

all Interns." Indeed I am certain that his unsurpassed sarcasm, his indecipherable "Southern" dialect and his unique charm will cause him to rise to the highest levels of leadership and success. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and I thank him for all that he has done and meant to me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 30, 1999, I was inadvertently detained and did not vote on rollcall No. 354 or 355. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both.

HONORING JAN DUKE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Duke for receiving the prestigious Milken Educator Award. Duke teaches fourth grade at John Adam's Elementary School in the Madera Unified School District.

Jan Duke was one of four teachers in California to receive this honor, and one of 160 to be honored nationwide. She is the first from Madera Unified School District to be given this award.

Beyond her role as an exemplary teacher, Jan is a skilled writer and presenter. Duke has written two books on teaching fourth-graders and co-authored, with her husband, a book on teaching individuals to read. She also advises national scholastic book clubs on what literature would be best for children. In addition, she conducts 5 to 20 seminars annually for fourth-grade teachers nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Duke for her achievements and service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jan many more years of continued success and happiness.

CONCERN FOR RESIDENTS OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the forefront a very important issue that has not been given the attention it deserves by this Congress. More than 9,000 American citizens, living on the island of Vieques, live in fear. But, it isn't a fear of drug trafficking. It isn't a fear of violent gangs or terrorism either. Our fellow citizens live in fear of our own military, and I would like to explain why.

For more than 50 years, the residents of Vieques, Puerto Rico, an island encompassing fewer than 52 square miles of which the Navy

occupies 35 square miles, have had to endure live military ammunition and bombing exercises. Vieques is the largest area in the Western hemisphere used for military exercises with live ammunition, and the only place where bombing still occurs near a substantial civilian population. For years, the residents of Vieques have expressed their concerns about the negative impact that the bombing and live ammunition exercises are having on their health and safety. Unfortunately, their voices have not been heard and that concerns me. On April 19, 1999, the people of Vieques raised their voices once again, this time in despair. It was on that date, during routine military practices conducted by two Navy F/A-18 Hornet jets, that two bombs were accidentally dropped near an observation post manned by civilian security guards. As a result, a security guard was killed and four others were wounded. I believe that if the citizens of Puerto Rico had equal representation in Congress, legitimate concerns for their safety and health would have been better safeguarded.

Since that accident, the Navy has temporarily ceased military maneuvers while an investigation is carried out, and Puerto Rico's Governor, the Honorable Pedro Rossello, appointed a Commission that investigated the incident and reported its findings to the President's Special Panel on Military Operations on Vieques on July 9, 1999. The Governor's Commission unanimously concluded that it is not possible to protect the people of Vieques, or the environment, from the extreme danger posed by live ammunition testing. The Navy argues that Vieques is a unique site for training exercises with live ammunition, making it essential to our National security. I've always worked to protect our National security, however, it should never be achieved at the expense of the personal rights or safety of our own citizens. The only solution may be to end permanently the military's live ammunition testing on Vieques.

No one in this House would tolerate what the military is doing on Vieques if it were taking place in our Congressional district, and neither would our constituents. Imagine trying to explain to the voters why they should welcome the bombardment of their communities with live ammunition. Try convincing your constituents to accept, and in return thank you, for having uranium-coated bombs dropped within a few miles of their homes, schools, hospitals, and public parks. Imagine asking your constituents to accept having their children attend classrooms which reverberate during the school day as live shells explode nearby. No one in this chamber would permit the continuation of a practice by our own military that endangers the lives of the very people we have been elected to represent.

There's a reality about Puerto Rico, one that is wonderful and abhorrent at the same time. The people of Puerto Rico are truly American citizens, part of America's great democracy, and that is wonderful. However, the people of Puerto Rico currently lack the single most important tool that our democracy provides, two Senators and a voting delegation in the House of Representatives, and that is abhorrent. It is precisely because the people of Puerto Rico don't have equal representation in Congress that they need our help now. If they had real representation here, the military would have the proper incentive to solve the problem of live ammunition testing on Vieques. I trust that

my colleagues in the House of Representatives would agree with me. If this practice were occurring in any one of the fifty States, I know we would all stand together to oppose it. We owe our fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico the same level of respect. They deserve nothing less. In fact, their safety and their lives may depend on it.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to take a hard look at this issue.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF LOMITA

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Lomita, California. Lomita is celebrating its 35th year as an incorporated city. The City of Lomita is widely recognized for its rustic, small-town atmosphere amongst the larger cities of the South Bay.

