

our community and continue in their mission to preserve, protect, and celebrate the strong and special traditions of Le Marche.

HONORING THE GUILDS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guilds of Children's Hospital Central California upon 60 years of community service, philanthropy, and advocacy for the hospital. The Guilds will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Thursday, November 12, 2009, in Fresno, California.

In 1949 five women, Agnes Crockett, Gail Goodwin, Helen Maupin Ross, Carolyn Peck and Patty Randall, recognized a common need for a dedicated pediatric hospital in California's San Joaquin Valley. As the five women moved forward with their vision, they realized this would need to be a community project, and the idea of a "guild" system emerged. Since then, the Guilds have had two primary objectives; to raise financial support and to develop ongoing community support for Children's Hospital Central California.

On January 28, 1949, the first public meeting was held to discuss a "hospital for children only." By September the first Guild, Llanada Guild, was established and the initial fundraiser for Valley Children's Hospital was held. With Mrs. T. Wayne Simpson as President, Llanada Guild raised \$5,477 at a fundraiser held at Giffen Ranch. In just 2 years, the Guild had raised well over \$3,000.

On September 12, 1951, a ground breaking ceremony for the hospital was held. It was through the fundraising efforts of the original Guilds that Valley Children's Hospital was constructed in Fresno, California on donated land. Fourteen months after the ground breaking ceremony, Valley Children's Hospital was open for patients. The first patient, a young girl with a stomach ache was admitted on November 12, 1952, and the first surgery performed at the hospital was an appendectomy on the young girl.

During the early 1990s Valley Children's Hospital started the plans for a new, state-of-the-art facility. After settling on a 50-acre site in Madera County, just north of the Madera-Fresno County line, planning and construction of the new facility took almost a decade. For almost 50 years, Valley Children's Hospital provided medical and emergency services to children through out the San Joaquin Valley at the same facility. On August 31, 1998, at 1 minute past midnight, the move to the new fa-

cility began and the new hospital was re-named Children's Hospital Central California.

Today, Children's Hospital has a service area that covers 10 counties in central California. The hospital treats more inpatient cases than any other pediatric hospital north of San Diego, making this hospital the second largest children's hospital in the State of California. It is a 338 bed facility, and is 1 of the 10 largest hospitals of its type in the Nation. The hospital performs over 9,000 surgeries annually. The Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units have some of the lowest mortality rates in the nation, while treating some of the sickest children. The Craycroft Cancer Center at Children's Hospital is a full member of the nationally recognized Children's Oncology Group, and sees more than 100 new cases every year. The Wilson Heart Center has pioneered cardiac care for half a century, and performed one of the first open-heart surgeries in the area. It is also the first pediatric hospital west of the Rocky Mountains to be awarded Magnet Nursing status and received re-designation in 2008.

With the vision and ingenuity of the first five women, the Guilds have helped to make Children's Hospital what it is today. For the past 60 years the Guilds have been the largest financial contributor to the hospital, raising almost \$22 million. The hospital has used these funds to expand both services and the hospital. In June 2009, the Guilds voted to support the largest single donation to the hospital, a \$4 million commitment for the continuation of the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Endowment. In 60 years funds have been raised through the fundraising efforts of all of the Guilds; Llanada (established 1949, disbanded), Kings (established 1949), La Feliz (established 1949), Los Rancheros (established 1949), Pleasant Valley (established 1949, disbanded), Alegria (established 1950), Corcoran (established 1950, disbanded), Las Madrinas (established 1950), Panoche (established 1950, disbanded), Rio Reyes (established 1950, disbanded), Sequoia (established 1950), Tenaya (established 1950), La Caridad (established 1951, disbanded), La Tienda (established 1952), Holiday (established 1953), La Comida (established 1953), Children's Service (established 1950s, disbanded), Los Ninos (established 1950s, disbanded), Selma (established 1950s, disbanded), Las Amigas (established 1950s, disbanded), La Sierra (established 1999), La Visionaria (established 2007), Del Corazon (established 2008) and Los Ninos Hispanic (established 2008).

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Guilds of Children's Hospital Central California on 60 years of giving. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Guilds many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE ANCIENT  
ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION  
4 ANNUAL IRISH FAMINE MASS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 7, 2009*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ancient Order of Hibernians A.O.H., Division 4 and their Great Irish Hunger Annual Mass and Memorial Dedication. On Saturday, November 14, the A.O.H. will hold a mass and immediately following take part in a processional walk to Friendship Park in Keansburg, New Jersey, for the dedication and blessing of "The Great Irish Hunger Monument." The monument was designed by artist Phil Sloan and A.O.H. Division 2 President Jack Sullivan.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded in 1836 in New York City and is a nonprofit Catholic fraternal organization whose mission is to promote friendship, unity, and Christian charity among its members. The original order existed in Ireland for over 300 years and was created to help protect the lives of Catholic priests in occupied Ireland after the reign of England's King Henry VIII.

American chapters of the Ancient Order of Hibernians were created for similar reasons like protecting the clergy and the Catholic Church and its followers while providing aid to the community at large. The A.O.H. admirably seeks to promote and preserve the Irish Heritage through art, music, dance, and culture. The services that they provide are important assets to my district and provide unique diversity that is dearly valued.

The Great Famine or Great Hunger created widespread starvation and disease which, coupled with a mass exodus from Ireland, caused the country's population to drop by more than 20 percent. It is estimated that approximately 1 million people died and 1 million more left Ireland during that period. The A.O.H. will honor and remember those devastated by the famine with a memorial mass, as well as bless their newly erected monument which will stand as a memorial to the lives lost and forever changed by the Great Hunger.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the Ancient Order of Hibernians for the work they do in supporting my constituency, as well as honor the memory of those affected by the Great Hunger that struck Ireland over 150 years ago.