

A TRIBUTE TO EDGAR HAGOPIAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal and dedication citizen in my district, Edgar Hagopian. Edgar will be honored this week by the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance [OPBEA].

Hagopian is being recognized for his many contributions to the Oak Park community, especially the students of Oak Park's schools.

President of Hagopian and Sons, Inc., Edgar has been very active in the Oak Park schools and its programs. He has been a strong supporter of the district's student of the month and the middle school job shadowing programs.

A member of the Oak Park Chamber of Commerce, Hagopian has been a supporter and leading member of OPBEA since its inception in 1993.

Known for his presence in Michigan, Hagopian is also known internationally for his leadership in the worldwide Armenian community. He founded the Armenian Business Council and has served as its president. In recognition of his many generous contributions to Armenian causes, he was named the 1995 Person of the Year by Canada's Armenian Business Council.

All funds raised from the event honoring Edgar will be used by OPBEA for the Edgar Hagopian Scholarship Fund, which will provide scholarships to Oak Park graduates that have excelled in the group's Contract for Success program.

HONORING NANCY MANNERS FOR
13 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF
WEST COVINA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend, Hon. Nancy Manners, councilmember of the city of West Covina, CA. Nancy is retiring from the West Covina City Council after 13 years of distinguished service and will be honored at a special ceremony on Wednesday, March 19, 1997.

Nancy begun her public service in 1973, when she was elected to the Covina-Valley Unified School Board. During her tenure she served as president of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Program Board. In 1984, she was elected to the West Covina City Council. Nancy was the first woman to serve on the city council and, in 1988, she became the city's first woman mayor.

While maintaining an active role on the city council, Nancy also has been a member of numerous organizations, often taking leadership roles advocating on behalf of local governments. She has been president of the Independent Cities Association, ICA Risk Management Authority, San Gabriel Valley Planning Commission, Mid-Valley Mental Health Council, and chairperson of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Committee. Also, Nancy has

served on policy and steering committees of the National League of Cities and the California League of Cities, and other groups working on issues of local government.

She has been a resident and servant of the city of West Covina for 38 years. In addition to the many hours that she has committed to serving local residents, she has dedicated herself to numerous community and civic organizations. Currently, Nancy is serving her second term as president of the queen of the Valley Hospital's 2100 club, the board of the West Covina Rotary, and vice president of the West Covina Historical Society. She also has served as the president of the San Gabriel Valley League of Women Voters, Covina Coordinating Council, Altrusa, regional chairperson of the San Gabriel Valley Lung Association, and in 1980, she was selected to serve on the Los Angeles County Grand Jury.

Prior to serving as an elected official, Nancy was employed by the city of Covina for 16 years. In 1963, she became the first woman in southern California, and one of only a few nationwide, to achieve the post of assistant to the city manager. Because of her outstanding dedication to the community, Nancy was named 1976 Covina Citizen of the Year and 1983 West Covina Citizen of the Year.

During her children's youth, Nancy was active in their Scouting activities. She served as den mother to her son's Cub Scout, Webelos, and Boy Scout troops, and was troop leader of her daughter's Brownie and Girl Scout Troops. She taught second grade Sunday School and was a room mother and an active member of her children's Parent-Teachers Association.

Nancy received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of La Verne in 1977, and completed certificate courses in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1972. She was married to the late George Manners and has three children, Joan, Nancy, and Gene. She is also blessed with five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here assembled to recognize my friend, Nancy Manners, a trail blazer and role model for all to emulate, on the occasion of her retirement from the West Covina City Council.

COMMEMORATION OF SANTA BARBARA
COUNTY CHILDHOOD CANCER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the designation of March 17 through 23 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. I would also ask that you join me in honoring the American Cancer Fund for Children for its tireless efforts to ease the suffering of children afflicted with this disease.

Each year more than 10,000 cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed, and it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. Far too often the medical costs necessary for caring for these children leave families devastated financially, as well as emotionally. The American Cancer Fund for Children works in partnership with hospitals

and local governments to ease the burdens of this horrible disease. Through the partnerships it forges with local communities, the organization provides an outstanding example of how governments and nonprofit organizations can work together to help the people who need help the most.