Lomita was first established as a German farming community in 1907. The farming community continued to grow throughout the years, and in June of 1964, after several unsuccessful attempts, Lomita was finally incorporated as a city.

While surrounding communities have experienced tremendous growth, Lomita has remained relatively unchanged since incorporation. Lomita's small town attributes attract young families in search of a safe, close knit community. Lomita is a culturally diverse community and it also boasts one of the lowest crime rates in the South Bay region. It is an ideal place to raise a family and live the American Dream, and many of its residents are homeowners and small business entrepreneurs.

The future looks bright for the city of Lomita. Preparations are currently underway for an ambitious revitalization of Lomita's downtown area to ensure that Lomita maintains its small-town atmosphere.

Lomita has thrived over the last 35 years, and as we enter the 21st century, Lomita will continue to stand out as a small, unique town of the South Bay. I congratulate the City of Lomita and its 20,000 residents on this milestone.

IN HONOR OF MYLDRED JONES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Myldred Jones, an Orange County resident, and a great humanitarian, on this her ninetieth birthday.

Myldred moved to California from Pennsylvania with her family when she was four years old. Growing up during the Depression, the Jones family experienced the poverty that affected millions of Americans. Even so, Myldred's parents, who were also her greatest mentors, would share whatever food they had with other people. Although the Jones' family was also poor, they seemed to always have enough to give to others.

Early on, Myldred learned the lessons of humanitarianism, of unconditional love, and of providing and caring for others. These gifts were to become the very essence of her life.

Myldred began her career as a high school teacher and, later, became a juvenile probation officer. During World War II, she was one of the first eight WAVES from California. Her military career included duty as a Special Assistant to Commandant 14th Naval District, Assistant Director of the Department of Welfare, and a faculty member on international relations for the Armed Forces Graduate School. She was also the Naval Liaison Officer for both the United Nations and the National Red Cross. When she retired in 1959, she was the director of Social Services of the Navy Relief Society.

After her retirement, Myldred became active in the Civil Rights Movement and marched with Martin Luther King from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. In 1969, she joined Cesar Chavez on his marches for the United Farm Workers. Her work in the Watts district of Los Angeles, California, earned her recognition from Governor Ronald Reagan, who employed her as a consultant on youth affairs.

Recognizing the need that many young people had for assistance with different problems, Myldred developed the first "hotline" for troubled teenagers. Many of the teenagers were runaways or "throwaways" whose parents had either forced them to leave their homes, or whose parents had left them. With no place to go, the teenagers were in a desperate situation.

Myldred's deep compassion to help these teenagers, led her to sell her home and purchase another home which could house runaway children on a temporary basis. Out of this need was born the Casa Youth Shelter which has since its inception in 1978, has assisted thousands of "lost youth" find their way back home and into the mainstream of society.

The philosophy behind Myldred's home for teenagers comes from a belief that all of the children can turn their lives into a success if they have the love and attention which had been denied to them all of their lives.

Housing twelve youths at a time for a period of two weeks, Casa Youth Shelter, has become a safe haven for many youth whose lives were on the line. To this day, Myldred meets each of the youth and talks with them. Myldred is regarded by many as "our own Mother Teresa" for her life has been dedicated to taking care of others who are in need. She is an angel amongst us.

Colleagues, please join me today in wishing Myldred Jones a very happy birthday and also in congratulating her on her life which has been lived to the fullest.

TRIBUTE TO KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco passed away and his son, Sidi Mohammad ben Al Hassan, assumed the throne of Morocco.

