

I believe embodies Joe Serna's legacy as a political role model and as a leader. Botz wrote, "Most citizens look at the day when citizen-politicians governed us. Serna was a living and working embodiment of those days. He was brash and arrogant as he looked after Sacramento and its citizens' best interests in the larger political level. But on an interpersonal level, he expressed deep concern and intense compassion of all River City citizens, particularly the poor and disadvantaged."

Joe Serna possessed an unparalleled commitment to helping others. He fought for the underdog and befriended those who needed him the most. For that Mr. Speaker, I will always look up to Joe Serna.

H.R. 2668, STREAMLINING FEC

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, let's lift FEC reform out of legislative limbo where it has been for twenty years. Before we leave for the year let's pass H.R. 2668, a bill to streamline FEC procedures and improve FEC reporting.

The bill is not controversial—it has broad support on both sides of the aisle and it is needed. There is simply no reason not to pass this bill today.

In September I wrote to Speaker HASTERT requesting that this bill be placed on the suspension calendar. It is a good bill—sponsored by House Administration Chair BILL THOMAS—and voted unanimously out of the House Administration Committee earlier this year.

The bill contains most of the provisions in the bill introduced earlier this year. It was prepared with the support and assistance of the six Republican and Democratic FEC Commissioners. In addition to the support of the Commission, H.R. 2668 is supported by Members on both sides of the aisle.

It would: Improve disclosure of State activity; make it easier for contributors to comply with the law; remove obsolete provisions; and broaden candidate's commercial lending options.

Earlier this year, we voted on this bill on the floor of the House. Like almost every one of my Democratic colleagues and a broad group of Republicans, I voted against the bill. I voted against FEC reform because it would have blocked a vote on the bi-partisan campaign finance reform bill sponsored by Reps. SHAYS and MEEHAN. FEC reform deserves our support on its own merits. It should not continue to be used as a pawn in the larger debate.

In my opinion, FEC reform should not have been a part of that debate. That is because—as Chairman THOMAS has repeatedly stressed, H.R. 2668 is not about campaign finance reform—H.R. 2668 is about making the routine procedural reforms that are needed over the course of time by all agencies.

Unlike other Executive branch agencies that request and receive noncontroversial legislative changes to aid in the efficient and effective operation of the agency—changes requested by the FEC simply don't happen.

For over twenty years, the FEC has annually sent to Congress requested statutory changes. And each year—just like in our re-

cent campaign finance debate—provisions that are needed and have no real opposition become tangled up in our debate about how to ensure the integrity of our campaign finance system.

But this year we can do it differently. We have a solid FEC reform bill that combines needed changes into one package. We have bipartisan support for the bill.

If we fail to act it means that the work that we did in the House Administration Committee to create this worthwhile bill was just a cynical game to defeat comprehensive campaign finance reform. I have asked Speaker HASTERT to bring H.R. 2668 to the floor on the suspension calendar—and I urge him to do so again today. FEC reform standing alone is worthwhile. We have the chance to pass it and we should.

HONORING DR. JACK TURNER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jack Turner for 30 years of service to Middle Tennessee State University as an associate professor of political science.

Dr. Turner has had a profound effect on many Middle Tennesseans. His patience and perseverance with the teaching profession have been invaluable assets to the Middle Tennessee community. Over the years, many members of my staff have had the benefit of his guidance. I, too, have had that privilege as a student, as well as being a colleague through my own teaching experience at Middle Tennessee State University.

I ask today that we recognize this man for his 30 years of achievement and dedication to the teaching profession and to Middle Tennessee State University. He has certainly benefitted young minds with his vast knowledge and experience. As a representative of Middle Tennessee, I feel the same regret that the community feels to see Dr. Turner retire. I am, however, confident that he will contribute to the community in many other ways. So, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives today to join me in wishing him well in his future endeavors.

REVERSE TREND OF HATRED AND ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976. Twenty-three years later, in 1999, African Americans attending this University, in the shadow of our nation's capital, are receiving racist hate mail and threats.

Is it possible that instead of keeping our forward impetus as the most enlightened society in the world, the ignorant have taken the reins and are steering us backwards into the new millennium?

Well, recently, Florida Governor Jeb Bush closed the door of opportunity to many minori-

ties by overturning affirmative action in state college admissions. This will result in exclusion; preventing us from realizing our full potential as a nation and I urge the Board of Regents to reject this action.