The efforts of the American Cancer Fund for Children have lifted the spirits of children nationwide. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of this fine organization, and the county of Santa Barbara, in raising childhood cancer awareness with the establishment of a Childhood Cancer Awareness Week.

SALUTE TO CHURCH WOMEN
UNITED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there is no nobler calling than service to the Lord. In Brooklyn I am fortunate to have an organization, Church Women United, which has dedicated itself to spiritual and community service.

Church Women United is part of a national organization of Christian women who come together to create a viable community and serve as witnesses to their abiding faith. This year marks the 14th celebration of holding their annual Good Friday service, which includes "The Seven Last Words of Christ." The last words are delivered by seven messengers, all female. This is a unique event in which the Borough of Brooklyn takes great pride.

The group is led by Ophelia Perry who provides spiritual guidance. Church Women United provides a host of good deeds which include hospital visitation, prison ministry, summer camp scholarship, working in a women's shelter, and providing services to HIV parents. Ms. Perry is the 19th president of this organization which has over 600 members. I am proud to highlight the immense contributions of this wonderful organization.

RALPH SANTIAGO ABASCAL: A
LAWYER'S LAWYER'S LAWYER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report sadly to the House of the passing yesterday of Ralph Santiago Abascal, one of the giants of the American legal profession, and a man I have been honored to call a close personal friend for three decades.

Both in California and throughout the Nation, among those who advocate for the poor and within the Hispanic community, among environmentalists and farm workers, welfare recipients and the malnourished, Ralph Abascal will be remembered as a man of consummate legal skill, boundless optimism and formidable intellect.

In a lifetime of advocacy for the financially destitute, the politically marginal, and the socially outcast, Ralph nevertheless displayed an expert's knowledge of the intricacies of the political world. I knew him first in Sacramento,

when I was a staff person in the California State Senate and he was an activist attorney fighting for farm workers, the disabled and children. Our close relationship continued when I came to Congress in 1975 and we fought many of the same battles at the Federal level.

Ralph was a valued and creative advisor. Our efforts to enforce reclamation law and end unjustified water subsidies in California's Central Valley laid the groundwork for massive reforms like the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the Bay-Delta process that, at long last, are rearranging California's water priorities and restore our State's decimated environment.

Ralph was the early leader in the fight against unsafe pesticides that endangered consumers and farm workers, too. His pioneering legal work paved the way for the prohibition of DDT and the protection of groundwater from chemical contamination. His work on behalf of children guaranteed nutrition assistance, educational opportunities and equal access without regard to disability or ethnicity.

For some, I suspect, Ralph Absacal's career was about chasing rainbows. But Ralph caught a fair number of those rainbows, and ours is a far safer, far more just, and far cleaner world because of his tireless efforts.

He stands as a giant in terms of his fight for the poor and the disenfranchised people of America. It is perhaps his greatest legacy that millions of those whose lives will be forever improved by his life's labors never even heard his name, never knew that he spent decades arguing on their behalf in the courtrooms, in the legislative chambers and in the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members of the House of Representatives join me in mourning the loss of one of America's great advocates and attorneys, and extend to his widow, Beatrice Moulton, and their daughter Pilar.

RECOGNITION OF R.E. THOMASON GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend R.E. Thomason General Hospital, El Paso's only not-for-profit hospital, for being recognized for the second year in a row as one of America's top performing hospitals, according to the 1996 "100 Top Hospitals—Benchmarks for Success" study. I would like to congratulate R.E. Thomason General Hospital for their dedication to the community and outstanding performance.

The "100 Top Hospitals—Benchmarks for Success" study is conducted annually by HCIA, the industry's most comprehensive source of health care information, and the Health Care Provider Consulting practice [HPCP] of William M. Mercer, a leading international management consulting firm. HCIA and Mercer HPCP annually develop a model for high performance among general acute care hospitals in the United States. The model is then used to identify 100 of the top performing hospitals on key measures related to clinical practices, operations, and financial management. Mercer HPCP and HCIA undertake this study each year to establish industry

benchmarks in the context of a rapidly and constantly changing health care industry and to recognize those hospitals that demonstrate superior performance.

