

State of California. November 13 of this week will mark the anniversary of the adoption by the citizens of California of the first constitution of our state and the selection of the state's first democratically elected governor. This constitution expressed California's desire to be admitted to the United States, a request that was granted on September 9, 1850, when President Millard Fillmore signed legislation making California our country's thirty-first state. Mr. Speaker, the path to California statehood began when the conflict with Mexico ceased in California in 1847. A number of United States citizens had already emigrated to the Golden State even before the war with Mexico, but with the end of hostilities, the number of emigrants increased. The discovery of gold at Coloma in January 1848 became the catalyst which rapidly transformed our state. Word of the discovery of gold spread slowly at first, until President James K. Polk in his State of the Union message to Congress on December 5, 1848, officially confirmed the discovery. An influx of "Forty-Niners" invaded California, and the Gold Rush began.

During 1849 some 100,000 people went to California from the United States, Europe, and other countries around the globe. The trip from the eastern states was long and difficult—either a perilous 17,000 mile journey from New York around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America and then to San Francisco or a two-thousand-mile overland trip from the American Mid-West across roadless and uninhabited territory. The sudden population explosion made it clear that government institutions needed to be established in the new United States territory.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress was unable to act effectively to set up government institutions for California from the other end of the continent because transcontinental telegraph lines did not exist and the Pony Express had not yet been established. As a result, Californians took matters into their own hands. In September of 1849, forty-eight delegates elected by their fellow citizens in California met in Monterey to draw up a state constitution. The document was modeled after the state constitutions of Iowa and New York, states from which several of the delegates hailed. It established state government institutions and declared California to be a free state, one from which slavery was to be excluded. Californians ratified that constitution on November 13, 1849, and in that same election they chose a governor and other state officials.

Mr. Speaker, this week as we mark the sesquicentennial of the historic vote of the people of California adopting the first constitution of our state, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in honoring this important milestone in the history of California which set our state firmly on the path of statehood and a representative democratic government.

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A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
VICTOR VAN BOURG

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Mr.

Victor Van Bourg, one of the nation's leading labor union lawyers, who recently passed away at the age of 68.

As a young man, Mr. Van Bourg joined the building trades as a member of his father's Local of the Painters' Union. He later attended the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1953 and his law degree from the University's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1956.

In 1964, Mr. Van Bourg co-founded the law offices of Van Bourg, Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld, one of the largest union-side law firms in the country.

During his career, he appeared numerous times before the United States Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court, as well as many other State and Federal Courts, and administrative agencies. One of his most recent victories included a unanimous California Supreme Court decision upholding the validity of a labor agreement guaranteeing that all work on the San Francisco Airport's multi-billion dollar expansion project would be completed with union workers.

Mr. Van Bourg was a fierce believer that only through unions could workers gain the strength to stand up to the otherwise unrestrained power of their employers, and he spent his life trying to even the odds against workers and unions.

Mr. Van Bourg represented workers all over the country, in every trade and profession where workers gathered in unions, from carpenters to costume designers, from teachers and professors to janitors, healthcare workers, cement masons, and stationary and operating engineers. He also traveled abroad to meet with workers and their unions in nations including Poland, the USSR, and Israel.

Van Bourg was also General Counsel to the Ironworkers' International Union for more than a decade, spending much of his time in Washington, D.C., not only to represent the Ironworkers' International, but also participating in the AFL-CIO's General Counsel's Committee, and meeting with and advising labor leaders from all over the nation.

Mr. Van Bourg will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and members of the labor community. He may be one of those remarkable human beings who is truly indispensable.

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TRIBUTE TO THE OLATHE STATE
BANK

SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize an exceptional bank in western Colorado. The Olathe State Bank in Olathe, Colorado is known for its commitment to its community. Its commitment was recently recognized by the Independent Bankers of Colorado. In September, the Olathe State Bank was awarded the 1999 Crown Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.

The award was in acknowledgment of the Bank's consistent and comprehensive community initiatives. Programs such as the scholarship program, special checking accounts for high school students and a travel program for customers over 55 years of age, go hand in

hand with the many employee activities and benefits and the active participation of many of the board members in various community groups. These are but a few of many excellent examples of the dedication and foresight shown by this bank.

Mr. Speaker, that is why it is my pleasure to congratulate the Olathe State Bank on the well-deserved award and for the years of service and dedication to the community.

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TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY TREASURY
SECRETARY STUART EIZENSTAT
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last night a number of us joined in paying tribute to Deputy Secretary of Treasury, Stuart Eizenstat. He was honored at an event at the Department of State by our Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright, in recognition of his outstanding service as Undersecretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Eizenstat is an extraordinary public servant who has undertaken exemplary efforts during his career in Washington. He served as the United States ambassador to the European Union, and then returned to Washington where he has served in three critical sub-cabinet posts in three key departments—the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, and now the Department of Treasury, where he serves as Deputy Secretary.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Secretary Eizenstat for his dedicated and effective service to our nation on this occasion. I also ask, Mr. Speaker, that the excellent remarks of Secretary Albright honoring Secretary Eizenstat be placed in the RECORD, and I also ask that the remarks of Deputy Secretary Eizenstat in response and discussion of United States relations with the European Union also be placed in the RECORD.

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EU-EIZENSTAT DINNER

Ambassador Laajava: High Representative Solana; Secretary of State Valtasaari; excellencies from the diplomatic corps; Senators Baucus, Cleland, Lieberman and Sarbanes; Congressman Lantos; members of the Eizenstat family; friends, colleagues and distinguished guests: Good evening.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the State Department. We are gathered here tonight for two very good reasons: to honor the Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions of the Members of the European Union and the European Commission; and to thank Stu Eizenstat for his magnificent job as Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs.

Ten years ago tonight, the Berlin Wall was brought down from both sides, signalling an end to one chapter in the Euro-Atlantic Alliance, and the beginning of another.

Since that time, the partnership between America and Europe has grown stronger and deeper, to take on new challenges not just on the continent but around the globe.

Today, we are working together to advance peace and stability in the Balkans, on the Korean Peninsula, and in the Middle East.