

sign on the way into town. Sandy is proud of how the roosters have united her hometown. "It is amazing how many people participated in the project," Heyman said. "The roosters really brought people together."

Additional art can be found in the Prairie Arts store, an arts and crafts mall that attracts visitors from across the country. A local group of artists and craftsmen organized the business, which displays intricate wheat weavings, beautiful quilts, handcrafted wood items and much more. The arts and crafts mall is one of more than 20 businesses that call the Burns area home.

Local residents developed a new memorial park, which includes a pavilion, picnic tables, walking path, horseshoe pit, basketball goal and restroom. In addition, volunteers installed new city street signs, made improvements to the local ball field and constructed a new gazebo.

Since 1954, families in Burns have hosted international students in their homes over the Thanksgiving holiday. The program was initiated by Betty Grimwood and Bonnie Lohrentz, who thought it would be great if foreign students could experience rural, American culture. In recognition of how thoroughly the community embraced the idea, Burns received a Distinguished Service Award from the Institute of International Education in 1959. The award was presented by then Vice President Richard Nixon. Over the last 52 years, more than 60 local families have served as student hosts. In excess of 500 people representing 110 countries have visited Burns. Today, local resident Tom Grimwood carries on his mother's international legacy. Tom and his wife Nedy teach Spanish and Italian at American companies. They also welcome foreign students into their home every Thanksgiving. Tom is proud of the reputation that the program has developed over the years. "One of our students told us that Burns is the smallest town with the biggest diplomatic service in the world," Grimwood said.

In her 21 years as a resident, Mayor Mary Glenn has witnessed first hand how her community pulls together in order to achieve a goal. "All of our accomplishments are made possible because of a tremendous volunteer effort," Glenn said.

Stuhlsatz knows that her hometown is special. "The people of Burns are awesome," Stuhlsatz said. "They are like a family and whether they still live here or not, they work together to keep Burns a place you want to come home to."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Burns are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create such opportunities. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Burns is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER G. MEHAS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and a great leader in my community back home. Dr. Peter G. Mehas is retiring after 44 years in education as Superintendent of the Fresno County Schools. Dr. Mehas dedicated his life to ensuring our children thrive both in and out of the classroom. As an educator, administrator, public servant, community leader, father, husband, and grandfather, Dr. Mehas gives nothing less than his absolute best.

A small glimpse into the long list of Dr. Mehas's achievements reveals his unwavering dedication to education. Not often enough are educators recognized for their unselfish devotion to bettering the future of California's children. These teachers and administrators put in countless hours at school, at home and on their weekends. They deserve our greatest respect and gratitude for their efforts.

Throughout his distinguished career Dr. Mehas served as an instructor at Roosevelt High School and taught at Edison High School before moving to Clovis Unified School District. He worked his way up from assistant principal at Clovis High to principal, then assistant superintendent and finally associate superintendent.

From 1984 to 1987, Mehas established and served as the legislative advocate in Sacramento and Washington, DC, for the State Center Community College District, Fresno County and Modoc County Offices of Education and a consortium of 36 school districts throughout Central California.

In 1987, Mehas was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as his Chief Advisor on public education in the state, as well as all private and independent schools and universities.

Dr. Mehas was elected Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 1990 and subsequently served three more terms. Being a superintendent is never an easy job, but to do the job for 16 years, and do the job as well as Dr. Mehas has done, is remarkable. We will miss his invaluable contributions.

In September 1991, President George Bush appointed Dr. Mehas to a 17-member advisory commission to implement his executive order on Latino education, a task Dr. Mehas was thrilled to have been given and excelled at. Later, Dr. Mehas was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Community College Board of Governors.

Most recently, Dr. Mehas was appointed, in 2005, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, to serve on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence.

As you can see, Dr. Mehas has committed the majority of his adult life to advancing education. Thanks in large part to Dr. Mehas, the children of the San Joaquin Valley are better prepared to face the challenges of the future.

