

Christian and a wonderful South Carolinian, on the thirtieth anniversary of his pastorship.

HONORING A FIGHTING FOURTH MARINE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to recognize a life member of the Fourth Marine Division and the Marine Corps League, Milton Saxon, a resident of Longview, Texas, in the Fourth Congressional District. Milton was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, Fourth Marine Division from March 1944–May 1946 and fought on Iwo Jima.

Milton has put into writing many of his thoughts and memories about his service in World War II, and I am pleased to share some of those with my colleagues today. Milton recalls joining the Marines in March of 1944, at the age of 18, and being trained in San Diego before being shipped out to the Marine Transit Center at Oahu. Here he was attached to the Fourth Marine Division on Maui, where he boarded the L.S.T. #684 to begin their trip toward Japan. Private Saxon and the Fourth Division landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Milton was part of the fifth wave of Marines that hit the beach, where "hell was breaking loose." "Without exception, every friend that was within touching distance of me was either killed or wounded," he writes.

Milton's vivid descriptions of what happened that day and during the ensuing days reveal the confusion, the terror, the courage and the heroism among those young soldiers and officers. On Iwo Jima they encountered situations that they could never have been adequately trained for—yet situations where time and again they rose to the challenge and prevailed in the line of fire. By nightfall of that first day, K Company was down to 150 men. "It is impossible to describe the exact emotions, smells and sounds of this battle," Milton said. "I don't have nightmares any more, but my memory will never die. I will always honor those less fortunate than I was."

Milton describes the ensuing battle over the next 27 days that led to victory at Iwo Jima. Private First Class Milton Saxon was a survivor. The friends he made in the Marines who also survived have remained life-long friends. "There are not many advantages of war, but one advantage is finding someone that is closer than most brothers can ever be," he writes.

Milton now belongs to a Marine Corps Detachment composed of Marines from Desert Storm, Korea, Vietnam and World War II—and even some who are presently serving in the Marines. "Nothing has been lost between the generations of service . . . All of the history, the lore and the tradition of the Marine Corps lives on through each member."

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I want to thank Milton Saxon for taking the time to record his memories of his war experiences and to tell his story with honesty, conviction—and even some humor where appropriate. His first-person account will be handed down through his family for many generations and will provide a powerful legacy of that most important time in world history—and one of the defining times in American history.

He is retired now, having served his country for 37 years in Texas public education as a school administrator, teacher and coach. Milton Saxon is one of those from "the Greatest Generation"—a selfless young man who heeded the call of duty, risked his life for his country, and forever will be an American hero. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of my friend and an outstanding American—Milton Saxon.

IN TRIBUTE TO HOMEGROWN VALUES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 27 years of homegrown values and community service by people who grew a local financial institution into a success enterprise and shepherded its continued investment in Ventura County, California.

When American Commercial Bank opened its doors on September 18, 1973, its founders pledged not only to provide top-quality banking services, but also to use the bank's assets and standing to provide community support to Ventura County's citizens.

It was well-suited to follow through on that promise. Its first chairman, Emilio Lagomarsino, was born in Ventura County around the turn of the century. Emilio Lagomarsino was successful in a variety of pursuits, including farming, wholesale beverage distribution and oil.

Edward T. Martin followed Mr. Lagomarsino to the chairman's chair. He was active in Ojai civic, church and community affairs and founder of a successful outdoor advertising company. His son Tom currently serves on the board.

Allen W. Jue, who succeeded Martin as chairman, also is a native of Ventura County. His father, Walton Jue, opened National Market across from the San Buenaventura Mission in 1928.

Earlier this year, Mr. Jue turned the chairmanship over to Emilio's son, Robert J. Lagomarsino, who many in this chamber remember as a valued colleague. Community service is in his blood. He served in the U.S. Navy, was an Ojai city councilman and mayor, a California state senator, and a congressman from 1974 to 1993.

Chief Executive Officer Gerald J. Lukiewski is not a native California, but he has sunk his roots deep here. He graduated from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks and married a California girl, Nancy. He has been lured by major financial corporations, but prefers community banking so he can spend as much time as possible with Nancy and their eight children.

