

ago with consultants from Oakland leading facilitation on behalf of the Department of Defense Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office, managed by the Oakland Electronic Commerce Resource Center Program.

This is an ongoing requirement as business rules, business process scenarios, and enabling technologies change constantly.

Having the ability to conduct electronic commerce is a requirement for any business that is serving government customers. It is also a requirement for members of defense and other agency supply chains. The effort by supply chain leaders to make it possible for all suppliers to participate is to be commended.

I am proud that our community can catalyze progress on behalf of suppliers, many of which are minority, small disadvantaged businesses. Electronic commerce and eBusiness can increase access by small- and medium-sized businesses to new and expanding market opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
KATY GEISSERT

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Torrance Mayor, Katy Geissert. Katy, along with Toyota Motor Sales USA, will be honored tomorrow night at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation's 50th anniversary gala.

Katy is a pioneer in South Bay politics. In 1974, Katy became the first woman elected to the Torrance City Council. After serving three terms, she became the first woman elected Mayor of the City of Torrance. Katy paved the way for women to hold public office in Torrance. A resident of Torrance for nearly a half century, Katy has been actively involved in the local community.

Her contributions to the Torrance community are numerous. Katy was the Founding President of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, past chairman of the Torrance Salvation Army Advisory Board, consultant to the South Bay/Harbor Volunteer Bureau, and charter board member of the Torrance League of Women Voters.

I commend Katy for her tireless work on behalf of the South Bay. The community she represented is a better place to live because of her service. Congratulations on this much deserved honor.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMAS  
THORNTON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I had an opportunity to participate in a day of celebration and remembrance of the great contribution to agriculture and the economy in general made by the late John Thomas Thornton, Jr., of the community of Parrott, Georgia. If you are not familiar with the name, you are not alone. Even in the area of southwest

Georgia where he lived and farmed most of his life, many people are not fully aware of his contribution, which impacts our lives even today.

J.T. Thornton invented the peanut shaker, a harvesting device that came into common use in the 1940's. His invention revolutionized the peanut industry. By making the harvesting process faster and more efficient, the peanut shaker contributed greatly to the economic growth of our area of Georgia and, in fact, to the country at large.

Mr. Thornton spent some 40 years developing and perfecting his invention. It was a magnificent achievement. The history of this achievement was beautifully presented in an essay written by a student from Parrott, Bonnie West, who won high honors when she entered the paper in the National History Day competition. Her accomplishment helped revive community interest in Mr. Thornton's invention, which he called the "Victory Peanut Harvester."

The people of Parrott, including members of the Thornton family, are establishing a museum on the invention of the peanut shaker, and sponsored the day of celebration that included a parade and a number of other events. It was an exciting and enjoyable day, and it helped bring wider recognition of what this native southwest Georgian achieved.

Although farmers did not have any more spare time back then than they do today, J.T. Thornton somehow found the time to apply his practical knowledge of farming, and his extraordinary grasp of engineering and mechanics, to overcome all of the difficulties he must have encountered until he produced something that raised the quality of life for countless Americans. This is a story we are proud of in southwest Georgia, and that can inspire other Americans, especially our young people. Mr. Speaker, it is, therefore, a story I want to share with our colleagues in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO "ACE"  
ALAGNA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, recently, the city of Newark experienced the sad loss of a wonderful community leader whom I was proud to call a friend, Mr. Armando "Ace" Alagna. Publisher of the popular newspaper *The Italian Tribune*, Mr. Alagna distinguished himself through his many humanitarian contributions, not only in our community, but around the globe. Proud of his Italian heritage, he was instrumental in the naming of the Columbus Day holiday, and he transformed the Columbus Day Parade in Newark into one of the largest and most successful in the entire nation. I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the memory of this great patriot and humanitarian and in extending our sympathy to the Alagna family. I submit the beautiful eulogy delivered by his daughter, Marion Fortunato, be included in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

EULOGY, ARMANDO "ACE" ALAGNA

We gather here today . . . in this beautiful church . . . among friends and family to say goodbye to my father, Ace Alagna. There

were few places he cherished more than this. His father helped build it decades ago and he was forever devoted to St. Lucy's and the Blessed Mother. He would swell with pride to see all of you here today, paying last respects, and remembering the life you shared with him in a setting so dear to his heart.