Throughout the years, I have also had the privilege of working with Dr. Mehas on a variety of issues. Pete, we wish you well, as you embark on a new phase of your life. You may be retiring, but your contributions to education will endure.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we find ourselves once again on disturbingly familiar ground as Israel continues to defend itself against armed attacks by terrorist groups targeting civilian populations. As a sovereign nation, Israel has the right and, more importantly, the responsibility to defend its borders from acts of terrorism and threats to its national security. The War on Terror continues to combat terrorist organizations and their State sponsors, and as such, Hamas and Hezbollah must be held accountable for their destructive actions.

The recent unprovoked rocket attacks in Israel and the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers are obvious acts of war against the democratic nation by Hezbollah and Hamas. The U.S. has been a strong leader in the War on Terror and these offensive acts of violence are no exception in the mission to stop terrorist activities around the world. Increased international pressure to call for an end to terrorism must be a priority, as an unstable Middle East can have dire consequences to the entire international community, as confirmed by the extensive evacuations currently taking place in Lebanon.

The Governments of Syria and Iran, as supporters of both Hamas and Hezbollah in their terror activities, must be held accountable for the violence taking place in Israel to protect the innocent populations of both Israel and Lebanon that find themselves in the middle of continued violence. Additionally, the Lebanese Government must call for an end to all terrorist violence and do everything possible to expel Hezbollah from within its borders. These terrorist organizations cannot be ignored and Lebanon must protect its sovereignty in the presence of any terrorist activity by taking decisive action.

I commend Israel for minimizing civilian casualties by focusing defensive attacks on infrastructures and weapons facilities, intentionally avoiding towns and villages. In the face of such violence, Israel continues to follow democratic and civilized principles of war in protecting its people and Country. I continue to support the right of Israel to vigorously defend itself in response to attacks of violence that threaten the existence of the Israeli people and pray for the end of violence and a peaceful outcome in the Middle East.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of a former colleague, a patriot, and a dear friend.

Tom Manton was the son of immigrant farmers from the west of Ireland—Thomas, of

County Roscommon, and Margaret, of County Mayo.

Consider his impressive life story: Born in Manhattan, reared in Queens, educated in Brooklyn, then 2 years in the Marine Corps, 5 years in the New York Police Department, 15 years on the New York City Council, and 14 years here in Congress.

Thankfully, my career as a Member of Congress included a wonderful working relationship and tremendous friendship with Tom Manton. We worked together on a number of issues—most notably the quest for peace in Ireland, and the goal of uniting all the counties of Ireland.

Tom served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs. I had the privilege of traveling with him and President Clinton to Northern Ireland. Tom was a leading force in getting President Clinton involved in the peace process. Tom was chiefly responsible for getting the president to agree to meet with Gerry Adams.

Tom's commitment to the cause of justice and peace in Ireland, and his commitment to human rights, was a driving force that helped lead to the Good Friday Accords.

But, Mr. Speaker, more than the working relationship, there was the friendship.

In my first run for Congress, almost two decades ago, without hesitation, the man from Queens was there to help me. And thanks to Tom, and many others, I won.

I am so grateful for the wise advice and good counsel Tom gave to me through the years.

Mr. Speaker, before I even came to Washington in 1988 for the formal orientation, Tom Manton invited me to his office in New York City for an informal orientation. It was an invaluable introduction to what life in Congress was like.

I never could thank him enough for that.

In my later reelection campaigns, Tom was always there to help. Once I told him of an event that the Irish American community in my district was planning to help my campaign. Tom immediately said, "Yes, I'll be there."

And he was. We had the party in Albany, and Tom spoke on my behalf. He didn't stop there, however, because Tom Manton also sang on my behalf.

And I shall always be proud to sing his praises!!

Tom Manton rendered a lifetime of outstanding service to his family, his community, and his country. I am truly blessed and deeply grateful to have been able to count him as a friend.

TRIBUTE TO UTMB

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the University of Texas Medical Branch of Galveston (UTMB), Texas, which is in my congressional district, on being named by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation one of the best workplaces for commuters among colleges and universities. UTMB earned this recognition because of its efforts to improve both the environment and the quality of life for commuters.

