

Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook. Inscribed on the Memorial Wall are the names of the thousands of individuals, liberators who died in the battle for Guam, and the liberated who died or suffered injury, forced labor, forced march and internment during the occupation of Guam. Through this restoration project, the National Park Service has ensured that our island will have this lasting monument to honor and remember Guam's greatest generation.

We commend the National Park Service on the reopening of the T. Stell Newman Visitors Center. In 2002, the Visitors Center, formerly located in Piti, was destroyed by Super-typhoon Pongsona, but has since been restored for the public at its new location in Sumay. This restoration was made possible through a successful partnership between the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy.

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park is an extraordinary way for the people of Guam and our fellow Americans to recognize the history of Guam and the battles in the Pacific Theater. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate the War in the Pacific National Historical Park for a successful 30 years of service to our island and our Nation and I wish them continued success in the decades to come.

HONORING BENNY FRIEDMAN OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY to honor a local hero from Santa Rosa, CA. Benny Friedman, a beloved philanthropist and the founder of Friedman's Home Improvement, passed away on July 9, 2008, at the age of 90, after a life that touched and inspired many.

"If we don't have it, you don't need it," the famous Friedman's slogan, is typical of Benny's way of doing business—with both humor and the needs of his customers in mind. And profits from the business were used to enhance the community through promotion and support of local organizations.

Born in 1918 to a Russian Jewish family that had fled the pogroms, Benny worked hard throughout his youth. After his father's death, he left high school to support the family, learning about the hardware business by working in Mike Cohen's store. In 1940, he married Rosemary Zittin, a Russian immigrant, and shortly thereafter enlisted with his brother Joe to fight in World War II.

After the war, the brothers purchased a junkyard in Petaluma and were later joined by their younger brother Harry. Over the decades, the business grew, thanks to the brothers' philosophy of working hard and treating everyone, customers and employees, with fairness and respect. During this time, their children and grandchildren joined the business, and today there are stores in Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Ukiah.

Benny retired 20 years ago but continued to delight family, friends, and community with his warmth, humor, and good spirits. His wife Rosemary died in 2001, and in 2006, he mar-

ried Irene, whom he had met at the senior lodge where they both lived.

In Santa Rosa, Benny will be remembered as the co-founder of the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, now one of Sonoma's County major venues. With his wife Rosemary and brother Joe, he built the Friedman Center, a community hall at Congregation Beth Ami. He donated generously to other local causes, giving back to the community which had enabled an impoverished immigrant to achieve success for himself and his family.

Benny is survived by his wife Irene, his brother Harry, his children Bill Friedman and Debbie Chapman, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Benny Friedman's life is an example for all of us that hard work, honesty, and caring for others lead to success. But Benny went far beyond that in giving back to this community and to all who knew him. I will miss Benny, but I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be one who knew him.

HONORING JUDGE DERRELL HALL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am privileged today to express my deep admiration for former Fannin County Judge Derrell Hall, who provided outstanding leadership for his community for over 23 years as Judge, Commissioner and Probation Officer.

Judge Hall's experience and excellence as County Commissioner and Chief of Juvenile Probation led to his appointment as Fannin County Judge in 1997 after a previous Judge's mid-term resignation. Derrell's character and strong sense of responsibility were evident to his community, and he was continually re-elected to lead his county and community.

Born in Bonham, Texas, on March 4, 1953, Derrell Hall is a lifelong resident of Fannin County and currently lives as the fourth generation on his family farm that his great-grandfather settled in 1908 in the tiny Mulberry community on the Red River. He and his wife, Judy Patterson Hall, are members of Mulberry Methodist Church, and are parents to five daughters and two sons. Their growing family includes four grandsons and three granddaughters.

Derrell worked for a number of years as a farmer and rancher in his home community. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from East Texas State University in 1983, Derrell served as County Commissioner of Precinct One in Fannin County and became certified by the state of Texas as a Juvenile Probation Officer. From 1993 through 1996, he served as Chief of Juvenile Probation until his appointment as Fannin County Judge.

Throughout his public life, Derrell always sought to foster a better community for all of the families in Fannin County. He served as Chairman of the Fannin County Juvenile Board and a member of Fannin County's Fair Board, Appraisal District, 4-H and Youth Advisory Board, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fannin County—a program that recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for abused and ne-

glected children involved in the court system. In addition, he served on the Northeast Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, as President of both the Texoma Council of Governments and the Rural Rail Transportation District, and served 15 years on the administrative board for Cooke-Fannin-Grayson Juvenile Detention Facility and Boot Camp.

Derrell Hall is a man who understands that for a small community to thrive, it needs strong leaders who are willing to serve in many diverse capacities. As Derrell pursues new career interests, I join his many friends and supporters who look forward to seeing the new achievements Derrell is sure to accomplish. Madam Speaker, as we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and expressing our gratitude to this outstanding public servant in Fannin County—Derrell Hall.

HONORING BENNY FRIEDMAN OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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