

Company, which on September 24th of this year will celebrate its 150th anniversary in O'Fallon, Missouri. As the representative of Missouri's 2nd district, I am honored to recognize such an innovative company with a long history in the state of Missouri and throughout the country.

Since its founding in 1863 by retired ship captain William Holdredge, Fireman's Fund has been involved with several important events in our nation's history. Fireman's Fund has insured construction of such national treasures as the Golden Gate Bridge and Hoover Dam, in addition to the renovation of the Statue of Liberty in the 1980's. And for those of us from Missouri, we are particularly aware that it was a Fireman's Fund policy which helped provide for the production of Charles Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" plane in 1927.

The company was also the first to offer a standing grain insurance policy in the United States, and the first to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance. Such innovation has contributed to new ideas for the insurance industry, but more importantly it has contributed to the sustained economic growth of our country over the last century and a half.

Fireman's Fund embodies some of the best values of American business. Not only is the company committed to servicing its customers, it is also committed to giving back to communities all across the country. In fact, the name "Fireman's Fund" comes from the company's founding social mission to award a portion of its profits to the widows and orphans of fallen firefighters. This commitment to the fire service was renewed in 2004, and since that time Fireman's Fund has awarded roughly \$30 million in grants to fire departments across the country. And in the wake of the May 2011 tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, Fireman's Fund was there to offer support for the victims of that catastrophe.

It is indeed an honor to recognize such a great American company on its 150th anniversary. I thank the employees of Fireman's Fund for all they do, and wish them many more years of continued success and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CENTER

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2013*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25 years of service by the Community Enrichment Center (CEC). Located in North Richland Hills, Texas, the CEC serves over 7,000 unduplicated individuals in Tarrant County with food, housing, education classes, free tax preparation, job services and seniors working to stay out of isolation.

Formed in 1998 as a food pantry by the Richland Hills Church of Christ, the CEC has expanded dramatically over the years as they identified the needs of individuals and families in crisis that extended beyond the basic need for food. In their efforts the CEC has partnered with homeless agencies, local municipalities, churches, community organizations, businesses, schools, local and state homeless coalitions.

Toward accomplishing this mission, in 1993 the CEC received the first non-profit U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homeless grant offered in the 5 state region served by the Region 6 office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Initially extended as a demonstration project and known now as the Continuum of Care grant, the CEC matches federal funding with private resources at approximately 400 percent. CEC was also recognized by HUD Best Practice Award in 1998 for their Adopt-A-Family homeless program.

In their effort to meet broader needs, the CEC absorbed Open Arms Home, Inc. to reduce administrative expenses and allow more funds to be committed to meeting the housing needs of those fleeing from domestic violence. CEC's mission has also led them to provide testing and coaching to the underemployed to identify needs and guide them through education and training resources toward financial independence. Nutritional cooking classes were also added, along with a greater selection of fresh produce and frozen meat to better serve the health needs of those using their food pantry.

I am grateful for the commitment of the CEC staff and volunteers for the 25 years of dedicated service to the underserved of Northern Tarrant County. I join them in celebration of all they have accomplished in meeting the challenges of their mission. It is my privilege to represent the organization and many of their volunteers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF EPPAMINONDAS "EPPIE" JOHNSON

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2013*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise in honor of Eppaminondas "Eppie" Johnson, who passed away recently in Sacramento at the age of 85. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Eppie, as his family, friends, and the entire Sacramento community gathers to celebrate his life and legacy.

Eppaminondas Johnson was born on May 7, 1928, in Astoria, New York. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, he moved to Sacramento to work for his father's restaurant and hotel business. In Sacramento, Eppie became a business and community legend. He was to become a symbol for everything great about Sacramento.

Eppie founded a chain of 24-hour coffee shops and he became famous in the 1960s and 1970s for running a popular TV advertisement featuring himself balancing a plate of food while water skiing. He was well-known for his lively marketing campaigns, such as "Professor Eppie" that gave free sundaes to students who earned straight As. He eventually came to own sixteen restaurants in Sacramento, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Fresno, and the Lake Tahoe area, as well as hotels and other properties.

An athletic man, Eppie was also the founder of a beloved Sacramento tradition known as "Eppie's Great Race." Started in 1974 as a promotion and charity fundraiser, this three-

event contest included running, cycling, and kayaking all in the beautiful American River Parkway. Popularly called the "world's oldest triathlon," the contest has grown into a major summer celebration that annually attracts more than 2,000 participants. Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Great Race and I know Eppie will be cheering everyone on. His race has raised over \$1 million for the Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Services which offers activities to individuals with developmental disabilities. I had the pleasure of visiting Therapeutic Recreation Services with Eppie, and his passion to assist those with disabilities was clear.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Eppaminondas "Eppie" Johnson for being an exemplary member of the Sacramento community. I ask that we all take a moment and give our utmost respect and condolences to his children, George Johnson and Lisa Mangles, and his grandchildren. His life and commitment to our community are an inspiration to us all. The Sacramento area has lost a true legend.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY DILL ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for small business in my district—and a true friend. For the past decade, Andy Dill has served as the President of the Community Chamber of Commerce of East Montgomery County. His leadership has helped grow this important organization and the community it promotes threefold.

Prior to entering Chamber work, Andy served in the telecommunications industry and petrochemical and agricultural chemical industries. Frankly, I've learned there is very little Andy can't do and hasn't done.

A graduate of Nacogdoches High School and Stephen F. Austin State University, Andy's career has taken him across east and southeast Texas. We consider ourselves lucky he settled on the dynamic east Montgomery County.

Andy's community honors are many. From YMCA Volunteer of the Year, Rotary Club Service and Roll of Fame Awards, Andy has been a go-to person when a civic or community organization wants to get going. Andy also serves our communities on the TCC Board of Directors, the Board of the Kingwood Medical Center, Leadership Montgomery County and many others.

When it comes to leadership, Andy is a triple threat. He is a 1988 graduate of Leadership Lufkin, a 1996 graduate of Leadership Montgomery County and a 2005 graduate of Leadership North Houston. It was no surprise to me that when Leadership East Montgomery County needed him, he answered the call.

Andy keeps learning each and every day. He has completed the three-year Community Development Institute program and a fourth-year continuing education year program through the Texas Community Development program.

Andy couldn't be the success he is without his wife Sylvia. For 44 years, she has been