I also call upon this entire nation to reverse the trend toward the subversion of diversity and equality. Let's take the reins and steer this nation forward.

CLOVIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SALUTE TO BUSINESS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Clovis Chamber of Commerce 1999 Salute to Business honorees for their hard work and accomplishments. The honorees are: Anlin Industries, N&N Boats, Vicki Dobbs, and David Maestas.

Anlin Industries is being honored as the 1999 Industrial Company of the Year. Anlin Industries is a vinyl window and door manufacturer that started eight years ago in October of 1991 with four employees, and no sales. In 1996, Anlin sales were \$9.6 million with a seven figure net profit before taxes with 100 employees. This year Anlin Industries now has 183 employees with \$21 million in sales. President Thomas Vidmar attributes all of Anlin Industries success to the hard work of its employees.

Anlin's mission is to be the preeminent replacement window and door manufacturer in the country, providing their customers with the highest quality products and service in the business. Earning a fair return on investment and continually reinvesting those profits in their people and the business, ensuring Anlin's long term success and career opportunities for generations to come.

N&N Boats and Mr. Rich Lyons is the 1999 Small Business of the Year Award recipient. Rich Lyons has been in the boating industry since 1977. He established N&N Boats in April 1994 when N&N Marine closed after 27 years in the Fresno/Clovis area. Initially the business was repairing boats and selling parts. Today they have a line of new boats and accessories. N&N Boats has assisted Western Directory with the sponsorship of the Chamber Golf Tournament for the past two years.

Vicki Dobbs is the 1999 Professional Business Woman of the year. Vicki is a Realtor, and a native of Fresno graduating from California State University, Fresno as one of the first women in ag-education in the Valley. Vicki is a strong advocate for agriculture and the need for broad based agricultural education programs. She supports the Ag Advisory Committee, the Clovis FFA, and serves as a Director on the Board for the Foundation for Clovis Schools. Vicki also supports the Clovis Police Activities League and has been involved with the Clovis High Ag Boosters. Vicki is an Executive Ambassador for the Clovis Chamber of Commerce and was elected to the Board of Directors. She has been voted the Best Realtor in Clovis for the past several years by readers of the Clovis Independent. Vicki Dobbs is the top producing sales associate for the Clovis office of Guarantee Real Estate. She is definitely tuned into Clovis and its unique way of life.

David Maestas is the Einar Cook Leadership Award recipient. The Einar Cook Leadership Award was developed to recognize those who step forward with a vision and are willing to work for what they believe in. David Maestas served eight years in the Army in the Military police. He then became active in the Title-Escrow Industry where he received the top sales award in the President's Diamond Club five years in a row. He also was acting President in the Four Seasons Leads Group and President of the Optimist Club. David and his wife Jodie moved to Fresno in 1994 both working for First American Title Company. In just a few years, David and Jodie held a tremendous percentage of sales for the Clovis-Fresno area. With their involvement with the Clovis Chamber and the Clovis area, they were offered a new office location in Clovis, providing they could combine their efforts and increase sales by 5 percent. The Clovis office became the number 1 Office in Market share in Clovis and has been voted the Best Title-Escrow office four years in a row by the Clovis Independent. David received the Clovis Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award and was designated as the Ambassador of the Year for the Chamber. David founded the Chamber's Professional Executives Network and served as President of the Miss Clovis Scholarship Association. He served as the 1998 Chairman Elect for the Clovis Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served as President in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor these recipients as they are being honored at the Clovis Chamber of Commerce Salute to Business Luncheon. I want to congratulate Anlin Industries, N&N Boats, Vicki Dobbs, and David Maestas for their hard work and dedication to the community and the Clovis Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF FT. GREENE'S JEWELS, GEORGIANNA TURNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as we close out the last Congressional session of the 20th century, I want to recognize the century of achievements by one of Brooklyn's finest residents, Georgianna Turner.

A native of St. Anne Parish in Jamaica, she was just a young girl of 18, when she immigrated to the United States with her older sister, Lee, and young niece, Vera around 1915. While she has lived in the U.S. for 84 years, she has been a resident of Brooklyn's Fort Greene neighborhood for 41 years. During these four decades, Mrs. Turner has been an active participant in the life of her community.

