

called this land by many names—Hadley Farms, East Farms, Hadley Outer Commons, East Hadley, New Swamp, and event Foote's Folly Swamp. Hadley farmers didn't think much of Amherst's soil as compared with the richer soils closer to the Connecticut River, but the Amherst land was fertile enough and, during a brief peaceful period in the late 1720s, a few farmers ventured to establish Amherst homesteads.

In the 1750s, more farms sprang up and the population of "East Hadley" topped that of the original settlement, but inhabitants were still required to travel to Hadley to conduct town business and pay taxes, for which they received little in return. This led, naturally, to the locals desire to govern themselves.

But Amherst's history goes back much farther. About 1,000 years ago, native peoples who lived and fanned all over Southern New England, including the area that became Amherst, met regularly at sites along the Connecticut River for fishing, feasting, and socializing. The Norwottucks, one of those groups, traveled through Amherst and probably set up temporary campsites along the Fort and Mill Rivers. They used two major trails, a path that later became Bay Road and one in the area of Pulpit Hill and East Leverett Roads.

The beginnings of the town we know today were not only built by those original farmers from Hadley and surrounding communities but by Africans who were brought here as slaves, torn from their homelands and families. Up through the 1770s, slaves were bought, sold, leased, and traded in Amherst. They worked on their owners' houses and farms and were always subject to being sold away from their families. During this same period, several free blacks also lived in Amherst.

Today, descendants from every group representing Amherst's "First Comers" can be found living in town and throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

What distinguished Amherst from other Connecticut Valley farming towns was an early interest in education. Between 1814 and 1821, Amherst citizens established both Amherst Academy and Amherst College. As early as 1847, Massachusetts citizens began thinking about the need for agricultural education, which paved the way for the founding of the Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst in 1863. In this same period, Amherst boasted small-scale manufacturing (and later large-scale hat factories) but without a large, powerful river, manufacturing never blossomed as it did in other Massachusetts communities. Amherst remained an agricultural and educational community.

It was the establishment of the University of Massachusetts in 1947 and its post-World War II expansion, the opening of Hampshire College in 1970, and the attendant population increase and development boom that threatened Amherst's small town character and natural beauty. Citizens responded with local laws to preserve agricultural land and to limit development. By the late 1960s, the town was noted for being progressive and socially conscious, with outspoken citizens bringing national and international issues to the local level. This independent spirit, combined with good schools, open spaces, and a vibrant intellectual life, has made Amherst a magnet for newcomers.

There are also other Amhersts: a home to immigrants from all over the world; a place

where machinists and shop owners work and goods are made and sold; a place where people struggle to make ends meet amid social services spread then; and a town caught between residents' high expectations for schools and services and a tax base largely funded by property tax on private residences. Slightly more than half of Amherst's land is in use by the colleges and university or remains under conservation or agricultural restriction. Townspeople watch and wait as the resolutions to these economic issues evolve and define Amherst's future.

Once again, I am proud and honored to represent this town rich in history and community. Please join me in congratulating the Town of Amherst as it celebrates its 250th Founders Day.

TRIBUTE TO TRUMAN BENEDICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of San Clemente, California are exceptional. San Clemente has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Truman Benedict is one of these individuals. On February 19, 2009, the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce will honor Truman with their "Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award."

Truman Benedict moved to San Clemente in 1949, along with his wife Betty. A credentialed teacher educated at Whittier College in Los Angeles, Truman first began teaching seventh graders at Las Palmas. A Superintendent who had originally come to the "village," as San Clemente was known, in 1944, selected Truman for the job of seventh grade teacher.

While renting a place on Avenida Pelayo, Truman continued for five years to teach at Las Palmas School where he worked for \$180 a month. Truman Benedict became Principal of Las Palmas School, and in 1956 was named Superintendent of the San Clemente Elementary School District, which included Las Palmas and Concordia schools.

In 1965 when the Capistrano Unified School District, encompassing San Juan Capistrano, Capistrano Beach and San Clemente, was formed, Truman was named Assistant Superintendent in charge of curriculum and the certifying of teaching personnel. He eventually became Superintendent, then Deputy Superintendent of the district. From there Truman went on to serve as a San Clemente City Councilman, City Mayor and member of and volunteer for many civic groups.

Teaching came natural to Truman Benedict. As the smallest person in Los Angeles to ever play varsity basketball, Truman expected a lot of himself, and said that he was inspired by teachers who expected a lot out of him in return. Truman became a teacher because he enjoyed school and working with kids. It follows that in his career he was most often called upon to handle the older and brightest children.

In addition to his distinguished career as an educator and public servant, Truman is also a

patriot; he served four years in the U.S. Armed Forces as P38 pilot. He was married to his wife Betty for 45 years until she passed away. Truman and Betty have two daughters, Sally and Nancy, and four grandchildren. The Truman Benedict School is named after him and Truman was named the 1990 San Clemente Citizen of the Year.

Truman's tireless passion for community service and education has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of San Clemente, California. I am proud to call Truman a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the "Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TOM CLIFFORD, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, Tom Clifford was the most influential leader of the University of North Dakota in its entire history. I feel fortunate that he was president during my years there. I had the opportunity to work with him as a student senator, state legislator and member of the U.S. Congress. He was one of the finest people I've ever known.

Tom Clifford was a giant in every aspect of his life, from his service as a decorated Marine Corps veteran during World War II to his lasting legacy at the University of North Dakota.

During his 21-year tenure at the helm of UND, President Clifford oversaw a period of tremendous growth, in everything from enrollment—from 8,400 to more than 12,000 students—to research grants and contracts—from \$6.4 million to \$40 million—to evolving the university through the amazing growth of the aerospace program and the Center for Innovation.

Tom Clifford's influence extended far beyond education. When it came to diversifying the region's economy and creating new high paying jobs and rewarding careers, Tom Clifford was viewed by all parties as North Dakota's "wise man." His counsel was often sought and freely given. His creative contribution will live on in our region through the new opportunities he helped grow.

Tom Clifford never stopped being an excellent athlete and the number one fan of the Fighting Sioux. When I was a student he was the best handball player at the university—turning back challengers decades younger than he was.

One particularly fond memory I cherish came from a trip I took with Tom to the NCAA Division H national championship in Alabama in 2001. The Fighting Sioux slugged it out for 4 quarters but trailed by 4 points with time almost done. The Sioux connected on a short pass, but suddenly the runner broke free and scampered nearly 80 yards for the winning touchdown. Although Tom was seated in the president's box along side the president and a few boisterous alumni from the other team, Tom didn't shout or say much, but his deep