

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

Food and Agricultural Research Act of 1995 leading to the creation and funding of the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR). He subsequently promoted public involvement in research priority setting through C-FAR representation, a move that attracted national attention as a model for reenergizing land-grant universities and empowering their constituents.

Dr. Holt's past contributions to Illinois and U.S. Agriculture have brought about a firestorm of progressive change. With his unique but clear vision of the future, he is able to see the changing nature of agriculture beyond the horizon and can anticipate how educational and research institutions can best prepare to meet the needs of individuals who will conduct business in the changing environment.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Donald A. Holt has had a long and distinguished career that will have an impact on agriculture far into the future. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished gentleman for all he has done for agriculture and for the country.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL RUSSELL C. DAVIS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant General Russell C. Davis, who is retiring from the National Guard after forty-four years of exemplary service, as a member of the US Air Force and National Guard of the United States.

General Davis has had a distinguished career of service to our nation's defense. He began his military career in the US Air Force in 1958 as an aviation cadet. While on active duty, he served as a B-47 strategic bombardment pilot at Lincoln Air Force Base, Nebraska. He then joined the Iowa Air National Guard, where he transitioned to fighter pilot, and served in numerous command and staff positions, from squadron pilot to Director of Operations. He commanded the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing prior to being appointed the Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard.

General Davis is retiring from his current position as Chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB). The President appointed him Chief, NGB, in 1998. As Chief, NGB, he served as the senior uniformed National Guard officer responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting more than half million Army and Air National Guard personnel. As Chief, NGB, General Davis has served as the Army and Air Forces' official channel of communication with the governors and the Adjutants General of the states, commonwealths, territories and the District of Columbia.

General Davis epitomizes the citizen-soldier. His career has reflected his unswerving integrity and high moral principles. He retires with over four thousand seven hundred flying hours in bomber and fighter aircraft. His numerous awards and decorations serve as a testament to his dedication, commitment, contributions, and sacrifice.

It is our hope that you will join us as we salute Lieutenant General Russell C. Davis on

the occasion of his retirement from the National Guard and wish him continued high flight.

ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR  
AWARDS CEREMONY—NECO  
CHAIRMAN WILLIAM DENIS  
FUGAZY LEADS DRAMATIC  
CEREMONY

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, On behalf of Ellis Island Medals of Honor Ceremonies, I am submitting the following statement for the RECORD.

Standing on the hallowed grounds of Ellis Island—the portal through which 17 million immigrants entered the United States—a cast of ethnic Americans who have made significant contributions to the life of this nation were presented with the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor at an emotionally uplifting ceremony. This year's event was dedicated to the memory of those individuals whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001.

NECO's annual medal ceremony and reception on Ellis Island in New York Harbor is the Nation's largest celebration of ethnic pride. Representing a rainbow of ethnic origins, this year's recipients received their awards in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the U.S. in the latter part of the nineteenth century. "Today we honor great ethnic Americans who, through their achievements and contributions, and in the spirit of their ethnic origins, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations," said NECO Chairman William Denis Fugazy. "In addition, we honor the immigrant experience—those who passed through this Great Hall decades ago, and the new immigrants who arrive on American soil seeking opportunity."

Mr. Fugazy added, "it doesn't matter how you got here or if you already were here. Ellis Island is a symbol of the freedom, diversity and opportunity ingredients inherent in the fabric of this nation. Although many recipients have no familial ties to Ellis Island, their ancestors share similar histories of struggle and hope for a better life here."

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. To date, approximately 1500 American citizens have received medals.

NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the U.S. serving as an umbrella group for over 250 ethnic organizations and whose mandate is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote ethnic and religious equality, tolerance and harmony, and to combat injustice, hatred and bigotry. NECO has a new goal in its humanitarian mission: saving the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions. NECO has founded The Forum's Children Foundation, which brings children from developing nations needing life-saving surgery to the United States for treatment.

Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients are selected each year through a national nomination process. Screening committees from NECO's member organizations select the final nominees, who are then considered by the Board Directors.

