

In addition to being a major employer itself in Sonoma and providing support services to other local businesses, the Nelson family has been an active participant in community organizations and events. Primary beneficiaries have been the Hanna Boys Center and Sonoma Valley Hospital. The companies have also been sponsors or supporters of the Sonoma Jazz Festival, the Charles Schwab Cup Champion's Tour event at Sonoma Golf Club, the Sonoma Wine Harvest Auction and Festival, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association annual walk, the Blood Bank of the Redwoods annual blood drive, the Valley of the Moon Boys & Girls Club and the Valley of the Moon Teen Center and the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance.

Madam Speaker, local businesses in the small communities throughout our two Congressional districts are much more than employers. They are the backbone of a support system for projects, non-profit organizations and civic events that would not be successful without their involvement. No organization better exemplifies this commitment than the Nelson Family of Companies. It is therefore appropriate for us to honor Chairman Gary D. Nelson and his leadership team and employees, both past and present, for their great work throughout the years.

HONORING RICHARD LACOSSE ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Richard (Dick) LaCrosse on his induction into Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. A resident of Escanaba, Michigan, Mr. LaCrosse will be honored at the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on October 11, 2008. I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring Mr. LaCrosse on this momentous occasion.

Richard LaCrosse began his career in 1969 when he went to work at Mead Paper in Escanaba, Michigan. He joined United Paperworkers International Union, UPIU, Local 110, which is now United Steelworkers, USW, Local 2-21. Dick LaCrosse quickly became actively involved in his local union and soon became a shop steward. He was appointed to the position of Chief Steward and vice president in June 1978 and was elected president of the local union in January 1981. In August 1983, he was appointed to the position of international representative.

During his 25 years with the International Union he served at one time or another as: a member of the Delta County Trades and Labor Council; member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Peninsula Labor/Management Council, including a term as its president; chairman of the Niagara of Wisconsin Jointly Trusted Pension Plan; trustee of PACE International Union's Pension Plan; member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Peninsula Private Industry Council; treasurer of the Upper Peninsula Safety Council; member of the Governor's Task Force on Education;

member of Michigan's School to Work Committee; member of the Delta/Schoolcraft Education Advisory Development Board; member of the UPIU/Scott Paper Joint Advisory Committee; steward of the Representatives and Organizers Union; member of the Advisory Planning Committee of Northern Michigan University's Labor Education Division; planning commissioner for the city of Escanaba; member of the Delta County Economic Development Alliance Board; member of the USW/SCA Joint Advisory Committee; executive board member of the Michigan and Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. Mr. LaCrosse has also been a guest instructor on labor issues at Northern Michigan University, Bay de Noc Community College and several area high schools.

In 2003, at the first convention of PACE International Union, Mr. LaCrosse was elected vice president and regional director of Region 10, which was the largest region in PACE. In 2005, PACE International Union merged with the United Steelworkers of America to become the USW International Union, the largest industrial union in the nation. On March 1, 2006, he was installed as international vice president with responsibility for national paper bargaining in the newly merged union. Mr. LaCrosse retired from the USW on March 1, 2008.

Madam Speaker, Richard LaCrosse has spent a career advocating for the rights of his colleagues. Dick's years of service have no doubt made an impact on countless workers across the country. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring and thanking Richard LaCrosse as he received a well-deserved induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE MAGHREB

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am placing in the record today the summary of an exceptionally important study on improving the global and regional economic immigration of the Maghreb.

This study was a collaborative effort of Ambassador Start Eizenstat and Dr. Cary Clyde Hufbauer. It highlights the critical importance of U.S. involvement in building a prosperous and stable Maghreb.

A draft of the full report is posted on-line by the Peterson Institute for International Economics at www.iie.com.

PROSPECTS FOR GREATER GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE MAGHREB: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PETERSON INSTITUTE, IFPRI, AND IEMED

On May 29, 2008, the Peterson Institute for International Economics held an event to announce the results of a number of studies that examine, from both a macroeconomic and sectoral perspective, the barriers to and potential benefits of economic integration among the countries of the Maghreb, as well as between the region and the broader world economy. The two macroeconomic studies were performed by the Peterson Institute and the International Food Policy Research Institute ("IFPRI"). The sectoral studies were performed by the European Institute

for the Mediterranean ("IEMED"). A final Report will be published in October 2008.