The sense of family and community to which these men aspire is reflected in the bank's community record. The bank has been actively involved in and contributed to: Community Memorial Hospital; Ventura Chamber Music Festival; Ventura Rotary International; Oxnard Downtowners; Ventura County Museum of History & Art; Casa Latina; Ventura Country Community Foundation; Multiple Sclerosis; United Cerebral Palsy; Working To Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect; Ventura

County Fair; National Park Trust; the Oxnard, Ventura and Camarillo Boyes & Girls Clubs; and the Chamber of Commerce of Ventura, Oxnard and Camarillo. Educational support has also been provided to Oxnard College, Saint Thomas Aquinas College and to the CSU-Northridge Channel Island University Advisory Board.

Only a successful enterprise could provide such strong community support. The bank has completed its most successful year with record growth in capital, loans, deposits and net profit and has paid 67 consecutive quarterly cash dividends to its shareholders. The bank operates six Ventura County offices and, as of June 30, 2000, assets exceeded one-quarter billion dollars.

American Commercial Bank has received numerous national and community recognitions for its accomplishments. The American Bankers Association awarded a community service award to the bank and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation categorized the bank as "well-capitalized," its highest rating of capital adequacy. The prestigious Bauer Financial Group has awarded its highest star rating of "Superior" and "five stars" to the bank for its outstanding financial performance.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing the people who led American Commercial Bank through 27 years of accomplishment and service and wish them and the community they serve continued success.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO ELDERLY CARE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese American Retirement Enterprises (CAREN). This Saturday, more than a thousand CAREN members will celebrate this milestone occasion with its founders and friends at the CAREN Co-op House in Adelphi, Maryland, near the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

It is hard to believe that it was just a decade ago that a group of concerned and committed citizens from the Washington, DC area founded CAREN to aid senior and disabled Chinese Americans by providing programs and opportunities for affordable housing and elder care. CAREN is dedicated to five service goals: (1) housing and transportation, (2) learning and recreational activities, (3) assisted living and bilingual care, (4) security and a sense of belonging, and (5) happiness through voluntary contribution and labor. Additionally, CAREN promotes lifelong learning and the preservation of Chinese culture to be passed on to future generations.

As a strong supporter of CAREN's mission, I am very pleased to have been involved with the organization since its inception. Since its founding 10 years ago, CAREN has founded six outstanding services and facilities. In 1992, the CAREN Senior Self-Help Center was created to sponsor a Saturday activity program for more than a hundred seniors and volunteers. Realizing the vital need for better elderly

housing, the CAREN Development Company was developed in 1994. This company provides housing specifically designed to fit the needs of elderly and disabled persons.

Its first project, the CAREN Co-op House, was completed in 1997 and holds 89 apartment units designed for independent living. In 1998, in order to increase opportunities for lifelong learning the Charles B. Wang Senior Center, established through a \$3 million grant from the Charles B. Wang Foundation, was added to the facilities at the Co-op House. As a part of the senior center, CAREN College was created to provide daily activities and learning. The latest project for this motivated group is the CAREN Bilingual Care Home. This project, begun in 1999, will turn four floors of the Co-op House into an assisted living facility with bilingual staff to allow its residents to "age-in-place."

Since having hatched from merely just an idea to its present reality, CAREN has attracted more than three hundred volunteers from the community who have contributed to this unique project. It continues to enlist new volunteers under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey T. Fong, Founding Chairman and Chairman of the CAREN Development Co., Mr. David J. Lee, CAREN Chairman, Dr. Ho-I Wu, CAREN Vice-Chairman, Mr. James Wang, CAREN President, Mr. Wayne Chang, CAREN Co-op Chairman and President, and Mr. Han H. Tuan, CAREN Co-op Vice Chairman. I would also like to recognize the recipients of the CAREN 10th Anniversary Awards who will be honored on Saturday. They include: Mr. Charles B. Wang, Mr. Ching-Ho Fung, Ms. Pauline W. Tsui, Ms. Rosa Hum, Dr. Guan-Hong Zhou, Ms. Charlotte Shen, Ms. Elizabeth Fong, Mr. Jack K.C. Chiang, Ms. Jean P. Li, Ms. Lee N.K. Mark, Mr. Ku-Hua Shih, Rev. Elen Mu-The Sun, Dr. Joseph Yu-Hsu Wang, Ms. Yi-Hwa Shieh Lu, Mr. Shao-Sun Lu, and Mr. Chia-Ming Phua.