While the Ft. Greene community was recently described by New York Magazine as undergoing "a new residential renaissance", the neighborhood was a different place in the '50's and '60's when Georgianna Turner first moved to South Oxford Street. Many of the brownstones had been converted to rooming houses and flop houses making everyday life quite a challenge. Mrs. Turner and a com-

mitted band of neighbors resolved to reclaim the block and worked tirelessly for decades to establish the Ft. Greene neighborhood, and especially South Oxford Street, as one of the premiere blocks in Brooklyn. Working with Mr. Percy Buchanan who was, then, the head of the South Oxford Street Block Association, along with other long term residents like Nancy Johnson, Hazel Slaughter, and William Turner (no relation). Georgianna Turner went from block to block galvanizing community support, exposing drug activity, and vociferously advocating for the changes that would make the neighborhood a better place to live.

Mrs. Turner remembers the years when she had to endure repeated vandalism to her home in response to her activism. She risked her life on the line by reporting drug activity. Ever fearless, Georgianna Turner and her cohorts in the South Oxford Street Block Association were not to be stopped. They worked hand-in-hand with local politicians, the police department, the sanitation department, the Board of Health, local churches—especially Queen of All Saints (where she has been a faithful member of 40 years), Lafayette Presbyterian Church—and whoever else would help them clean up the blocks from South Elliott to Clinton Avenue. She especially recalls their concerted effort to "get rid of the Atlantic Avenue meat market that was the scourge of the neighborhood, get the bums off the street, and get the trash cleaned up".

Before real estate speculators and the Brooklyn Academy of Music was envisioned, the quiet, determined approach of residents like Georgianna Turner paved the way for the real-estate and economic boom that Ft. Greene is experiencing today. Though she never sought fame or fortune for her community activism, Georgianna Turner has received countless accolades for her valiant efforts. Her legacy has been to create a clean, safe, stable community of which she and her colleagues in the South Oxford Street Block Association can be proud.

On August 18, 1999, Georgianna Turner celebrated her 100th birthday. I want to salute this "grand old lady" as we end the last session of Congress in the 20th century. She leaves Brooklyn with a legacy that will endure long into the next century. I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the splendid work of one of Ft. Greene's finest jewels, Georgianna Turner.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
RICHARD E. SCHUMACHER ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYS-
TEM

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from the state of Ohio, Mr. Richard E. Schumacher. On December 31, 1999, Richard Schumacher will retire from his position as Executive Director of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

For thirty-nine years, Richard Schumacher has been a valuable asset to Ohio's retirees

and his colleagues at PERS. He joined the staff at PERS in 1960, and since then has worked diligently to serve the state of Ohio and ensure that PERS remains strong far into the future. Beginning his tenure with PERS as an accountant, he steadily advanced through various positions including assistant director, controller, and deputy director. Finally, in 1991, Richard Schumacher was appointed as the Executive Director of the system.

Throughout his career, Richard Schumacher has upheld the high standards of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. In performing the duties of Executive Director, he has demonstrated the kind of integrity that Ohioans expect from our government leaders. His hard work for nearly four decades has helped PERS flourish into one of the premier public employee retirement systems in the country. Under his strong leadership, PERS assets have grown from \$440 million to \$53 billion. In the thirty-nine years Richard Schumacher has worked for PERS, he has watched the system grow to more than 350 employees, 125,000 beneficiaries, and 371,000 contributing public employees. Clearly, Richard Schumacher has undertaken successfully the task of building and growing PERS for Ohio's public employees.

Richard Schumacher is an outstanding public servant and a standard bearer in his profession. He has served on numerous boards and associations including terms as president and vice president of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association, and the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is evident that Richard Schumacher has given of his time and energy to assist Ohio's public retirees. For his efforts, we certainly owe him a debt of gratitude that mere words cannot sufficiently express. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Richard E. Schumacher. On the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him all the best in the future.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET
REVOLUTION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the tenth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia.

In 1989, the people of Czechoslovakia ended 41 years of dictatorship in a non-violent effort of civil disobedience. The moral authority of the Czech and Slovak peoples overwhelmed the discredited regime clinging to power after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

After World War II, the communist dictatorship installed in Prague sought to stamp out the rich tradition of democracy and intellectual debate in Czechoslovakia by imprisoning tens of thousands of dissidents and resistance