children's children. I will always keep little Madeleine in my thoughts as we work to make this Nation a better place for our young ones.

CELEBRATING ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a distinct and important group in this country—Italian-Americans. Earlier this month, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed a law observing the month of October as Italian-American Heritage Month. This law recognizes the countless contributions bestowed on our country's rich national heritage by Italian-Americans. Today, I'm introducing a resolution that supports the goals and ideas of Italian-American Heritage Month nationwide.

Over the past 200 years, 5.4 million Italians have immigrated to the United States. Today more than 26 million Americans are of Italian descent, 72,000 alone reside in the Eighth District of Massachusetts. As this country's fifth largest ethnic group, Italian-Americans have brought to our communities a tireless work ethic, a strong sense of family cohesion, and an artistically rich culture. This unique and profound impact of Italian culture has become an integral part of the American way of life. In fact, many Italian-Americans have gone on to become prominent in our Nation's academic, industrial, entertainment, and political fields.

Nearly every American has experienced the unique contributions of Italian-Americans. Famous Italian-Americans like hall of fame base-

ball player Joe DiMaggio, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini, singer and songwriter Frank Sinatra, and Oscar winner Robert DeNiro have provided all Americans with many forms of entertainment. Millions of Americans have experienced the brilliance of Constantine Brumidi, an Italian immigrant, who was the artistic prodigy behind the elaborate paintings in the United States Capitol. Other Italian-Americans have enriched our political process, including political figures such as Fiorella La Guardia, both mayor and Congressman from New York City, Anthony Celebrezze, who served during John F. Kennedy's administration and was the first Italian-American Cabinet member, and Antonin Scalia, who is the first Italian-American appointed to the Supreme Court.

I invite every Member to join me in celebrating the tremendous impact Italian-Americans have made to our Nation and our national identity.

1999 CLOVIS CHAMBER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clovis Chamber of Commerce 1999 Hall of Fame Inductees. The Award Winners for the Hall of Fame are: "Founders Awards"—The Blasingame Family and The Sample Family; "Hall of Fame Honorees"—The Clovis Rodeo Association—Everett "Bud" and Evelyn Rank, Wesley and Betty Wipf, and Mr. Shelby Cox; "Clovis Way of Life"—Mr. & Mrs. Tom Stearns, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ogas; "Spirit of Clovis"—Mr. Dave Bens and Ellie Huston; "Friends of Youth"—Mr. Harold Woods and Mr. James Countois; "Citizen of the Year"—Mr. Tom Stearns; and "The Sam Walton/WALMART Community Leadership Award"—Mr. Bob Daneke. The Hall of Fame Committee carefully selects each award winner according to a special criteria.

The "Clovis Way of Life" award honors citizens who have strengthened the foundation of the City of Clovis. They have endured the economy by having a business in Clovis. The "Clovis Way of Life" winners are Joe & Marilyn Ogas and Tom & Burline Stearns.

Joe and Marilyn Ogas own and operate Ace Trophy Shop. The Shop was operated out of their garage for many years and then was moved to Old Town Clovis where they are an integral part of the business community.

Tom and Burline Stearns have been staunch supporters of Clovis. Tom is a member of the Clovis Rodeo Association; he has served from maintenance to President. Tom has made the Clovis Rodeo a premier event in the State of California. Tom Stearns also served as Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem and now Council member. Burline Stearns has devoted her life to the Clovis Swim Team. She owned and operated the Mode ODay Store with her sister-in-law for several years.

The "Friends of Youth" award winners are James Countois and Harold Lloyd Woods.

James Countois, Mr. "C" as he is affectionately called, is 89 years old and his best friends are the five- to 12-year-old students at Dry Creek Elementary. James has volunteered

at the Library for over 18 years. Recently, Dry Creek opened a new Library Media Center and named it after Mr. C, this was for a man who dedicated his whole life to children and the community.

Harold Lloyd Woods has been a teacher in the Clovis Unified School District for over 41 years, specifically Room 20 at Jefferson Elementary School. Woods says that teaching children to set goals, helping them work toward achieving them, and then watching the joy on their faces when they succeed is one of the most valuable contributions we can make in their lives.

The "Spirit of Clovis" award is present in recognition of people who in the line of their daily work succeed beyond their own expectations. The award goes to Dave Bens and Ellie Huston.

In March of 1999, Dave Bens, Clovis High School's Athletic Director, was named California State Athletic Director's Association "Athletic Director of the Year 1993-1999." This award recognizes the California Athletic Director who displays excellence in leadership on and off the field. Dave has brought recognition to himself, Clovis High, Clovis Unified School District and the Community of Clovis.

Ellie Huston has worked hard raising money for the permanent Hall of Fame display for several years. She has done 95 percent of the work. Ellie has planned the Hall of Fame Raffles, solicited the prizes and sold over 200 tickets each year, she has raised close to \$8,000 for the Clovis Hall of Fame Permanent Display. Ellie is an Executive Ambassador and a Past Director of the Clovis Chamber of Commerce. She is a very caring, community minded citizen of Clovis.

The "Founders Awards" go to the Blasingame Family and the Sample Family.

The Blasingame Family started with Jesse Augustus Blasingame, known as "Jesse A". He was a native of Talladega County, Alabama, and completed his time in the Mexican War. Jesse A. was then given "scrip" to buy land out west. Jesse A. married Mary Jane Sample, a native of Fresno County. They had a son, Jesse Knox Blasingame. Jesse Knox spent his entire life in the cattle business in Fresno County. He was very active in the California Cattlemen's Association, the Grange and the California Farm Bureau. Knox and his wife Thelma had two sons, Morgan and Knox Jr., and a daughter, Barbara. Morgan and Knox are still raising cattle in the Clovis foothills; Barbara lives in Fresno and still owns the land in the Clovis foothills. Both Knox Jr. and Barbara were extremely supportive and worked with the City of Clovis to secure the University of California Education Site near Academy, several years ago. The Blasingame Family has exhibited The Clovis Way of Life attributes; family, responsibility, work, honesty, independence, appropriate space, education, community service and loyalty. They are one of Clovis' most treasured legacies.

The Sample Family departed from Mississippi with a large group and settled in the central San Joaquin Valley after the Civil War. David Cowan (D.C.) Sample married Sally Cole, who became the parents of 11 children whose descendants, still live in the Clovis-foothill area. Dr. Thomas Sample, one of D.C.'s sons, was an old-fashioned doctor in the best sense. He treated all that came for help, regardless of their ability to pay. He built the Sample Sanitarium in the 300 block of North