

The deal is scheduled to close in June.

Mamula spent eight years on the town planning commission and eight years on the town council before ascending to mayor. It was a good run.

"It was a tough decision. I stalled to the last minute," said the reluctant retiree who needs to spend more time with his convalescing wife.

"I really like being mayor. I liked being on the town council and I liked being on the planning commission. It really has been a labor of love for me rather than a carrying out of duties," he added.

Mamula called it "fulfilling" to work with a "great town council and staff."

"With a town manager like Tim Gagen, being mayor is 'relatively simple, frankly,'" Mamula said.

Mamula vows to stay involved in the town but promised not to become a "town council observer."

"There has got to be something I can cut out of this whole thing that someone is going to let me do," he added.

We hope so, too.

RECOGNIZING THE 93D BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we celebrate the 93d birthday of Ronald Reagan and I rise again to recognize his efforts to renew the American spirit and to spread freedom around the world. Ronald Reagan once stated that, "The leadership of the free world was thrust upon us two centuries ago in that little hall of Philadelphia. In the days following World War II, when the economic strength and power of America was all that stood between the world and the return to the dark ages, Pope Pius XII said, 'The American people have a great genius for splendid and unselfish actions. Into the hands of America God has placed the destinies of an afflicted mankind.'" Reagan further stated that, "We are indeed, and we are today, the last best hope of man on earth." As we face many challenges today, the words of our 40th President still ring true. As we mark his birthday, we should remember his dream of creating a better, safer world and reaffirm that this Nation must continue to show the courage and persistence to turn that dream into a reality and provide hope for all those who do not have freedom.

HAPPY 109TH BIRTHDAY, ARMINTA LESTARJETTE ULRICH

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very special woman, Arminta Lestarjette Ulrich, known simply by the name "Mint" to her friends. Mint will be celebrating her 109th birthday on February 21. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this important milestone in her long and fruitful life.

Mint has had the gift of living through three centuries in this great Nation—one can only

imagine the many changes she has witnessed. She is a living time capsule, a treasure to us. By sharing her memories and experiences with us, we can learn more about ourselves and our Nation. Mint gives us strength in knowing where we came from and hope of who we can become.

Her full, rich life began in Cotulla, Texas in 1895. She was one of eleven children: five sisters and five brothers. The stories she tells of her youth allow us to vicariously experience life in the foreign land of South Texas as it was during the early part of the 20th century. For instance, Mint is often heard recounting how she used to ride atop a horse as it swam across the Nueces River. Or, how she used to travel by wagon to Kerrville, Texas, a journey that lasted two to three days. Today, this trip would take roughly three hours by car to complete.

Mint moved to San Antonio in 1915 where she began work as a switchboard operator for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. She worked with Missouri Pacific until her retirement. During her career, Arminta developed lasting friendships with workers all over the switchboard system.

One of the most enduring relationships she developed was with a young man who worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad—his name was Arthur Frederick Ulrich. Arthur grew to love Mint, but she was already engaged. However, like most young men suffering the pangs of love, Arthur was not dissuaded. He called her everyday and told her, "I'll get you yet". This persistence, coupled with her interest in his striking good looks and unquenchable high-spiritedness, made Arthur's prediction come true.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich were married on April 11, 1929 and did not have any children. Sadly, Arthur passed away in 1983, just six days before what would have been their 54th wedding anniversary. Their relationship was strong and serves as an example of the joy that a marriage can be if it is full of true friendship and love.

Mint has attributed her longevity to the use of "One-A-Day" vitamins and her lasting good looks to daily use of "Oil of Olay". I am suspicious, though, that her secret to long life and happiness also involves her sense of humor, positive attitude, and commitment to friends and family.

I am proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and learn from Mint. Her joy of living and her humanity have helped her to become an enduring spirit that continues to spread joy to those who know her. I wish her many blessings and the very best for her 109th birthday.

CONGRATULATING STEARNS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS MINNESOTA'S OUTSTANDING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE YEAR

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Administrator Dennis Fuchs, the staff and board of supervisors,

and all the residents of Stearns County, Minnesota, on Stearns County's recognition as Minnesota's Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District of the Year.

Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District has been very active in protecting natural resources for all to enjoy. The District has been successful in developing programs to assist landowners with such conservation practices as soil erosion prevention, animal waste storage, wildlife habitat preservation, and lakeshed management.

This award is based on a number of factors including program participation, training for staff and supervisors, and increased involvement in Minnesota's Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts work to better manage our precious natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Minnesotans I would like to congratulate Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District on receiving this recognition and thank them for their commitment to conservation.

HONORING OBIE SNIDER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Obie Snider, an extraordinary man who passed away on the night of December 18, 2003. After enlightening the lives of those around him for seventy-seven years, the memories of his generosity and genuine care for others have served to comfort those who knew him best, as well as the community which benefitted tremendously from his numerous contributions.

As a pillar of strength within his community of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Snider was a role model and leader who was admired for his loyalty to God, his family, and his comrades. With the help of his vision and guidance the East Freedom Chapel was founded, and it was under that roof that he became director of Young Life in the 1950s. Mr. Snider remained a devoted Christian throughout his life, and that piety translated into his every action. In addition to being a Sunday school teacher, he was the chairman of Truth and Praise, a publisher of hymnals, and the chairman of the Christian Workers Fellowship Fund of Kansas, among other things.

After graduating from Replogle High School in 1943, Mr. Snider's experiences in college prepared him for the enriched life he would lead. Two years after marrying Mary Ann Gilbert on June 1, 1948, he graduated from Penn State University. Grounded by a strong marriage and a solid education, Mr. Snider established Singing Brook Farms and eventually became a trustee of his alma mater, a position that lasted 21 years. His appointment to Trustee Chairman in 1985 marked the first time that an agriculturalist filled the role, and in the years following he was named a distinguished alumnus and received the status of trustee emeritus in July of 2000. Mr. Snider dedicated a large portion of his time to the improvement of the university and succeeded in administering numerous changes throughout the system. Without Obie Snider's influence and vision, Penn State University would not be the renowned institution of higher learning that it is today.