

Throughout its 75 years of existence, Blessed Sacrament Parish has been a model of excellence as a house of God, with open doors to everyone. Not only are Bronx residents able to come to Blessed Sacrament Parish for spiritual enrichment and fellowship, they can come to the church for assistance with life's daily trials.

Mr. Speaker, many of the structures that make up Blessed Sacrament Parish are historical landmarks, rich with history. The Parish is in the progress of restoring these valuable structures so as to preserve the spirit from which the church was founded.

For nearly a century, hundreds of thousands of Bronx residents have found solace and aid within the walls of Blessed Sacrament Parish. I hope that all of my esteemed colleagues will join me in honoring this sacred and historic institution on this notable anniversary.

CONGRATULATING P-R FARMS AS
AGRICULTURE BUSINESS OF THE
YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate P-R Farms of Clovis, California, for receiving the 2002 Baker, Peterson, and Franklin Agriculture Business of the Year Award at the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon in Fresno, California on November 13, 2002. This annual award is given to an agricultural organization whose achievements and impact have significantly contributed to the industry and the local community.

Vincenzo Bicchiuti, father of the founder of P-R Farms, arrived in America as an immigrant in 1914 and planted the seeds of a small family business in grapes and figs. Benefiting from his father's wisdom, Pat Ricchiuti learned that diversification would be the key to long-term success. Pat and his wife, Frances, began to plant plums and cotton which was the beginning of their farm's expansion. The goal for the newly-founded P-R Farms was growth while maintaining quality at every juncture.

Today, the philosophy and dedication of father and son is continued by grandson, Patrick Ricchiuti. Known worldwide for premium quality and excellence, P-R Farms' products are locally grown, packed, and shipped from their production facility in Clovis, California. P-R Farms has been an innovator in agriculture, developing many new techniques in Ag production, shipping, storage, and marketing.

The Ricchiuti family has been active in leading California State University, Fresno's Ag One Foundation, College of Agricultural Sciences, and Technology, Alumni Association, and Bulldog Foundation. They developed fundraising programs for Clovis schools, and have served on the governing board of the Clovis School District. In addition to agriculture and education, the Ricchiutis have been very involved in local healthcare serving on boards and councils for both Central California Children's Hospital and Clovis Community Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate P-R Farms for earning the 2002 Baker, Peter-

son, and Franklin Agriculture Business of the Year Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing P-R Farms many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.
AND MRS. ANNMARIE AND
KEVIN O'GRADY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Annmarie and Kevin are celebrating their marriage today, October 19, 2002; and

Whereas, Annemarie and Kevin have a deep and abiding love for one another; and

Whereas, Annemarie and Kevin have demonstrated a firm, loving commitment to each other; and

Whereas, Annemarie and Kevin will share a life together of generosity, joy, accomplishment and fulfillment;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. O'Grady as they begin their marriage.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND
FLORINE MEINHART

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to pay tribute to Donald and Florine Meinhardt of Glade Park, Colorado. Today, I would like to highlight the Meinharts for the wonderful contribution they have made toward protecting Colorado's most treasured natural resource: our environment.

The Meinhart Ranch is located in an area that is highly regarded for its ecological importance. By recently agreeing to an easement, Donald and Florine have promised to restrict development on their ranch, which will help protect the natural habitat of an area that is home to many of Colorado's wildlife species, including the Gunnison Sage Grouse, elk, and mule deer. The Gunnison Sage Grouse has become so rare in recent years that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has considered placing the animal on the endangered species list. By agreeing to an easement on their ranch, Donald and Florine are helping to guard the sage grouse's natural habitat and ensure the protection of the species.

The Meinhart Ranch also provides a popular migration corridor for elk and mule deer. The ranch is surrounded by national forests and provides an avenue for the animals to move between their summer and winter grazing areas. The easement will benefit these species as well because it provides them with an open place to move, protected from encroaching homes and motor vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, it with great respect that I recognize Donald and Florine Meinhardt before this body of Congress and this nation for the generous and responsible management of their property. Donald and Florine have agreed to protect their property from future de-

velopment and ensure that their land remains free and open. I commend them both on their decision and wish the Meinhart ranch a rich and happy future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD A. HOLT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Donald A. Holt, a highly respected citizen of Champaign, Illinois, who is retiring from his position as Senior Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Holt's positive influence in biotechnology, systems modeling, computers in agriculture, organization of agricultural research, and development of funding strategies, continues to be strongly felt on the University of Illinois campus, as well as throughout the state of Illinois and the nation.

As a student in the University of Illinois Department of Agronomy in the 1950's, as a manager of his family farm near Minooka, Illinois, from 1956 to 1964, and as a cutting-edge researcher and teacher at Purdue University from 1964 to 1982, Don Holt honed his skills to serve science and society as an enlightened, visionary leader of agricultural research in Illinois.

In his pioneering research and teaching activities at Purdue, Dr. Holt built his programs with a "systems perspective" that he began developing while operating his family farm in northern Illinois. There he developed a comprehensive research program in forage physiology and management that contributed to increasing crop production. Dr. Holt also pioneered the use of anhydrous ammonia and organic acids as hay preservatives. He was an early implementer of computer modeling and used it to develop and commercialize software for crop yield forecasting.

When Dr. Holt returned to the University of Illinois in 1982, he quickly began to leave his imprint on the college's research and teaching systems by improving the college's resource base and infrastructure and building a partnership between the college and its stakeholders in the food and agricultural sectors throughout the state.

Since his return to the University of Illinois, Dr. Holt has made great contributions to enhancing Illinois' food and agriculture sectors. His leadership in the college as a department head, associate dean, director of the Illinois Agriculture Experiment Station, and senior associate dean is unparalleled.

Dr. Holt led the effort to mold the college into a leader in biotechnology research by securing funding for the Center of Excellence in Crop Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering and for the Edward R. Madigan Laboratory. He also led the effort to improve the state and national investment in value-added research for Illinois producers. This led the remodeling of the Agricultural Bioprocess Laboratory and the establishment of the National Soybean Research Center.

Dr. Holt laid much of the groundwork to redesign public agricultural research in Illinois through landmark legislation called the Illinois