The studies generally show that integration among the countries of the region would yield increased trade and investment. Greater increases in trade and investment, however, would come from such regional integration combined with stronger links between the region and the global economy. The studies also demonstrate the importance of reducing non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, as well as the pursuit of regulatory harmonization to create a more positive investment climate. Finally, the experts from the three institutes who presented their findings offered specific policy recommendations for the United States and European Union, as well as sector-specific recommendations for the regional economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The core objective of closer ties between the United States, European Union, and the Maghreb is to transform the Maghreb economies, including by encouraging new industries and services, new jobs, and increased rates of growth. The United States and European Union should work with the Maghreb countries to enhance integration through bilateral trade or investment agreements or in companion agreements.

Aid for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: The United States and European Union can help improve the business climate in the Maghreb by assisting with the acceleration of reforms. Such aid could encourage the harmonization of investment and regulatory regimes throughout the region to the highest standards provided for in bilateral trade agreements, promote sector-specific investment and regulatory reforms, assist in the development of transnational networks for transportation and energy infrastructure, and provide the best technology for ensuring that cross-border shipments can be processed efficiently and securely.

Tariffs: The United States and European Union could work with their Maghreb partners to negotiate lower tariffs, or no tariffs, on selected products imported from other Maghreb countries.

Rules of Origin: In the European Union's Euro-Med Partnership, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia apply full cumulation between themselves and diagonal cumulation with the other pan-European countries. This approach could be extended to Libya and Mauritania. The United States and its Maghreb partners, building on the U.S.-Morocco free trade agreement, could negotiate agreements similar to the Qualified Industrial Zone ("QIZ") program with Jordan and Egypt or allow for the cumulation of inputs across the Maghreb.

Encouraging Sectoral Cooperation: The United States and the European Union could focus on how they can best stimulate regional cooperation at the sectoral level. Possible areas for collaboration with the countries of the Maghreb are highlighted below.

SECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The countries of the region, with the support of the United States and European Union, should work together to increase intraregional integration in the major sectors of the regional economy, which include energy, banking, transportation, and agriculture and food.

Energy: It is not clear whether each Maghreb country will be able to mobilize, on its own, the necessary means to meet increased energy demands that will accompany increased regional population and economic growth. Consequently, a regional response is necessary. First, the flow of energy through

the region is critical. For example, electricity constraints could be dealt with by optimizing the exploitation of electric interconnections that already exist between countries. Second, sustainable development should be favored to limit environmental constraints and to strengthen energy supply, for example by implementing renewable energy industries such as wind and solar. Finally, a global action plan could seek collaborative efforts on power generation, refining, transportation and distribution, and chemical manufacturing by creating global companies to gain access to European, U.S., and other markets.

Banking: The regional banking sector presents notable contrasts, with some countries possessing modern banking systems, while those of others have regressed since the 1960s. Regional banks are not necessarily relied upon to properly manage assets, which results in a loss of capital from the region. Banks are over-liquid, and credit is not readily available. In short, capital is not mobilized for development. A regional financial institution could transform unused liquidity into long-term financial instruments for saving and investment. Such an institution could build upon the future privatization of the Algerian banking system to create two regional banks with shareholding in all countries of the region, a mandate to encourage intraregional transactions, and a mandate to ensure currency convertibility.

Transportation: The countries of the region inherited an institutional framework that regulated transportation infrastructure based on the French model that de-emphasized competition. The failures of that model became apparent in the 1980s. Although Maghreb countries were slow to treat logistics as a strategic means of competitive leverage, monopolies have now been dismantled, and competition prevails. Morocco has an open skies agreement with Europe, and Royal Air Maroc has a strong network in West Africa. The first harbor ready to receive ultra-large carriers opened in Tangiers in 2007. Because the value of transportation infrastructure, including these projects, depends on the extent of the network, the Morocco-Algeria border desperately needs to be reopened. National networks currently end in cul de sacs, and duplicate infrastructure—for example the ports of Nador and Ghazaouet on either side of the border Morocco-Algeria border—has been developed. Both are examples of substantial inefficiency.

Agriculture and Food: The countries of the Maghreb are close in distance, are close in agricultural production, share similar patterns of consumption, and share problems including aridity, water scarcity, and volatility in agricultural GDP. Despite these similarities, there are substantial differences among the countries in agricultural and food policies, in terms of subsidies, norms, and enforcement. Regional similarities in this sector allow for economies of scale, the potential for vertical integration, risk-sharing for “discovering” new markets and new products, regulatory harmonization to increase quality and decrease smuggling, and collective responses to the need for resource conservation.

HONORING MARIAN LONNING

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marian Lonning, a special

woman who has devoted her time, talents, and life to individuals with developmental disabilities. Mrs. Lonning, a proud parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent, will soon be recognized by Community Living for her tireless efforts to improve services for people with disabilities. I want to associate myself with the recognition provided by Community Living.