Since my father passed away last week, nearly everyone who has known him has taken a moment to share with me, and the rest of the family, memories they had of him—favors he had done, photos he had taken, laughs they had shared. Seemingly everyone held a cherished memory of him in their heart. Suddenly, I realized how much I shared my father with all of you. He wasn't just a father to me and my sisters; he wasn't just a husband to our mother. He was someone to whom many of you turned. I know how much it meant to him to be able to help in time of trouble and how much he enjoyed celebrating prosperity. The cards, phone calls, prayers, and your presence here today shows my family how much he meant to all of you and we thank you for helping ease the pain of this difficult time.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Ace Alagna's "works" will indeed follow him to his Eternal home and those he left behind will remember his "labours." The people of Italy for whom he organized a one million dollar relief effort—building shelters for the homeless and a children's home, bringing hope to a land ravaged by despair—will remember his labours. The people of Poland—for whom he arranged the delivery of surplus medicinal supplies during a time of terrible disease—will remember his labours. Most importantly, the people of Italian heritage in America—on whose behalf he fought for most of his life—will remember his labours.

Countless families will long treasure the photos he took of their loved ones—weddings and communions, births and baptisms—if the occasion was special, the Italian American community knew who to call: "One Shot Ace." Then, after years spent photographing United States presidents as a member of the White House Press Corps, he bought a struggling weekly newspaper, the *Italian Tribune*, and turned it into the voice of the Italian American people. If an issue concerned the Italian American community, you can be sure Ace had an opinion. More often than not, his ideas met with great success and helped earn for our community the respect and recognition we deserve as major contributors to the American mosaic.

Ethnic pride is a concept most people consider in their spare time. For some, it is a chance to associate with a few friends. For others, it is a hobby to be dusted off a couple of times each year for a few parades and festivals. A few make a genuine effort to make a real contribution. But it takes someone like my father—someone willing to dedicate his life full time to the cause to make a significant difference.

He played a large role in the naming of Columbus Day as a national holiday. He revived the Newark Columbus Day Parade and served as its Executive Director for nearly thirty years. He brought A-list celebrities, huge crowds and millions of dollars of revenue to a city directly in need of an economic and social boost.

All along, my family had a front row seat as we watched this amazing man succeed where others had failed. We watched with awe as he presented awards to American heroes such as Ronald Reagan, Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, and Frank Sinatra. We watched with pride as he was thanked for his efforts. Keys to cities all around the world.

Plaques from organizations which had benefited from his midas touch.

We watched with admiration as Pope John Paul II thanked him for efforts on behalf of the people of Poland. Our hearts swelled as he was made a Knight of Malta, the highest honor the Catholic Church can bestow upon a lay person. His most treasured accolades were presented by the Italian government: Cavaliere della Repubblica D'Italia and the Cavaliere Officiale.

He was the first Italian American to receive the State of Israel Award, presented in recognition of his contributions to the brotherhood of nationalities. He also received the John F. Kennedy Library for Minorities Award, the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award, the Boys' Towns of Italy Humanitarian Award, and the National American Committee on Italian Migration Award. One of his final accolades—the Ellis Island medal of honor—was a fitting cap on his remarkable life. Given to Americans of ethnic origin who exemplify the ideals of our melting pot society, the Medal of Honor brought closure to a life spent living the American dream.

There is an old Italian proverb: Chi fa buona vita, fa buona morte. He who lives well, dies well. A good life makes a good death. Few people ever squeezed more life out of their time on this Earth than did my father. He was a Renaissance Man in the truest sense of the word. When he was taking pictures, he was an artist. When he was acting in films, he was an entertainer. When he fought for Italian American causes, he was a leader. Most importantly, to his family, he was a provider.

"His four girls"—he called us. "Ace and his four queens"—his friends would joke. Through all the years, his love and complete devotion to his family were his most admirable qualities. He lost both of his parents at a very young age. He grew up without the strong bond of a family. Somehow, he instinctively recognized the importance of family and his life became a testament to the limitless boundaries of a man's love for his family. I realize now the priceless gifts he has given me. Not only my appreciation for my culture and heritage, but also for the sanctity of family.

My father's love for "his four girls" was boundless and we knew we'd never want for anything while he watched over us. He regarded his grandchildren as gifts from God, beautiful children able to carry on his legacy long after he left this life. But if it is possible for one man to love someone even more than my father loved any of us, I believe his feelings for his wife would qualify. In "Paradiso", Dante described his love for Beatrice as a love that moved the sun and the stars. Ace and Josie had this kind of love. As you all know, he was at times a gruff man. And, he has even been known to raise his voice from time to time in order to make a point. But you should have seen the tenderness he displayed towards Josie in the quiet times. When they were alone, away from the spotlight, away from the responsibilities and the pressures. While fifty-five years is certainly a long time to spend with someone, I'm sure Ace would forego an eternity of Heavenly bliss for one more moment with his beloved Josephine. I hope each of you one day experiences the kind of love we each received for a lifetime from our father.

