

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES
BILLINGTON III

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Charles Billington III on his retirement from the Modesto Irrigation District Board of Directors. He held this position for the past twenty years.

Mr. Billington's commitment and expertise have been an asset to the Board. Since he became involved with the District in 1985, Mr. Billington was instrumental in providing leadership in the development of policies to ensure adequate supplies of water, dependable electric power, organizational efficiency and financial stability.

During his tenure, he played an instrumental role in the planning of the Modesto Regional Water Treatment Plant. This is the largest public works project undertaken in Stanislaus County during the early 1990s. In addition, Mr. Billington was a leader in forming a risk retention group which is now known as the Electric Public Power Insurance Consortium, EPPIC.

Under his leadership, and to the benefit of his constituents, the Modesto Irrigation District has prospered immensely. Charles Billington III has been a part of that important success. I wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING THE CITY OF THORNTON
AT ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great city in the Second District of Colorado, the City of Thornton—and to congratulate its citizens on the 50th Anniversary of the city's official incorporation. I am proud to represent this community in the United States Congress and to share a little of the history of this remarkable Front Range city. What began as a small development project by a local entrepreneur, Sam Hoffman, in the early 1950s—and supported famously by no less a figure (no pun intended) than Hollywood's Jane Russell, it has become one of the most attractive communities in Colorado.

In the early 1950s, a small development project north of Denver was named after Colorado Governor Dan Thornton and targeted toward soldiers returning from World War II. Sam Hoffman created a small community offering these soldiers and their families the opportunity to purchase a three-bedroom brick house for under \$10,000. From that modest starting point, Thornton has grown into a community of more than 100,000 people, all of whom can be very proud of the great advancements their city has made since its incorporation on May 26, 1956.

The City of Thornton is still growing and attracting new residents. Located just 10 miles

north of Denver, Thornton offers the ideal location for people hoping to experience the vibrancy of city life while still having easy access to skiing, camping, and all of Colorado's other natural wonders. With over 1000 acres dedicated to public parks and a focus on recreation programs, residents can maintain an active lifestyle and still be within driving distance to cultural events in Denver, Boulder, and the larger cities in the area.

Thornton is a perfect example of a small city that has managed tremendous growth in a short period of time. Former Thornton Mayor Margaret Carpenter shepherded the city through its most explosive growth era (the 1980s and 1990s), and today the city boasts premier recreation facilities, a strong business and commercial sector, and a diverse population.

I admire the way that the residents of Thornton have built a strong community with pride and inclusion, and ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the City of Thornton on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to seeing the city grow for another 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROSE
NADER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Rose Nader, who at age 99 died on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 of congestive heart failure. Mrs. Nader was both tender and tenacious. She was a woman who taught her children the importance of service to their community, a love of the environment and concern for the well being of others. As you can see, Mrs. Nader indeed lived an honorable life.

David Halberstam captured her well when he said, "I thought she was a remarkable person who lived a remarkable life, going literally from one century to another."

She was strong, loving, hard-working and modest. All of the virtues were hers. I used to ponder how much she and her husband had seen in their lives for it was a great American story. They had come here in the twenties with little more than their hopes and their capacity for hard work, and in just one generation they had seen their own children prosper—enriching what was around them and being enriched at the same time.

What I will remember is her kindness to our family over the years, her sense of obligation to others, and a belief that citizenship demanded a daily commitment.

And of course her modesty, in the mid-sixties, back when Life Magazine was still powerful, the editors put Ralph on the cover. My mother, thrilled by this, immediately called Rose to tell her.

"Yes," said Mrs. Nader, "that's nice. I must get out and get a copy." We all loved that, the "a copy" reference.

I would also like to include a reprint of an article written by Albert Bernstein that appeared in the Washington Post on January 26, 2006:

Mrs. Nader, who jostled with politicians and complacency as a small-town activist and was the mother of consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Mrs. Nader developed a certain civic renown in 1955 when she confronted Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.), the father and grandfather of presidents. When Senator Bush visited Winsted, following a catastrophic flood, he was approached by Mrs. Nader at a public gathering. When he offered his hand in an obligatory fashion, Mrs. Nader latched on and refused to free him until he promised to help a dry-dam proposal move forward. This was fulfilled.

Later, she advocated building a community center for children, forming a speakers club that would bring worldly lecturers to the town, and expanding and preserving a local hospital.

At home, she could be implacable, particularly about food. She emphasized homemade items over packaged goods whose contents she found bewildering. She prohibited hot dogs and later beef because of the presence of a growth-stimulating hormone linked to cancer.

She sweetened food with honey, not sugar, and pushed her children to eat chickpeas instead of candy bars on their way to school. When news of this was publicized during Ralph Nader's rise to prominence, the Wall Street Journal editorial page likened his mother to a Puritan.

This characterization was laughed at by her children, even as they promoted the story involving her distrustful relationship with chocolate.

Mrs. Nader later said: "When the children convinced me that chocolate-frosted birthday cakes were what all the other children wanted, I frosted the cake, but after the candles were blown out and before they cut into the cake, I removed the frosting. Some people might say I was severe, but it became a family joke."

She later wrote a cookbook.

Rose Bouziane was born in Zahle, Lebanon, on Feb. 7, 1906, to a sheep broker and a teacher. She taught high school French and Arabic before her marriage in 1925 to businessman Nathra Nader.

After immigrating to the United States, they settled in Connecticut, where his Main Street bakery-restaurant-general store in Winsted, in the northwestern corner of the state, became a redoubt for residents bemoaning actions or inactions at the town hall.

On occasion, Mrs. Nader used newspaper opinion pages to express her views.

Writing in the New York Times in 1982, she denounced the use of "credibility phrases," such as "frankly," "to tell you the truth" and "in all honesty," that sometimes preceded a political statement or sales pitch. They gave her "the pervasive feeling that distrust is so widespread that people need to use such language to be believed."

In another editorial, she embraced mass mailings from issue groups that are commonly dismissed as "junk mail." She wrote that they often come from people "who care about their times."

Her husband died in 1991. A son, Shafeek Nader, died in 1986.

Besides Ralph Nader of Washington, survivors include two daughters, Claire Nader of Washington and Winsted and Laura Nader of Berkeley, Calif.; a sister; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ralph Nader once said his mother "took us out in the yard one day and asked us if we knew the price of eggs, of apples, of bananas. Then she asked us to put a price on clean air, the sunshine, the song of birds—and we were stunned."