

recognize Ocean Mist Farms, the premier grower and shipper of artichokes in the United States. Based in Monterey County, California of my congressional district, Ocean Mist Farms produces over a dozen other vegetables in addition to artichokes on its farms which are located throughout California. On Saturday, August 28, 2004, the people of Ocean Mist Farms celebrated their company's 80th anniversary.

In 1924, Castroville area farmers Daniel Pieri, Amerigo and Angelo Del Chiaro, Alfred Tottino and Louis Bellone combined formed a company to grow, ship, and market artichokes. Their little company persevered through the Great Depression and WWII to transform artichokes from an obscure ethnic specialty to a national delicacy. It took genius and hard work to accomplish this, and these characteristics have assured their success through today. Under the current leadership of the Boutonnet and Bengard families, Ocean Mist Farms employs more than 60 people in sales and administrative positions, more than 160 workers in its packing, shipping and cooling facilities, and nearly 600 individuals in related harvesting and production operations, as well as operating several affiliate operations throughout California and Arizona. It is a company that has helped make the Central Coast of California the most productive agricultural region in the world and it continues to give back to the local communities of the Salinas Valley.

Ocean Mist Farms is also an environmental leader in our region. It has remained in the forefront of innovations in farming methods designed to protect the environment. Using advanced techniques of irrigation and integrated pest and soil management, Ocean Mist Farms has proved itself to be truly invested in the preservation of the beauty and natural resources offered by Monterey County. It also took the lead in developing the world's largest reclaimed wastewater irrigation project.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ocean Mist Farms on its 80th anniversary. Monterey County has benefited immensely from their commitment to growing outstanding produce and I wish the company and all who work for Ocean Mist Farms the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VERNON
CUNNINGHAM AND MR. JAMES
SHEPARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Mr. Vernon Cunningham and Mr. James Shepard of Portage, Indiana. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, they will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to the community.

Mr. Vernon Cunningham will be awarded the Portage Township Citizen of the year. Vernon's qualities include a dedication to community causes. Vernon has been a resident of Portage, Indiana for over fifty years. Those who know him best describe Vernon as a kind, fun-loving person, who always wants to help others. His outstanding service and donation of time and money to Gabriel Horn's homeless shelter represents the epitome of

what a dedicated public servant should be. South Haven American Legion Post 502 will be filled Saturday night with friends and family who have been blessed with the opportunity to know and work with Vernon and who wish to celebrate with him as he receives his award. Vernon's work, which has earned him Portage Township Citizen of the Year, has been improving his community and the lives of Porter County residents for many years. Although Vernon has dedicated his time serving the community, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family. Vernon and his late wife Peggy have three children Scott, Gail, and James.

Mr. James Shepard is being honored as the Portage Township Fireman of the Year. Mr. Shepard was voted by peers as Fireman of the Year for his outstanding service and dedication to the South Haven Volunteer Fire Department. James is a third generation fireman; his father was a volunteer fireman for South Haven and his grandfather was also a fireman. James graduated from the Georgia Fire Academy, the National Fire Academy, and he is also a Certified Fire Instructor. His career as a firefighter began in 1988 when he worked as a firefighter near Savannah, Georgia. In 1993, James became a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. He then moved to Porter County Indiana and has been a full-time fire fighter for the City of Valparaiso for the last eleven years. For the past ten years, he has also served as a volunteer fireman for the South Haven Fire Department. While James has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work and protecting the lives of others, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife Stacy have two children, James and Samantha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Vernon Cunningham and James Shepard for their outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. Their commitment to improving the quality of life of the people of Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE
STEIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Marjorie Stein of Aspen, Colorado. Marjorie recently passed away at the age of ninety-four, and leaves behind a legacy as an active and generous member of her community. I am honored to join my colleagues in remembering Marjorie's life before this body of Congress and Nation.

Marjorie grew up in Chicago, Illinois and went on to attend Connecticut College where she studied abroad in Paris, France. Marjorie and her husband Henry first fell in love with Aspen in the late 1940's, when they purchased a second home in the small, developing town. Their time spent there inspired them to make Aspen their permanent residence, and for the next half century they made their home on the Mill Iron Ranch.

Marjorie took great pride in her good works for the community. Her great passion for music and entertainment inspired her to get involved with the Aspen Music Festival in the 1950s. She also had a desire to help people that led to her co-founding of the 'Blue Ladies', a group of volunteers at Aspen Valley Hospital in 1960. The 'Blue Ladies' of Aspen Valley Hospital took their name from a Red Cross group with the same name that Marjorie worked with during World War II. Both groups performed similar duties, providing their services to the hospital wherever it was needed. Outside her volunteering efforts, she also enjoyed tennis and skiing Colorado's slopes.

Mr. Speaker, Marjorie Stein was a selfless contributor to the Aspen, Colorado community. She passionately pursued her interests, and in doing so made Aspen a better place. In this difficult time of bereavement, I wish to offer Marjorie's family and friends my heartfelt condolences.

HONORING BRIG. GEN. DONALD
POLK, M.D.

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment and thank a leader who has served not only his community in Tennessee, but also our Nation. After a lifetime of service as an officer in the United States military and as a physician, Brig. Gen. Donald H. Polk, M.D. is retiring.

In 1976, my friend Dr. Polk began working with the Tennessee Army National Guard. As Deputy Commander, State Area Command, Tennessee Army National Guard, General Polk has been responsible for supervising and training 3,000 combat service support soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Over the years Tennesseans have come to know and respect his leadership abilities.

And as a family physician in Wayne County, Dr. Polk has cared for thousands of people across our community. Again, his leadership abilities shone through as Medical Director of Emergency Service at Wayne Medical Center.

We are grateful for Dr. Polk's dedication and today I am pleased to honor and recognize his many years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR.
HUGH LANGDON ELSBREE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Hugh Langdon Elsbree, who died on August 30, 2004. Dr. Elsbree served as the Director of the Legislative Reference Service (LRS), now the Congressional Research Service, from 1958 to 1966. He was a noted political scientist, academician, and dedicated public servant who led the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) in providing research to the Congress.

Dr. Elsbree joined LRS as a research counsel in 1945 and became a Senior Specialist in