

A TRIBUTE TO JANE HAGEDORN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jane Hagedorn's 33 years of service as Chief Executive Officers of Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, Inc. As Jane retires, she leaves a lasting legacy of dedication and commitment to the Sacramento region. After decades of service, her leadership and expertise will be deeply missed by all. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

After earning her bachelor's degree with honors in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her master's degree in International Relations and Latin American Studies from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Jane spent the last three decades advocating on behalf of the people of Sacramento for improved air quality. I met Jane when she first came to Sacramento and have always been impressed by her intellect, compassion, and desire to do what is right. She began her career with Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, Inc, formerly known as American Lung Association of Sacramento Emigrant Trails, in 1976. Under her leadership, the association has developed innovative clean air strategies which include creating the Cleaner Air Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, bringing light rail to the Sacramento area, and working toward clean air initiatives. Breathe California was also a strong proponent of Proposition 99, California's tax initiative to reduce smoking.

Her dedication to our community is apparent through her work both with Breathe California and with other local non-profits. She serves on the board of Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Arden Park and Recreation District, Friends of Light Rail, Planning and Conservation League, Sacramento Tomorrow Coalition, and the Sacramento Symphony. Additionally, she was the first woman appointed to the Sacramento County Planning Commission, was the founding President of the Sacramento Tree Foundation and is instrumental in the California Oak Foundation. Jane has chaired the American River Parkway Funding Working Group and served on the Board of Directors of Valley Vision. She has taught at the University of California, Davis Graduate School of Management and has co-authored two books on historic preservation of native oaks in the Central Valley. Personally, I am honored to call Jane my friend. She has always been a pleasure to work with. Her thoughtfulness and intelligence has touched many policy debates and countless people's lives.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Jane Hagedorn's distinguished commitment to Sacramento and regions needs. Jane's outstanding leadership and dedication to Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails Inc, has helped promote clean air strategies which has set an example for others across the state nation. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Jane's husband Jim, her children James and Jennifer, colleagues, family, and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Jane

Hagedorn continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

DEDICATION OF THE LIGHT OF RECONCILIATION MEMORIAL IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I wish to commemorate the official unveiling and dedication of the Light of Reconciliation Memorial in Prince Edward County, Virginia. The Light of Reconciliation, in the bell tower of the Prince Edward County Courthouse, is a permanent monument created to honor the memory of the historic events in Prince Edward County during the era of public school segregation, to recognize the role of local students in ending school discrimination in Virginia and across the United States and to call on each of us to shine our own Light of Reconciliation in the world.

In 1951, a group of dedicated high school students led by Barbara Rose Johns organized a strike to protest the disgraceful condition of Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia. The school lacked a gymnasium, a cafeteria, heat, desks, blackboards, and in some cases even classrooms: a school bus parked outside served as one classroom for the overcrowded and underfunded school. The student strike ultimately led to Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, one of the five court cases that would make up Brown v. Board of Education. The Davis case was the only one of the five to arise from student activism. Following the Supreme Court's decision that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," Prince Edward County closed its public schools for the years of 1959 to 1964 rather than allow black and white students to attend school together. After five years and the Supreme Court decision in Griffin v. County School Board, the schools were finally reopened and integrated. The Light of Reconciliation and the memorial stand as both a reminder of the mistakes of the past and a celebration of the students from R.R. Moton High School and from other schools across the country who continued the fight for education for all.

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the action that would close the Prince Edward County public schools, one of the darkest moments of Virginia's civil rights struggle. Acknowledging this part our history is painful, and I commend the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors for their courage in publicizing past transgressions against our fellow citizens in hopes of preventing future ones. It is only in seeking truth about our past that we can hope to pursue justice for our future, and this memorial is a public expression of our renewed commitment to justice for all.

On this occasion we are reminded that each of us is called to work to bring our nation closer to its fundamental ideals of equality. If one 16-year-old student can spark the protests that would ultimately galvanize a nation in the cause of civil rights, we should all ask of ourselves what we can do to fight for human dig-

nity and the common good. As long as inequality and suffering persist in our nation and in the world, our work is incomplete. This memorial not only looks back to the dreams deferred by locked schoolhouse doors, but also forward to a better nation, one of ever-expanding opportunity for all. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." Let this light in Prince Edward County, Virginia be a permanent reminder of our ongoing struggle for a fairer world.

CONGRATULATING WAR HERO IRA WEINSTEIN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 90th birthday of Ira Weinstein. For almost 60 years Ira has been a resident of Illinois' 10th District, and currently lives in Glencoe, IL. We also take this time to commemorate Ira, a WWII hero and an ex-POW for his bravery and service to his country.

Born in Chicago in 1919 to a family of modest means, Mr. Weinstein found his calling in advertising when he worked for his high school newspaper. Unfortunately, his career aspirations were soon interrupted by the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entrance into World War II.

In 1942, just before completing his training as a bombardier-navigator, he married Norma Randall, a marriage that would last until her death in 1995. While overseas, Ira was based with the 702nd Squadron in the 445th Bomb Group of the famed 8th Air Force. He flew two dozen harrowing missions, each time taking over the piloting duties of the massive B-24 Liberator.

Trying to close out his quota of missions in order to go back home to his new bride, he traded in his pass for the Jewish High Holidays to complete one more mission. What was supposed to be a routine-mission became the ill-fated Kassel mission—the greatest single loss of men during the European air war. On September 27, 1944, his B-24 was critically damaged by an enemy attack forcing him to evacuate the bombardier's compartment while the aircraft was burning, falling to the ground in a dizzying flat spin. After a failed attempt, he bailed out with little time to spare. Landing safely in the tree line, Ira watched the locals pull his copilot out of the wreckage and pitchfork the man to death.

After 6 days of evading capture, Mr. Weinstein was forced to turn himself in to local authorities in Germany. For the better part of the following year, he was held prisoner in Stalag Luft I in Barth, Germany, enduring brutal and unthinkable conditions. On May 11, 1945, the camp was liberated and for his heroism Ira was awarded several medals, including the Purple Heart and the distinguished French Croix de Guerre.

Returning to Chicago, Mr. Weinstein took over a small advertising agency and grew it into a nationally known direct marketing firm. To those close to him, Ira was indefatigable, inquisitive, and inspiring, a man of unquestioned integrity, a loving father to two daughters, Laura and Terri, a proud grandfather, a