

HONORING GRAPEVINE ROTARY CLUB'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Grapevine Rotary Club's 40th Anniversary. The Rotary Club organization was started in Chicago, Illinois in 1905 and currently has approximately 1.2 million members associated with 32,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide. In 1964, Grapevine Mayor, Ira E. Woods had the vision of starting a Rotary Club in the community. On June 22, 1967 a telegram was delivered from Rotary International with confirmation of their charter membership.

Grapevine Rotary Club is an organization who benefits many people both near and far. Locally, they assist needy students at Grapevine Middle School with a mentoring program and sponsor many events, including: a yearly essay contest, the Special Olympics at Grapevine High School, the annual banquet for the Special Olympians, and the yearly Senior Citizens Banquet. In years past they built a pavilion at a local park. And, for the past 15 years, the Rotary Club has put up American Flags on holidays along Grapevine's Main Street. They have also supported local charities such as GRACE and Nash Farm.

They have helped others across the country such as in New Mexico where they have worked with other Rotarians to purchase water rights at the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School on the Navaho Reservation.

Globally, they have: helped donate fire trucks and ambulances to Acuna, Mexico, Grapevine's sister city; supported cataract surgeries and helped provide artificial limbs for the needy in India; assisted students at a school in Tanzania and helped drill water wells in Peru and Ghana. The club sponsors teacher exchanges throughout the world including Latin America, Eastern Europe and India. The Grapevine Rotary participates in the One World program with Russia to help promote world peace.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the tremendous contributions to the individuals, organizations and communities that Grapevine Rotary Club has benefited for the past 40 years. It is an honor to represent this humanitarian organization in the 24th District of Texas.

NICO FERRARO: AN INSPIRATION TO SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nico Ferraro, who is being honored as the "Labor Leader of the Year" by The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Nico was initiated into the union on June 15, 1971, and knew it was for him. He went on to serve a five-year steamfitter apprenticeship with the United Local 638 in New York City.

His urge to travel and see the country continually took him to several western states until

he eventually landed in San Diego. Nico's political activism caught the attention of Local 230's officers and he was elected to the Executive Board in 1989. In 1992, he was elected as the Pipefitter Business Representative and served in that capacity until his appointment to Business Manager in 1997.

As Local 230's Business Manager, Nico represents the various divisions of the 1600 member local union in many ways. He is a Trustee to the pension and welfare funds, the Secretary to the Joint Apprenticeship Committee, President of the Southern California Pipe Trades District Council #16, President of the San Diego Building Trades, a member of the Board of Directors of the National City Park Apartments' 460 unit complex, built and managed by the Building Trades since 1968, and an Executive Board member to the Central Labor Council. One of Nico's proudest positions was serving on the Board of Directors of the Construction Tech Academy from 2002 to 2006. The academy is a uniquely designed High School dedicated to Construction, Architecture, and Engineering. The San Diego Building Trades honored Nico as the John Lyons Labor Leader of the Year in 2000.

In his role as Business Manager, Nico is focused on organizing, training, and political action. He is dedicated to improving the wages, pension and working conditions of his membership and demonstrating to all of San Diego the benefits of union membership. He has spoken on the record before the Industrial Welfare Commission.

Nico is involved in all aspects of the Labor movement. He has had numerous pro-union letters to various editors of San Diego newspapers published. To enhance his career as a union officer, Nico enrolled in the Labor Studies Program at San Diego City College. He completed the program in 1994 and continued his studies, earning a Business and Labor Studies Degree and graduating with honors in June 2000.

California Governor Gray Davis further honored Nico by appointing him to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Board, where he was asked to determine the wages, work hours and working conditions for the mining, drilling and construction industries.

Nico Ferraro truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

HONORING THE REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the historic ministry of the Reverend Billy Graham. On Thursday, May 31, 1,500 of Reverend Graham's friends gathered for the dedication of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, North Carolina. Among those friends were all three of our living former Presidents. Reverend Graham's ministry has touched more people in this world than could ever be able to attend such a dedication.

I am honored to have Reverend and Mrs. Graham as two of my constituents in Western North Carolina. The Grahams moved to Montreat many decades ago, and have made

an indelible mark on the area. I have the utmost respect for Reverend Graham.

The newly dedicated Billy Graham Library is appropriately built in the shape of a barn, which no doubt reminds Reverend Graham of his childhood on a nearby dairy farm. When Billy Graham was born some 88 years ago no one but God knew the influence he would have on the world.

Billy Graham has ministered to hundreds of millions of people across the world, over 210 million of those contacts coming through the form of live audiences. Reverend Graham has ministered to Congressmen, celebrities, and heads of state. He has ministered to people without regard to their wealth, political affiliation, social status, or skin color; and he did it before such things were popular. Billy Graham has stood for what is right throughout his long career. He paid Reverend Martin Luther King's bail on numerous occasions, refused to speak in Little Rock while school segregation was being insisted upon by the state government, and he would not visit South Africa during Apartheid until The government would allow a desegregated audience.

Reverend Graham commented at last week's dedication that "I feel like I've been at my own funeral, listening to all these speeches. I feel terribly small and humbled by it all." That statement explains the character of Reverend Graham better than anything I can say.

Madam Speaker, the legacy of Billy Graham will live on long after he is gone, and I am proud to congratulate him on the opening of this new library which will help to carry his legacy forward. Billy Graham has served his Lord for a lifetime, and it is an honor to serve Reverend Graham in the United States Congress. May God continue to bless Billy Graham.

D/FW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S "WELCOME HOME A HERO" PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the "Welcome Home a Hero" program at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The "Welcome Home a Hero" program is a daily gathering of volunteers to celebrate the homecoming of soldiers returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. This program is one of the Nation's foremost morale builders for our troops with over 150 civic organizations, governmental departments, and businesses volunteering during its 3-year tenure. This tremendous effort has made the "Welcome Home a Hero" program one of the largest ongoing community service efforts in north Texas. These committed volunteers have given of their time so that our troops, as well as their families, can see how proud we are as a community, and as a nation, of their service and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, the north Texans that participate in the "Welcome Home a Hero" program are the first people the troops see upon their return to the United States, and they speak on behalf of all Americans in thanking them and celebrating the safe return of each soldier. On June 12, 2007, the 500,000th soldier will come home for a well-deserved 2