And he dreamed,

and beheld a ladder set up on the earth,  
and the top of it reached to heaven;  
and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

I see this ladder going to Heaven. I see my father, not as he has been these past two years, crippled and betrayed by a broken body. I see him as he was while we were all

growing up. A man of boundless energy, enthusiasm and exuberance.

We see him as he rises up that ladder to see what's happening on the other side. I see my father photographing everyone from presidents and heads of state to athletes and entertainers. I see him laughing with his celebrity pals as he gave them a copy of the paper and set up another photo. When he saw an opportunity, he pursued it with uncommon zeal. Rarely did he ever miss a photo he wanted. My sisters and I used to tease him by saying that the only person he hadn't photographed was Jesus Christ. Well . . . by now I'm sure he's snapped Jesus, the Apostles . . . probably the entire Holy Family.

Now, with our blessings and prayers, may he rest in peace.

Good night, Daddy. Sleep well.

#### FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, in May of this year, I was proud to speak in support of Representative SMITH's bill to monitor and eliminate sex trafficking here in the U.S. and abroad. After an arduous six year struggle to address the problem of sex industries worldwide with my own bill, I was pleased to see Rep. SMITH's bill pass with strong bipartisan support.

As a result of this successful effort, the U.S. is now in a position to put pressure on other nations to adopt policies that will eradicate sex trafficking practices inside and between their borders. We are also in a position to prosecute and punish the traffickers themselves and thereby put an end to coordinated kidnapping and prostitution rings.

In the wake of this victory, however, there is still a great deal of work to be done. Over the past six years, it has become abundantly clear to me that the phenomenon of trafficking of women and children will never be fully eliminated until we develop safe shelters, psychological services and reintegration programs for returning sex trafficking victims. This amendment, offered by Rep. BERNIE SANDERS, strives to respond to this growing problem by granting assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who provide shelter and reintegration assistance to women and children victims of international trafficking.

Today, in many countries of transit or destination where victims are found, there is an immediate need for temporary and safe shelter, medical and psychological services, access to translators and appropriate NGO consultations and assistance. But the resources are limited or in some cases, nonexistent.

When there is no shelter available for these victims, governments will often place the victim in detention with criminals and then imme-

diately deport her the next day. The need to deport victims immediately due to the lack of shelter thereby increases the risk that the victim will return to trafficking or a dangerous situation back home. Returning these individuals to a threatening environment is a crime in and of itself, not to mention counterproductive and psychologically damaging to the victim.

Another challenge we face is how to effectively reintegrate victims into their families and community structures after being trafficked abroad. For many victims, they return home with the stigma of prostitution or suffer with HIV/AIDS—only to be rejected by their families and communities. In the worst case scenarios, traffickers anticipate this rejection and attempt to retraffic these victims at the border.

To prevent these repeat offenses and to provide victims with a fighting chance to improve their lives, I rise in strong support of the Sanders-Smith amendment. If approved, this amendment will provide international NGOs with a \$2.5 million increase to ensure that victims escape the trafficking world for good.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO AND BETTY RODRIGUEZ ON THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2000*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Armando and Betty Rodriguez of Fresno, CA, who are this weekend celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. As life-long residents of Fresno and active participants in the community, Armando and Betty have had a tremendous impact on their friends, neighbors and fellow community members over the past 50 years, and have demonstrated a loving devotion to one another that make their successful marriage an inspiring example.

Betty and Armando Rodriguez were both born in Fresno and were high school sweethearts at Edison High School, where they graduated in 1947. They were married on July 15, 1950 and 2 years later, Armando joined the U.S. Air Force, serving for 4 years including a tour of duty in Korea. After being discharged, Armando reunited with Betty in Fresno and completed his undergraduate degree. After being accepted to Lincoln University School of Law in San Francisco, Armando began his legal studies while Betty supported both of them by working in a number of part time jobs.

Armando's deep commitment to serving the public interest through the legal system was demonstrated immediately after he passed the bar exam and returned to California's Central Valley to help establish the California Rural Legal Assistance office in Madera. His commitment to public service has been the hallmark of his career, having served as an elected member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors from 1972 to 1975, and on the bench as a Fresno Municipal Court judge for 20 years, from 1975 to 1995.

Though he officially retired from the bench in 1995, Armando continues to serve in his capacity as a judge when called upon. He has also been actively involved in the Fresno