

due recognition to Stephen E. Petersen, in honor of the Petersen Invitational Golf Tournament's 25th anniversary, held September 10–14, 2000, in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, we seldom meet people who give so tirelessly of their time and resources as Stephen E. Petersen. Please join me in paying tribute to this outstanding South Carolinian, military veteran, devoted Christian, and friend.

IN MEMORY OF DR. GROFF

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the Fourth District of Texas, the late Mayor Marion Allen Groff III of Pilot Point, who died on August 22. Dr. Groff was an active and beloved member of his community—and he will be dearly missed.

At the time of his death, Dr. Groff was serving as mayor of Pilot Point, president of the Chamber of Commerce and member of the Kiwanis. He was a board member and president of DENCO 911 for 8 years. In all these civic endeavors, he gave his time and energy to helping make Pilot Point a better place in which to live.

Allen was devoted to his family, his profession, and to his community, and he leaves a legacy of service that will be remembered by his many friends in Pilot Point. His legacy not only covers his medical service—though it was above and beyond—it goes to the throngs of friends and to many people that he never met. Allen reached out to anyone in need, gave advice, service, and warm friendship. He was a lobby for those who had no lobby. And he was capable of friendship to those in all walks of life—with equal love and dignity for all.

He was born in Shattuck, OK, on August 27, 1949. He served in the U.S. Army from June 1971 to June 1974. He was a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma University, the University of North Texas and the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He leaves behind his wife, Karen; has parents, Dr. M.A. and Betty Groff; a daughter, Kristen Groff; four sons, Marion Allen Groff IV, Bryant Adam Groff, John Robert Groff and Cole Kelly Schmitz; and a sister, Janet Sims.

Allen was devoted to his family. Kristen will miss him every day of her life—as will his four sons. Karen was the love of his life, and I had the pleasure of visiting with Karen and Allen during the last days at the hospital. She waited, she served, she encouraged, and she loved and lived within his reach day and night for many desperate days at Zale Lipsey Hospital. She held her head up—and was reassuring to family and a throng of friends who came to Midway Baptist Church to say goodbye to Allen.

Mr. Speaker, Allen was one of a kind—and we will miss him. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of Mayor Marian Allen Groff.

HONORING RUBY S. SWEZY OF
MIAMI, FLORIDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize a wonderful woman and a dear friend, Ruby S. Swezy of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 77th birthday on October 21, 2000.

Ruby was born on October 18, 1923 in Miami-Dade County. She is a descendant of Mr. Charles Lee Greene, of Georgia, and the daughter of John and Estelle Stripling, her loving parents. Her father died when she was a teenager but her mother was blessed to live to the age of 97. Ruby remembers with pride many important life lessons imparted by her mother, who was a strong willed, determined, caring and compassionate woman, traits that she now demonstrates.

Living most of her life in Miami-Dade County, where she grew up and was educated, she married the late Lewis Swezy, Sr. and raised her two beloved children, Laura and Lewis, with unwavering faith and love. The pride and joy of Ruby's life is her family. She beams and her eyes sparkle when she shares stories of their lives.

Abandoning the security of the education arena in the prime of her teaching career, she decided to break into real estate, which proved to be the business that was meant for Ruby. It was a bold and courageous step for a young mother. Over the past 50 years, Ruby has become a respected force having made noticeable contributions to the housing industry around our area.

In addition to real estate and political circles, today Ruby is a giant in local, national, and international housing. She was successful in her first political bid, diligently serving as a Councilwoman on the Hialeah City Council. She also has met with and served as an advisor to various administrations and other heads of government.

Ruby maintains a human and in-touch demeanor with all the people of her community. She is admired and respected not only for her compassion and generosity to anyone who is fortunate to meet her, but for her noteworthy contributions. It is my sincere pleasure and great honor to join Ruby's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

IN HONOR OF THE MASJID HASSAN OF AL-ISLAM FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this weekend in Fort Worth, Texas, it will be my honor and privilege to attend and participate in events which promote racial and religious unity and peace. On October 21, 2000, the Masjid Hassan of Al-Islam in Fort Worth, under the leadership of Imam Nasir Ahmed, will host a Southwest Regional Pioneer Banquet honoring those it considers to be pioneers in the causes

of diversity, religious interaction, Islam, economic development, political awareness and education.