Community Living, a not-for-profit agency in St. Charles County providing life-enriching services for people with disabilities, will present the award to Mrs. Lonning on October 18, 2008, at the organization's annual Legacy Ball. The Legacy Award is presented to an individual whose outstanding service to people with disabilities and the community as a whole leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Before coming to Missouri, Mrs. Lonning worked with people with developmental disabilities as a nurse and teacher. She and her husband, James, moved to St. Charles County in July 1968 from Kalamazoo, MI, and we are lucky to have her.

In February 1969, Mrs. Lonning opened a Day Activity Center for children with developmental disabilities in the basement of Boonslick Christian Church in St. Charles. She had been approached by Jane Crider about starting a day program for children with severe developmental disabilities who were unable to pass the test for Boonslick State School. With the help of an assistant, Mrs. Lonning ran the center 3 days per week, serving 8 to 10 children.

In 1974, the Day Activity Center transitioned to providing services for adults after Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 passed and children at the center were able to go to school. Additionally, Mrs. Lonning started the Day Activity Center Auxiliary, a support group for the parents of the center's participants, which still exists today.

Mrs. Lonning served on the Senate Bill 40 Committee to help approve a countrywide property tax to provide and fund services for people with development disabilities. In 1977, the committee's efforts proved successful when the tax passed. Because of the Senate Bill 40's passage, the Day Activity Center was able to expand and was later taken under the wings of Community Living, Inc., when it was incorporated in 1978.

The center eventually began providing service 5 days per week and hired more staff, including special education teachers. In 1980, a second center was opened in O'Fallon.

Mrs. Lonning served as Director of the Day Activity Centers, now known as Support Services for Adults (SSA), until her retirement in 1989.

In her retirement, Mrs. Lonning has remained active in championing those with disabilities, serving for 3 years on the Handicapped Facilities Board, now the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board, the entity that was created as a result of the Senate Bill 40 tax. She also served for three terms on Community Living's Board of Directors, serving as president, vice president, secretary, and as an executive committee member.

Today I want to shine a spotlight on not only Mrs. Lonning's great and many achievements, but also on the vital role that we all play in ensuring that all children and particularly those with disabilities receive the best education possible.

Mrs. Lonning believes firmly in providing quality services to people with disabilities

throughout their lives, and today her vision has become a reality. Mrs. Lonning has said that she has always felt that God put her where he needed her to be. Furthermore, the motto from her alma mater, Pine Rest Nursing School, has guided her work throughout the years: “It's only one life, it will soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last.”

For these reasons, I am privileged to stand before this body and congratulate Mrs. Lonning on her receipt of this prestigious award.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE
SONOMA COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and acknowledge the Sonoma County Medical Association, SCMA. The SCMA will celebrate its 150th anniversary on November 11, 2008.

Recently discovered documents place the first call to organize the forerunner to the SCMA on April 10, 1858, with the creation of a constitution and by-laws. The group went through at least two subsequent reorganizations, the latter being in 1888, which had long been considered by medical historians to be the original founding date of the organization.

From 1888 to 1910 the Sonoma County Medical Society, as it was then called, held monthly meetings around such topics as “The Emotions in Their Relationship to Disease” and “Bubonic Plague: Keeping it Out of Sonoma County.” In 1906, the association elected its first woman president, Dr. Anabel Stuart. During both World Wars, 29 percent of the medical society's membership served our country in uniform.

Since 1951, the SCMA has had only 5 full-time administrators or executive directors. Josephine Quayle served as “general helper” until her retirement in 1963. She was succeeded by Norman Brown, who served from 1960 to 1982. Roger Brown served from 1983 to 1989, followed by Tom Wagner from 1989 to 2000 and Cynthia Melody from 2000 to the present.

Over the years, the SCMA has made numerous contributions to the health of Sonoma County. In 1962, the SCMA coordinated a “Knock Out Polio” campaign that resulted in 92.3 percent of the county's population being immunized. From the mid-1970s to the late 1990s, the SCMA created several other affiliated companies that helped increase medical services to county residents, including the Specialty Physicians Association and the Children's Health Network. And, in 2000, the SCMA returned to its roots as a self-sustaining, non-profit county medical association supporting physicians and their efforts to enhance the health of the community.

Madam Speaker, the SMCA has a long history of assisting physicians practicing in Sonoma County and of preserving the well being of county residents. It is appropriate that we honor this distinguished organization and its members for their past accomplishments and wish them well as they continue to work