King Hassan II reigned over the Kingdom of Morocco for thirty-eight years after succeeding

his father as monarch on March 3, 1961. Under his leadership Morocco has undergone a significant transformation. King Hassan fostered the evolution of a more democratic constitutional government, encouraged tolerance for ethnic and religious minorities in Morocco, and made measurable improvement in respect for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of foreign policy, King Hassan played an important role personally in advancing the Middle East peace process. He was instrumental in bringing together leaders of Israel and the Arab states on a number of different occasions. It is significant that in September 1993 Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stopped in Morocco to thank King Hassan on their return to Israel from Washington, D.C., following the signature of the Oslo Accords on the South Lawn of the White House.

The relationship between Morocco and the United States has flourished under the leadership of King Hassan. Our association with Morocco are long and friendly, having begun in 1777 when Morocco was one of the first nations formally to recognize the Government of the United States of America. Ten years later, in 1787, our two countries negotiated a Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which was the first such treaty concluded by our young nation. The unique relationship of our countries was strengthened and deepened under the leadership of King Hassan.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in extending my deepest condolences to the Moroccan people on the passing of King Hassan and also in extending to Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed ben Al Hassan our congratulations on his accession to the throne. I wish the new King well as he assumes the awesome responsibility for the welfare and well-being of the Moroccan people.

RECOGNIZING RODGER B. JENSEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rodger Jensen for receiving the 1999 Community Salute honor. Mr. Jensen is being honored for his dedication and leadership in agriculture, and the local community.

Rodger Jensen is President of S and J Ranch in Madera, a farm management company that began in 1950 with 2,600 acres of open land, dry-farmed for barley and wheat. Today, S and J farms citrus, nuts, and olives in Madera, Merced, Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties. The company also manages thousands of acres of permanent crops and boasts a commercial citrus and pistachio nursery and an insectary. In order to ensure the success of these crops and entities, S and J employs 97 full-time non-harvest personnel and as many as 500 harvest employees.

Rodger's work at S and J Ranch is not his only contribution to Valley agriculture. Twenty years ago, Rodger, along with several faculty, alumni, and friends of California State University, Fresno, had a million-dollar idea. They wanted to start a foundation that would benefit, promote, and support the School of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, along with

its programs. The supporters set out to raise \$1 million in endowed scholarships. Today, their success is apparent, as the Ag One Endowment Fund stands at over \$1.4 million and indications are that \$2 million will be reached by the end of this year.

Rodger Jensen, a 1941 Fresno State graduate, has touched the lives of countless young people through his involvement in Ag One, the School and University, Valley Children's Hospital, the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, the Boy Scouts, and many other organizations.

Rodger Jensen is also involved in many professional affiliations including: The California Pistachio Commission—Board of Directors, the California Chamber of Commerce—Board of Directors, the California Commission of Agriculture, the California Pistachio Association—President, Chairman, the Fresno City & County Chamber of Commerce—Board of Directors, the Fresno County Farm Bureau—Board of Directors, and the Western Pistachio Association—Board of Directors.

Mr. Jensen has contributed to the agriculture food business by serving on many boards. In previous years, he served on the boards of Mid-Cal Citrus Exchange, Sunkist Growers, and the Fruit Growers Supply.

During his many years of involvement in agriculture and the community Rodger has received numerous awards. He was given the School of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award in 1980, the Fresno Foundation Award in 1989, and the FSU Alumni Arthur Safstrom Award in 1995. Mr. Jensen was also named Ag USA Citrus Farmer of the Year in 1967.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Rodger Jensen for his dedication to the community and the agriculture industry. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Jensen many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OMNIBUS MERCURY EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act of 1999, a bill to reduce mercury emissions by 95 percent nationwide. I am pleased to be joined by 27 of my colleagues who have agreed to be original cosponsors of this important legislation.

Although mercury is a naturally occurring element, it has built up to dangerous levels in the environment. Mercury pollution impairs the reproductive and nervous systems of fish and wildlife, and can be extremely harmful when ingested by humans. It is especially dangerous to pregnant women, children and developing fetuses. Ingesting mercury can severely damage the central nervous system, causing numbness in extremities, impaired vision, kidney disease, and, in some cases, even death.

According to EPA's "Mercury Study Report to Congress," exposure to mercury poses a significant threat to human health, and concentrations of mercury in the environment are increasing. The report concludes that mercury pollution in the U.S. comes primarily from a