CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

October 13, 1998

John Tanner.

He was honored by local townspeople with a "Bob Owen Day" in his honor. At that time, an annual "Bob Owen College Scholarship" was set up by the Bank of Gleason, to be awarded to a high school senior, based upon their overcoming financial and hardship difficulties.

The Tennessee House of Representatives passed a resolution in his honor, he was made an honorary staff member of the 77th Legislative District of the Tennessee House of Representatives by then State Representative John Tanner.

The Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society presented him an Honor Plaque for Outstanding Citizenship, and he was named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary club in 1976 and 1979.

In keeping with his humble nature, Bob Owen, said, "I’m in the banking business by default, because I couldn’t find anything else to do."

Regarding his life, he continued, "It’s been a great ride, I came from a humble background and had to be something out of this world. My father died when she was only 47 years old, and she raised three children with the sweat of her brow, and a lot of love."

It may be accurate for the community to refer to him as the last of the country bankers, but Bob Owen is a world-class citizen, who cares deeply for his community and the people he serves.

As was so appropriate by stated by the late Billy Williams, All Americian Poet Laureate of the State of Tennessee, during a presentation on Bob Owen Day in Gleason:

"He must have done some things just right, as he walked down life’s highway, ‘Cause folks have come from all around, on this his special day.

Being fair, being honest and being kind, has been his life’s ongoing.

May the good ‘Lord’ bless, years of happiness, for Robert H. ‘Bob’ Owen."

A TRIBUTE TO GUS A. PEDICONE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to utter a few words about Gus Pedicone, a man truly worthy of honoring. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Mr. Pedicone has been a great leader to his community. His achievements are well worth noting as they demonstrate the positive results that come with hard work and determination.

Perhaps such determination and desire to succeed came about through Gus’s early years as a soldier. Serving in both World War II and the Korean conflict, Gus displayed his commitment to serve this community, a commitment that has now spanned over fifty years. Soon after his career as a soldier, Gus entered the political arena, first as a committeeman, then as a Republican Ward Leader for the 26th Ward. At the pinnacle of his political career in 1971, he was even a candidate for United States Congress.

Obtaining degrees from both the Palmer Business School, and the highly esteemed Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Pedicone’s business savvy is self-evident. He started his own air freight business in 1965, which became a very successful endeavor. Gus was also on the State Tax Equalization Board for 14 years, and was a recent appointee to the State Board of Automotive Manufacturers. While too often such success is coupled with a loss of community spirit, Gus has proven his loyalty as a member of the Sons of Italy and as a past member of the Lions Club.

Aside from all these accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, Gus Pedicone should be recognized for his legacy as a role model. He is well known throughout the Philadelphia community as a gentleman and a man of his word. Just the other day, I spoke to his Democratic counterpart, the Honorable Ronald Donatucci. Although Mr. Pedicone and Mr. Donatucci spent years opposing each other on election day, Ron had nothing but praise for Gus. All of us can only hope to be so well thought of by our opponents.

Gus Pedicone is a truly remarkable man. His diverse achievements in both the private and public sectors, is not only to his continuing desire to serve his community as best he can. He has had a positive effect on all aspects of our community for over fifty years, and for this I would like to express my deepest gratitude.

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Herman Fink of Santa Ana, California, on his 102nd birthday. As a well-known Santa Ana resident, Mr. Fink has lived on the same street (Flower Street) in Santa Ana for 59 years. During that time he has become known as “the Honorary Mayor of Flower Street” to all those who live around him.

An avid world traveler, Mr. Fink has been to many foreign lands.

HON. BERNARD SANDERS
OF VERMONT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call World Population Awareness Week 1998 to the attention of my Colleagues. October 24–31 marks the 13th annual celebration of World Population Awareness Week. More than 300 family planning, environmental, educational, community and service organizations in 61 countries are co-sponsoring the week in an effort to raise awareness of the need for universal voluntary family planning.

I call the Governor of Vermont’s, the Honorable Howard Dean, proclamation to the attention of my colleagues.

World Population Awareness Week Proclamation—1998

Whereas world population stands today at more than 5.9 billion and increases of more than 80 million per year, with virtually all of this growth in the least developed countries; Whereas the consequences of rapid population growth are not limited to the developing world but extend to all nations and to all people, including every citizen of the State of Vermont concerned for human dignity,