To qualify, hospitals had to rank above their peers on a combination of eight measures that indicate high value through high-quality outcomes, effective use of resources, and efficient provision of care—a balance R.E. Thomason General Hospital has achieved.

I would like to thank R.E. Thomason for their vision and dedication to the community and commend the staff for their devotion to caring for the people of El Paso.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF VIRGIL TRESSENWRITER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Virgil Tresenwriter. Virgil was a native of Beckley, WV, my hometown. In 1995, at the annual dinner of the Beckley/Raleigh County Black Business Association, Virgil's solo performance with the New Gospel Singaleers captured my spirit, leaving me in a state of awe, almost too speechless to deliver my keynote address. It was a profoundly moving experience. And no wonder.

Virgil was ordained by God from the very beginning of his life to sing praises to the Lord. It was a sweet sound and a joy divine—just as the gospel hymn says—to hear the deep baritone voice of Virgil "Pee-Wee" Tresenwriter ring out the heavenly melodies. What a blessing it was to be stirred and moved in your spirit from the sounds that came from the very depths of his heart.

If you were burdened down and sinking, to rise no more, you were lifted up when Pee-Wee sang "His Eyes Are On The Sparrow and I know He Watches Me." Then Virgil would remind you that he loves to praise His name, because He is a rock, a sword, and a shield—He's just a jewel in the middle of a wheel. Virgil's life was a blessing in so many ways to those who knew him, an inspiration to children who imitated him as he performed with the New Gospel Singaleers, with colorful attire reminiscent of the more famous singing groups of older times.

With his God-given talents, it was nothing for Virgil to challenge groups such as the Mighty Clouds of Joy, or the Canton Spirituals, when performing on the same program.

It is with the same pride that I take this opportunity to honor a man who gave the very best of himself, using his God-given talents to inspire, encourage, and lift the hearts of those who knew him. Virgil will be missed immensely, now that he has joined the heavenly choir to sing with the angels of God.

His songs, and the spirit in which he sang them, will sing out in our hearts forever.

TRIBUTE TO HISPANAS ORGANIZED FOR POLITICAL EQUITY (HOPE)

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 14, 1997, Hispanas Organized for Political Equity [HOPE] Education and Leadership Fund's Sixth Annual Symposium is taking place in California's 33d Congressional District during Women's History Month. In honor of this important event on the floor of Congress, I am proclaiming March 14, 1997, as Latina History Day.

The HOPE Education and Leadership Fund is committed to improving the social, political, and economic status of Latinas in their workplace, homes, schools, and community. Historically, HOPE has educated women and the community about domestic violence, the depiction of Latinos in the media, and the need to break the glass ceiling in employment. This year's symposium will address education and the superhighway, violence in our schools, and women's health concerns.

The proclamation of Latina History Day during Women's History Month memorializes the important role Latinas play in American society. It recognizes the work and sacrifices of prior generations, celebrates the growing accomplishments of contemporary Latinas, and lays the foundation for future generations. Organizations like HOPE are critical cornerstones to the educational and leadership training programs we need to meet the challenges of today and the future.

I commend the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund for their commitment to Latinas and our children and, in their honor, proclaim March 14, 1997, as Latina History Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAN TIMOTEO CREEK ASSESSMENT ELIMINATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ACT OF 1997

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my friend and colleague, Congressman GEORGE BROWN in introducing the San Timoteo Creek Assessment Elimination and Environmental Restoration Act of 1997.

This important legislation will allow the San Timoteo Creek flood control project to move forward while eliminating proposed local assessments. This act will also provide the added flexibility for the local sponsor—County of San Bernardino, to make the project more environmentally sensitive.

Let me briefly explain what this straightforward legislation will accomplish. This bill will allow the local sponsor of the San Timoteo Creek Project to repay its 25 percent cost share to the Federal Government over a 30 year period instead of the traditional payment when construction begins. The generic authority to repay the local sponsor cost share over