UTMB has also recently received Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need grant to support seven fellowships for nursing students who intend to teach nursing at the university level. UTMB only applied for funding for three nursing fellowships, but the Department of Education awarded UTMB funding for seven fellowships. I am sure I do not have to tell my colleagues how unusual it is for a college to be awarded more funding than they requested.

Working closely with UTMB as I do, I am not surprised that it is in the forefront of both nursing education and efforts to improve the lives of commuters. The people of UTMB are consistently working to improve the lives and health of Texans and all Americans.

UTMB is one of the major centers of medical research in Texas and in the Nation. UTMB features a multidisciplinary environment that enables scientists and clinicians to work on projects that often have immediate application to patient care. Among UTMB's areas of strength are neuroscience; pain management and stroke treatment; gastrointestinal health; environmental health and asthma; infectious diseases; vaccine development; cancer; molecular medicine; aging; and diabetes. Among its numerous activities, UTMB hosts summer science programs for middle school, high school, and undergraduate students to help encourage and develop the research work force of tomorrow.

A recent, and particularly noteworthy, UTMB program is Center for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases, a key component in the efforts to protect the American people from the threat of bioterrorism. Established in 2002, the center has two main objectives: (1) To reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. and other nations to the use of biological weapons for warfare and terrorism, and (2) to alleviate suffering from emerging and tropical infectious diseases through application of basic, applied, and field research, and education.

While UTMB's research program is impressive, many Texans primarily think of UTMB as a leading provider of quality health care. This is because UTMB offers services ranging from primary to specialized diagnostic care. Particularly impressive is UTMB's pioneering telemedicine programs. For example, UTMB has recently begun a new telemedicine program to bring medical services to the residents of Jamaica Beach, Texas. UTMB has established telemedicine connections for special-needs children in east Texas, for workers on offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, for employees of a Galveston-based insurance company, and for passengers of a cruise ship that will travel worldwide.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston being named one of the best workplaces for commuters and for receiving funding for seven nursing fellowships from the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need grant program. I also extend my gratitude, on behalf of all the people of my district, for all that the people of UTMB are doing in both the field of medical research and in delivering quality health care to the people of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER CITIES ORGANIZATION OF CRIVITZ, WI, AND CRIVITZ, GERMANY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize the Sister Cities Organization of Crivitz, Wisconsin and Crivitz, Germany, which is celebrating five years of friendship and diplomacy.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the People to People program in 1956 to promote cultural awareness and diplomacy through the actions of ordinary citizens. As the program expanded, Sister Cities International was founded to encourage sister-city partnerships between the U.S. and international communities.

Today we celebrate the partnership of two towns who share one name. The northeastern Wisconsin community of Crivitz was founded in 1883 and named after F.J. Bartels's hometown in northeastern Germany. While the two communities are separated by many miles, they share a proud heritage and desire to further connect their citizens not only through a shared name, but with a cross-cultural relationship that continues to grow and expand.

It is truly an honor and pleasure to recognize the Sister Cities Organization of Crivitz, WI and Crivitz, Germany, and thank the citizens who continue to promote President Eisenhower's vision of peace through understanding.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS N. HADDAD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis N. Haddad, a fine public servant and dear family friend who passed away on April 21, 2006. Throughout his 82 years, Lou served in the U.S. military, realized professional success, held numerous public offices, involved himself in various community groups, and raised a wonderful family with his wife, Martha.

Born in Beggs, OK, in 1923, Lou joined the Army in 1940 at age of 16. As a member of the 12th Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division during World War II, Lou saw action in the North African campaign, the capture of Sicily, and the invasions of Anzio and southern France. He also served honorably in the Korean war as a member of the Green Berets. Lou followed his lengthy and distinguished military career by entering the professional world, successfully embarking on a second career as private businessman.

Lou later began what would become a long and interesting career as a public servant. He served the city of Seaside as planning commissioner and Architectural Review Board member from 1962 to 1964, and became the Area Planning Commission chairman from 1966 to 1967. Lou was a city councilman from 1964 to 1966 and then again from 1978 to 1980. He was the mayor of Seaside from