Past Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients have included several U.S. Presidents,

entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders and business executives, such as William Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, George Bush, Richard Nixon, George Pataki, Mario Cuomo, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Michael Douglas, Gloria Estefan, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Elie Wiesel, Muhammad Ali, Mickey Mantle, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Barbara Walters, Terry Anderson, Dr. Michael DeBakey, Senator John McCain, Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Congratulations to the 2002 Ellis Island Medals of Honor Recipients:

Abel Abrahamson, Chairman Emeritus/Co-Founder, Norwegian Immigration Assoc., Norwegian; William Achenbaum, President, S/A Associates, Russian; Elias S. Adamopoulos, M.D., President, Piraeus Realty Corp., Hellenic; Hector Alcalde, Chairman & CEO, Alcalde & Fay, Spanish; Kurt Aschermann, Sr. Vice President, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, German/Austrian/Italian; Lawrence Auriana, Chairman, Federated Kaufman Fund, Italian; Kenneth E. Behring, CEO & Founder, Wheelchair Foundation, German; Hon. Cornelius Blackshear, Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, African; Barbara Blair, CEO, Cyberstaff, Russian; Michael J. Brescia, M.D., Sr. V.P. & Exec. Med. Dir., Calvary Hospital, Italian; Lt. Gen. Bryan D. Brown, Commanding General, US Army Special Operations Command, Irish; Jeanette Grasselli Brown, Chair, Ohio Board of Regents, Hungarian; Maurice A. Buckley, President & CEO, Irish Chamber of Commerce in the USA, English/Irish; Preston C. Caruthers, General Partner, Carfam II Associates, L.P., Scottish/English; Steven W. Casteel, Assist. Admin. For Intelligence, US Dept of Justice, Dutch; Peter Castellana, Jr., President & CEO, Western Beef, Inc., Irish/Italian; Joseph R. Cerrell, Chairman & CEO, Cerrell Associates, Inc., Italian/French; Stephen Cherpelis, CEO, Stephen Cherpelis Enterprises, Inc., Hellenic; Hon. Michael Chertoff, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Russian/Polish; Stanley M. Chesley, Attorney, Waite, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley Co., Ukrainian; Michael V. Ciresi, Partner & Chairman, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P., Italian; Anthony S. Colavita, Esq., Attorney and Councilman, Italian/Irish; William J. Collis, M.D., Founder & Ophthalmic Surgeon, Kentucky Eye Institute, Hellenic; Martin E. Cooperman, Managing Partner, Grant Thornton, Russian/Polish; Salvatore J. Cumella, M.D., Executive Producer/President "Women to Women" Radio Show, Cumella Professional Services Inc., Italian; John C. Cushman III, Chairman, Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., English/Dutch.

Lucia Grieco Danzi, 100 years old, Italian; Oscar Davis, Chairman, Hayward Industries, Inc., Hungarian; Gen. Raymond G. Davis, USMC, United States Marine Corps, Scottish/German; Joseph J. DePaolo, President & CEO, Signature Bank, Italian; Thomas B. Doolan, President & CEO, TBD & Associates Inc., Irish; Harry A. Dorian Esq., Armenian; Thomas C. Eakin, President, Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, Scottish/Irish/English; Marvin E. Eisenstadt, President, Cumberland Packing Corp., Russian; Terrence A. Elkes, Principal, Apollo Partners LLC, Russian/Polish; Eugene C. Enlow, Chairman & CEO, Atlantic Detroit Diesel-Allison, German; Joseph Anthony Esposito, President & CEO, eResearch Technology, Italian; John H. Eyler, Jr., Chairman & CEO, Toys 'R' Us, Inc., English/German/Irish; John Joseph Fareri, President, Fareri Associates, L.P., Italian; George N. Faris, Chairman & CEO, American International, Petroleum Corporation, Lebanese; John P. Ferguson, President & CEO, Hackensack University Medical Center, Irish/Italian, Scottish; John Fitzpatrick, CEO,