

SAINTE MARIE 175TH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Sainte Marie, Illinois, upon its 175th anniversary.

Sainte Marie was founded in 1837 by immigrants from eastern France. They were a group of several related families, who, fearful of outside influences on the Church, decided to establish a colony in America, where they might practice their religion as they saw fit. To this end, they elected to send one of their children, Joseph Picquet, to find a suitable place for their settlement. At the time, Picquet was only 19 years old, but he was wise beyond his years.

After arriving in America in 1835, Picquet lived briefly in Philadelphia, learning the language and local customs. He then spent most of 1836 exploring America and her vast wilderness. After extensive travel, he settled on a location for the colony in southern Illinois on the Embarras River, not far from Vincennes, Indiana. He chose the site for its untapped resources and the strong French presence in the area.

Having found the site for the colony, Picquet then returned home to collect his family, and in June of 1837, Picquet and 24 of his relatives arrived in what would become the village of Sainte Marie. While preparing their settlement, they stayed on a nearby farm, and their construction efforts were blessed by Father Stephen Theodore Badin, the first priest to be ordained in the United States.

On October 28, 1837, Picquet and the other settlers took possession of the land, which they dedicated to the Virgin Mary. They called it a *Colonie des Frères*, since they were all related by either blood or marriage. Largely due to Picquet's efforts, the colony quickly grew and became a cultural center for the region. It soon had such facilities as a saw mill, a post office, a church, a free school, and even a railroad station. The settlement was renamed Sainte Marie, retaining the spelling of their French heritage, and in 1865 Sainte Marie was officially chartered by the State of Illinois.

Today Sainte Marie remains a charming rural community which teaches strong morals and family values. Its citizens are proud of their town and its history, as well as the many businessmen and professionals it has produced. This summer the people of Sainte Marie will honor the town's history and its citizens with its Quartoseptcentennial Celebration. In recognition of this momentous occasion, I ask my fellow members of this House to join with me as I wish them success in their upcoming festivities and in the years to come.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during Women's History Month, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Girls Scouts of America was founded in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. Savannah native Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low started a regular meeting for local girls to provide them with the opportunity to achieve great physical, intellectual, and spiritual success.

For 100 years, Girl Scout chapters across the United States have helped millions of girls grow into women of courage, confidence, and character. Girl Scouts of America has several award-winning programs that encourage girls to discover themselves and their values, connect with their communities, and take action to make the world a better place. Traditions such as the Girl Scout Gold Award challenge girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community by assessing needs, designing solutions, and organizing resources to sustain the project.

The impact of Girl Scouts of America programs is not limited to our local communities. Specialized learning programs centered on science, technology, engineering, and math increase the education of young women in these important fields. The Girl Scout Research Institute performs research that provides significant insight into the lives of today's girls and young women.

Today, more than 50 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae, and 3.3 million girls and volunteers are active members in Girl Scouts of America. In the Central Valley of California, over 12,000 girls ranging in age from kindergarten to high school are Girl Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 100 years of leadership in the lives of girls and young women and congratulating the organization on its centennial celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, Tuesday, March 20, Wednesday, March 21, and Thursday, March 22, 2012, I was unavoidably detained for personal reasons, and missed a series of recorded votes. The votes included, H.R. 3992, to allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel; H.R. 2087, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land situated in the Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia; H.R. 5, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, among others.

If present, I would have recorded my votes as follows: on March 19, "yea" on rollcall vote 111; on Tuesday, March 20, "nay" on rollcall vote 112, "nay" on rollcall vote 113, "yea" on rollcall vote 114, "yea" on rollcall vote 115, "yea" on rollcall vote 116, and "nay" on rollcall vote 117; on Wednesday, March 22, "nay" on rollcall vote 118, "nay" on rollcall vote 119, "yea" on rollcall vote 120, "nay" on rollcall vote 121; on Thursday, March 22, "nay" on rollcall vote 122, "yea" on rollcall vote 123, "nay" on rollcall vote 124, "yea" on roll vote 125, and "nay" on rollcall vote 126.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS & VIEWS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLANOF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago, on March 16, 1972, a local couple in the Northern Mariana Islands, Abed E. Younis and Maria Paz Castro Younis, wrote, edited, printed, and distributed the first issue of the Marianas Variety News & Views. So began the life of what is now the oldest local newspaper in our islands—on a table-top printer in a small commercial space they called Younis Art Studio.

The Variety, as the paper is now more succinctly known, still provides its readers with extensive local news and views. It also carries reports of the region, the United States and the world, as well as interesting and in-depth feature stories. The Variety includes a thought-provoking opinion section, where the public can air its views, and where the Variety itself regularly takes an editorial stand on the issues of current political, social, and economic import in the islands. Always, though, the Variety is a publication independent at heart without ties to business or political interests. The mission it serves is to deliver the latest news to our community in a fair and even-handed manner.

These days, the "community" served by the Variety has expanded beyond the shores of the Northern Marianas. The paper is published and circulated each Monday through Friday in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. There are print subscribers far and wide: in the South Pacific, the Philippines, Hawaii, Japan, and the mainland U.S. And the Variety's widely-viewed website, www.mvariety.com, reaches an even more extensive audience and allows its readers to content with comments about the published stories and issues of concern and to interact with one another and share ideas in a forum that is constantly expanding.

The Variety is a member of the Associated Press, Reuters, and the Pacific Island News Association and has received a number of notable awards including "Best Newspaper," "Best Editorial Writing," and "Best News Photography" from the Society of Professional Journalists—NMI Chapter, an NMI Humanities Award for Outstanding Contributions to Journalism, Best Online Edition of a Pacific Island Newspaper, and an Environmental Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the years, the Variety has been a strong community partner, donating to and assisting numerous non-profit organizations, events, and activities, as well as creating community projects such as its own School Newspaper Program, through which elementary and high school students learn about the news trade by publishing their own school newspapers. The Variety also offers great on-the-job training opportunities, including annual internships for individuals interested in journalism, graphic arts, marketing and sales, web press technique, and other aspects of publishing.