

David Maestas is the Einar Cook Leadership Award recipient. The Einar Cook Leadership Award was developed to recognize those who step forward with a vision and are willing to work for what they believe in. David Maestas served eight years in the Army in the Military police. He then became active in the Title-Escrow Industry where he received the top sales award in the President's Diamond Club five years in a row. He also was acting President in the Four Seasons Leads Group and President of the Optimist Club. David and his wife Jodie moved to Fresno in 1994 both working for First American Title Company. In just a few years, David and Jodie held a tremendous percentage of sales for the Clovis-Fresno area. With their involvement with the Clovis Chamber and the Clovis area, they were offered a new office location in Clovis, providing they could combine their efforts and increase sales by 5 percent. The Clovis office became the number 1 Office in Market share in Clovis and has been voted the Best Title-Escrow office four years in a row by the Clovis Independent. David received the Clovis Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award and was designated as the Ambassador of the Year for the Chamber. David founded the Chamber's Professional Executives Network and served as President of the Miss Clovis Scholarship Association. He served as the 1998 Chairman Elect for the Clovis Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served as President in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor these recipients as they are being honored at the Clovis Chamber of Commerce Salute to Business Luncheon. I want to congratulate Anlin Industries, N&N Boats, Vicki Dobbs, and David Maestas for their hard work and dedication to the community and the Clovis Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF FT. GREENE'S JEWELS, GEORGIANNA TURNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as we close out the last Congressional session of the 20th century, I want to recognize the century of achievements by one of Brooklyn's finest residents, Georgianna Turner.

A native of St. Anne Parish in Jamaica, she was just a young girl of 18, when she immigrated to the United States with her older sister, Lee, and young niece, Vera around 1915. While she has lived in the U.S. for 84 years, she has been a resident of Brooklyn's Fort Greene neighborhood for 41 years. During these four decades, Mrs. Turner has been an active participant in the life of her community.

While the Ft. Greene community was recently described by New York Magazine as undergoing "a new residential renaissance", the neighborhood was a different place in the '50's and '60's when Georgianna Turner first moved to South Oxford Street. Many of the brownstones had been converted to rooming houses and flop houses making everyday life quite a challenge. Mrs. Turner and a com-

mitted band of neighbors resolved to reclaim the block and worked tirelessly for decades to establish the Ft. Greene neighborhood, and especially South Oxford Street, as one of the premiere blocks in Brooklyn. Working with Mr. Percy Buchannan who was, then, the head of the South Oxford Street Block Association, along with other long term residents like Nancy Johnson, Hazel Slaughter, and William Turner (no relation). Georgianna Turner went from block to block galvanizing community support, exposing drug activity, and vociferously advocating for the changes that would make the neighborhood a better place to live.

Mrs. Turner remembers the years when she had to endure repeated vandalism to her home in response to her activism. She risked her life on the line by reporting drug activity. Ever fearless, Georgianna Turner and her cohorts in the South Oxford Street Block Association were not to be stopped. They worked hand-in-hand with local politicians, the police department, the sanitation department, the Board of Health, local churches—especially Queen of All Saints (where she has been a faithful member of 40 years), Lafayette Presbyterian Church—and whoever else would help them clean up the blocks from South Elliott to Clinton Avenue. She especially recalls their concerted effort to "get rid of the Atlantic Avenue meat market that was the scourge of the neighborhood, get the bums off the street, and get the trash cleaned up".

Before real estate speculators and the Brooklyn Academy of Music was envisioned, the quiet, determined approach of residents like Georgianna Turner paved the way for the real-estate and economic boom that Ft. Greene is experiencing today. Though she never sought fame or fortune for her community activism, Georgianna Turner has received countless accolades for her valiant efforts. Her legacy has been to create a clean, safe, stable community of which she and her colleagues in the South Oxford Street Block Association can be proud.

On August 18, 1999, Georgianna Turner celebrated her 100th birthday. I want to salute this "grand old lady" as we end the last session of Congress in the 20th century. She leaves Brooklyn with a legacy that will endure long into the next century. I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the splendid work of one of Ft. Greene's finest jewels, Georgianna Turner.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF RICHARD E. SCHUMACHER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from the state of Ohio, Mr. Richard E. Schumacher. On December 31, 1999, Richard Schumacher will retire from his position as Executive Director of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

For thirty-nine years, Richard Schumacher has been a valuable asset to Ohio's retirees

and his colleagues at PERS. He joined the staff at PERS in 1960, and since then has worked diligently to serve the state of Ohio and ensure that PERS remains strong far into the future. Beginning his tenure with PERS as an accountant, he steadily advanced through various positions including assistant director, controller, and deputy director. Finally, in 1991, Richard Schumacher was appointed as the Executive Director of the system.

Throughout his career, Richard Schumacher has upheld the high standards of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. In performing the duties of Executive Director, he has demonstrated the kind of integrity that Ohioans expect from our government leaders. His hard work for nearly four decades has helped PERS flourish into one of the premier public employee retirement systems in the country. Under his strong leadership, PERS assets have grown from \$440 million to \$53 billion. In the thirty-nine years Richard Schumacher has worked for PERS, he has watched the system grow to more than 350 employees, 125,000 beneficiaries, and 371,000 contributing public employees. Clearly, Richard Schumacher has undertaken successfully the task of building and growing PERS for Ohio's public employees.

Richard Schumacher is an outstanding public servant and a standard bearer in his profession. He has served on numerous boards and associations including terms as president and vice president of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association, and the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is evident that Richard Schumacher has given of his time and energy to assist Ohio's public retirees. For his efforts, we certainly owe him a debt of gratitude that mere words cannot sufficiently express. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Richard E. Schumacher. On the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him all the best in the future.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET REVOLUTION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the tenth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia.

In 1989, the people of Czechoslovakia ended 41 years of dictatorship in a non-violent effort of civil disobedience. The moral authority of the Czech and Slovak peoples overwhelmed the discredited regime clinging to power after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

After World War II, the communist dictatorship installed in Prague sought to stamp out the rich tradition of democracy and intellectual debate in Czechoslovakia by imprisoning tens of thousands of dissidents and resistance