I am humbled to be among a group of honorees which includes religious radio broadcaster and journalist, Robert Ashley; American Jewish Congress Southwest Region executive director, Joel Brooks; community relations consultant, writer and member of the Thanksgiving Square Interfaith Council, Rose Marie Stromberg; 97-year old founder of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, Lenora Rolla; long-time Muslim, 95 year old Dave Hassan; and the organizer of Brooks of Baaziga, a Muslim girls' group, Ruby b. Muhammad.

The work of the Masjid Hassan of Al-Islam is, by itself, noteworthy. Yet, the Masjid's efforts are heightened and broadened by the fact that this celebration will include the personage and the teachings of The Honorable Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, leader of the Muslim American Society. Throughout this country and around the world Imam Mohammed is known, respected and admired for his work towards peace, religious freedom and diversity, and liberty for all people. On October 22, 2000, the Fort Worth-Dallas area will have the pleasure of receiving his message on "Dealing With Racism From Religion". It is my great pleasure, therefore, to join with the Masjid Hassan of Al-Islam, my longtime friend Marzuq Jaami and his brothers and sisters in the Dallas Masjid of Al-Islam, and the larger Fort Worth-Dallas community in heartily welcoming Imam Mohammed to our community.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. JORDAN D. SMITH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Dr. Jordan D. Smith on the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of his pastorship at Clement Road Church of God in Columbia, South Carolina.

Rev. Smith was born in Orville, Alabama on April 15, 1939 to the late Fred and Clara Hamer Smith. He was the fourth of six children. In 1961, he was married to Eunice D. Pickett. To this union were born three lovely children—Veronica, Matthew and Donna.

Rev. Smith has been serving his church both locally and nationally since 1967. For three years he served the Tompkins Avenue Church of God in Brooklyn, New York as associate pastor and was ordained into the ministry there by the late Rev. John Cordes. In 1970 he became pastor of his current church.

Pursuant to his commitment to service, Rev. Smith has, in addition to his pastoral and state duties, served his National Church as a member of various committees, commissions and boards. For ten years he served as the elected State Chairman of the South Carolina Presbytery. In 1991, for his faith and commitment to his calling, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Rev. Smith is a faithful husband, loving father, admired grandfather, and caring father-in-law. As a spiritual leader, he personified faith, love, service and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Rev. Dr. Jordan D. Smith, a devoted

Christian and a wonderful South Carolinian, on the thirtieth anniversary of his pastorship.

HONORING A FIGHTING FOURTH
MARINE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to recognize a life member of the Fourth Marine Division and the Marine Corps League, Milton Saxon, a resident of Longview, Texas, in the Fourth Congressional District. Milton was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, Fourth Marine Division from March 1944–May 1946 and fought on Iwo Jima.

Milton has put into writing many of his thoughts and memories about his service in World War II, and I am pleased to share some of those with my colleagues today. Milton recalls joining the Marines in March of 1944, at the age of 18, and being trained in San Diego before being shipped out to the Marine Transit Center at Oahu. Here he was attached to the Fourth Marine Division on Maui, where he boarded the L.S.T. #684 to begin their trip toward Japan. Private Saxon and the Fourth Division landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Milton was part of the fifth wave of Marines that hit the beach, where “hell was breaking loose.” “Without exception, every friend that was within touching distance of me was either killed or wounded,” he writes.

Milton’s vivid descriptions of what happened that day and during the ensuing days reveal the confusion, the terror, the courage and the heroism among those young soldiers and officers. On Iwo Jima they encountered situations that they could never have been adequately trained for—yet situations where time and again they rose to the challenge and prevailed in the line of fire. By nightfall of that first day, K Company was down to 150 men. “It is impossible to describe the exact emotions, smells and sounds of this battle,” Milton said. “I don’t have nightmares any more, but my memory will never die. I will always honor those less fortunate than I was.”

Milton describes the ensuing battle over the next 27 days that led to victory at Iwo Jima. Private First Class Milton Saxon was a survivor. The friends he made in the Marines who also survived have remained life-long friends. “There are not many advantages of war, but one advantage is finding someone that is closer than most brothers can ever be,” he writes.

Milton now belongs to a Marine Corps Detachment composed of Marines from Desert Storm, Korea, Vietnam and World War II—and even some who are presently serving in the Marines. “Nothing has been lost between the generations of service . . . All of the history, the lore and the tradition of the Marine Corps lives on through each member.”

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I want to thank Milton Saxon for taking the time to record his memories of his war experiences and to tell his story with honesty, conviction—and even some humor where appropriate. His first-person account will be handed down through his family for many generations and will provide a powerful legacy of that most important time in world history—and one of the defining times in American history.

