

TRIBUTE TO PMI GROUP, INC.

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the new world headquarters for PMI Group, Inc. in Walnut Creek, California. Employees began moving in on August 19, 2002 while construction workers were putting the finishing touches on their new state-of-the-art energy efficient building. PMI Plaza includes the new seven-story, 195,000 square foot building, a five-story parking garage, a large outdoor lunchtime dining area, and 15,000 square feet of retail space. This Plaza, located across the street from the Pleasant Hill BART station and near the intersection of highway 680 and Treat Boulevard, is part of Contra Costa County's Redevelopment agency's plan for creating more transit oriented development. The Agency's plan calls for the construction of new businesses and housing, including new affordable housing units, in-filled around BART stations, which is key to reducing sprawl and air pollution. PMI Plaza exemplifies this smart growth plan and should be a model for growth around the country. I am thrilled to welcome them to our East Bay community.

TO HONOR LAURO AND MARGARITA GARCIA, RECIPIENTS OF THE 12TH ANNUAL PROFILES OF SUCCESS HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize two outstanding citizens who have been honored for their leadership qualities and service to their community. On September 6th, Mr. and Mrs. Lauro and Margarita Garcia were honored by their peers at the annual Profiles of Success Hispanic Leadership Awards presentation in Phoenix, Arizona. This event, coordinated by Valle del Sol, a local non-profit community based organization, kicks off National Hispanic Heritage Month in Arizona and is now in its thirteenth year of honoring worthy individuals.

Lauro and Margarita met during his service in the U.S. Air Force, after which they moved to Phoenix where Lauro began his studies at Arizona State Teachers College. They moved to Guadalupe in 1960 and began organizing the community by teaching Catholic catechism classes in their home. What started as three students quickly grew to 165 every Saturday.

In December 1964, they founded the Guadalupe Organization, which became the voice of its citizens in the absence of an elected town government. The following year, a small building was purchased and an office was opened to assist residents by distributing food, establishing a postal sub-station and registering voters. This office would become the first Office of Economic Opportunity in the state of Arizona to help establish Guadalupe's first credit union.

In 1963, citizens of Guadalupe were granted the first-ever voting precinct within the town's

boundaries, by Maricopa County, after extensive lobbying by the Guadalupe Organization. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz recognized Lauro for his dedication in improving Guadalupe.

Margarita organized a dental clinic for citizens in the mid-70s by seeking the help of volunteer dentists to provide care. She continues her community service with the local parish and most recently served on the Guadalupe Town Council.

The couple also participated, along with the Guadalupe Organization, in one of the first lawsuits over the issue of bilingual education by challenging the Tempe Elementary School District in 1978 for discriminatory practices against Guadalupe's Yaqui and Mexican students.

As a result of this litigation, the district was forced to adopt measures to rectify existing language deficiencies of non-English speaking students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing these outstanding citizens for their fine work and dedication. They have provided their community with vision, sacrificed to help the poor and under-represented, protected their culture and enriched the lives of Guadalupe's children.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE DIVELBISS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my respect and utmost appreciation for a woman of remarkable caliber. Maggie Divelbiss's hard work and integrity have immeasurably contributed to one of Colorado's most beautiful displays of art, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center in Pueblo. Maggie's diligence in her community is an inspiration to us all. Maggie is a remarkable woman, and her outstanding work earned her the 2002 YWCA Anna Taussig Tribute to Women Award. It is my pleasure to highlight her accomplishments and successes throughout her life.

Maggie currently serves as the Executive Director of the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, and was actively involved in the creation of the Center from its inception. Throughout her tenure as Executive Director, she has made it her personal mission to represent all aspects of the diverse community of Pueblo and its various cultures, as is demonstrated in the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center.

Outside of her profession, Maggie is a dedicated community advocate. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities and is a member of the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators, The Western States Arts Federation, The Rocky Mountain Arts Consortium, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Moreover, Maggie served a six-year term as a councilwoman on the Colorado Council on the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear why Maggie Divelbiss was chosen as a recipient for the 2002 YWCA Anna Taussig Tribute to Women Award. I thank her for her extraordinary contributions to revive the spirit of art in us all.

Her passion for art has been clearly expressed and recognized and I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

DAVID SKAGGS AND THE CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate your former colleague and my predecessor, former Congressman David Skaggs, on his appointment as executive director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

Throughout his career David has been a dedicated public servant. He has represented Coloradans on both the state and federal level. During his twelve years serving Colorado here in the House of Representatives he did extensive work on public lands and environmental issues, advocated the rights of non-profit organizations, and supported basic research and higher education. He worked to promote bipartisan civility, and played a key role in helping to start an annual Bipartisan Retreat. Throughout his tenure on Capitol Hill, David was an effective and devoted representative of the people of Colorado.

David's post-congressional career is just as exemplary. Now, along with serving as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado and being of Counsel to a Washington based law firm, he is the executive director for the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

The Center's focus is to find ways to make the institutions of America's democracy work better. One project started by the Center is the Young Voter Initiative. The goal of the project is to encourage voting by some 30 million young people who are ambivalent about political participation. The Center meet with six groups of young adults ages 18-21 and asked what would be the most effective way to reach young voters. From the group's ideas the Center developed a "A Candidate's Tool Kit for Reaching Young Americans" as a practical guide of actions candidate's can take to promote the involvement of young people. The hope is that, as a result of this project, the Center can improve America's democracy by increasing the involvement of the citizenry.

David has repeatedly proven himself to be completely dedicated to the service of our nation and the improvement of our democracy. The Center for Democracy and citizenship is fortunate to have the leadership of such an inspiring individual, as noted in the following editorial from the Boulder Daily Camera:

[From the Daily Camera, Aug. 1, 2002]

VOTE? WHO, ME?

80% OF YOUNG PEOPLE WON'T, UNLESS TREND CHANGES

Former U.S. Rep. David Skaggs shouldn't have to spend part of his time looking for ways to persuade reluctant young people that voting makes a difference. He's doing the job because the rest of us haven't.

This would be a different country if young people heard a stronger message from parents, schools and communities about participation in democratic life; if older adults were a little less inclined to declare that voting doesn't matter or that elected officials