He is retired now, having served his country for 37 years in Texas public education as a school administrator, teacher and coach. Milton Saxon is one of those from “the Greatest Generation”—a selfless young man who heeded the call of duty, risked his life for his country, and forever will be an American hero. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of my friend and an outstanding American—Milton Saxon.

IN TRIBUTE TO HOMEGROWN
VALUES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 27 years of homegrown values and community service by people who grew a local financial institution into a success enterprise and shepherded its continued investment in Ventura County, California.

When American Commercial Bank opened its doors on September 18, 1973, its founders pledged not only to provide top-quality banking services, but also to use the bank’s assets and standing to provide community support to Ventura County’s citizens.

It was well-suited to follow through on that promise. Its first chairman, Emilio Lagomarsino, was born in Ventura County around the turn of the century. Emilio Lagomarsino was successful in a variety of pursuits, including farming, wholesale beverage distribution and oil.

Edward T. Martin followed Mr. Lagomarsino to the chairman’s chair. He was active in Ojai civic, church and community affairs and founder of a successful outdoor advertising company. His son Tom currently serves on the board.

Allen W. Jue, who succeeded Martin as chairman, also is a native of Ventura County. His father, Walton Jue, opened National Market across from the San Buenaventura Mission in 1928.

Earlier this year, Mr. Jue turned the chairmanship over to Emilio’s son, Robert J. Lagomarsino, who many in this chamber remember as a valued colleague. Community service is in his blood. He served in the U.S. Navy, was an Ojai city councilman and mayor, a California state senator, and a congressman from 1974 to 1993.

Chief Executive Officer Gerald J. Lukiewski is not a native California, but he has sunk his roots deep here. He graduated from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks and married a California girl, Nancy. He has been lured by major financial corporations, but prefers community banking so he can spend as much time as possible with Nancy and their eight children.

The sense of family and community to which these men aspire is reflected in the bank’s community record. The bank has been actively involved in and contributed to: Community Memorial Hospital; Ventura Chamber Music Festival; Ventura Rotary International; Oxnard Downtowners; Ventura County Museum of History & Art; Casa Latina; Ventura Country Community Foundation; Multiple Sclerosis; United Cerebral Palsy; Working To Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect; Ventura

County Fair; National Park Trust; the Oxnard, Ventura and Camarillo Boyes & Girls Clubs; and the Chamber of Commerce of Ventura, Oxnard and Camarillo. Educational support has also been provided to Oxnard College, Saint Thomas Aquinas College and to the CSU-Northridge Channel Island University Advisory Board.

Only a successful enterprise could provide such strong community support. The bank has completed its most successful year with record growth in capital, loans, deposits and net profit and has paid 67 consecutive quarterly cash dividends to its shareholders. The bank operates six Ventura County offices and, as of June 30, 2000, assets exceeded one-quarter billion dollars.

American Commercial Bank has received numerous national and community recognitions for its accomplishments. The American Bankers Association awarded a community service award to the bank and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation categorized the bank as “well-capitalized,” its highest rating of capital adequacy. The prestigious Bauer Financial Group has awarded its highest star rating of “Superior” and “five stars” to the bank for its outstanding financial performance.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing the people who led American Commercial Bank through 27 years of accomplishment and service and wish them and the community they serve continued success.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF A
COMMUNITY APPROACH TO ELDERLY CARE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese American Retirement Enterprises (CAREN). This Saturday, more than a thousand CAREN members will celebrate this milestone occasion with its founders and friends at the CAREN Co-op House in Adelphi, Maryland, near the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

It is hard to believe that it was just a decade ago that a group of concerned and committed citizens from the Washington, DC area founded CAREN to aid senior and disabled Chinese Americans by providing programs and opportunities for affordable housing and elder care. CAREN is dedicated to five service goals: (1) housing and transportation, (2) learning and recreational activities, (3) assisted living and bilingual care, (4) security and a sense of belonging, and (5) happiness through voluntary contribution and labor. Additionally, CAREN promotes lifelong learning and the preservation of Chinese culture to be passed on to future generations.

As a strong supporter of CAREN’s mission, I am very pleased to have been involved with the organization since its inception. Since its founding 10 years ago, CAREN has founded six outstanding services and facilities. In 1992, the CAREN Senior Self-Help Center was created to sponsor a Saturday activity program for more than a hundred seniors and volunteers. Realizing the vital need for better elderly