Mr. Speaker, CAREN is a true model for community participation and involvement that has enhanced the quality of life of the senior members of our Asian American community. I applaud CAREN for its dedication, its commitment, and its prosperity since 1990. Each day, CAREN's success is reflected in the happy smiles of each of its residents. I congratulate CAREN on a job well done in the past decade and I wish the organization continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 18th, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and was not able to vote on H. Res. 631, H. Con. Res. 415, and H.R. 3218. Had I been present for rollcall No. 531, rollcall No. 532, and rollcall No. 533, I would have voted "yea" on all of these.

HONORING RETIRED WARRANT OFFICER JAMES BLACKSTONE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next month we will again pay tribute to our nation's veterans, and today I have the privilege of honoring one in particular—James Blackstone of Terrell, TX, a retired Warrant Officer of the United States Navy. James enlisted in the Navy in June, 1934, and retired in 1954. His experiences span the globe—and form part of the fabric of our nation's history.

James volunteered for service in China in 1934 and was granted assignment to the USS *Sacramento*, a seagoing gunboat. His boat rotated coastal patrol duty along the China coast from the Gulf of Chihli to the South China Sea. In 1938 he was assigned duty on the USS *Jacob Jones*, stationed in Villa Franc, France, and in 1939 he was assigned to a new class Destroyer, which was ordered to search and destroy German submarines and their bases on our side of the Atlantic. The next two years his ship was assigned convoy duty, where James served until shortly before the declaration of war in 1941.

In 1942 James was chosen to spend four months in diesel engine school—to train for a new class of diesel-powered ships that represented a great departure from traditional steam propulsion. James graduated at the top of his class and emerged as a leader. He was assigned to the Navy Yard in Vallejo, CA, where a new ship, the USS *Clamp* ARS-33 was under construction. It was a diesel-electric powered Auxiliary Rescue and Salvage Vessel. As Chief Motor Machinist Mate, Warrant Officer, James sketched in detail every part of the ship's engineering plant and oversaw its construction.

The *Clamp* at long last went to sea, its destination the Ellice Islands. The ship was the flagship of the salvage fleet. James participated in the invasion of Tarawa. He remembers being at Midway, Kwajalein, Eniwetock, Majuro, Ulithi and the Philippines. His ship arrived at Saipan on July 4, 1943, where James and the crew inspected and cleared a number of Japanese ships that were sunk during the invasion.

On February 19, 1945, the *Clamp* was part of the fleet that invaded Iwo Jima. "Even for the battle hardened veterans that thought they had seen it all, the battle for the island of Iwo Jima was the most gut wrenching of all that had gone before," James recalls. "The sight of our flag being raised on that mountain top was the most overwhelming, emotional feeling that I have ever experienced in my lifetime."

The *Clamp* departed Iwo Jima some days after the flag raising and arrived at Kerama Retto, about 15 miles from Okinawa in preparation for the invasion. The following days and nights were the longest in his memory, he recalls. Attacks from suicide bombers and suicide boats were a constant threat. The memories of specific episodes James would rather not dwell on.

Okinawa and the Atolls of Kerama Retto were virtually secure when the *Clamp* received

orders to return to Pearl Harbor in preparation for the invasion of Japan. On arrival, they were directed to proceed to a shipyard in Portland, Oregon—where James would meet up again with the "love of his life," Virginia, who was working in a defense plant in Seattle.

James and Virginia quickly married and enjoyed a "fifty-year love life, short of 3 months," James says. Virginia died in 1995, and it is evident that James misses her greatly. James resigned his commission for two months following the War—but was not happy. He reenlisted as a chief petty officer and handled responsibilities of an officer until his retirement in 1954. In 1956 he applied for work with the General Services Administration, Design and Construction Division, Public Buildings Service. He started work as a mechanical-electrical engineer and retired in 1973.

James is now in his 80's and has taken the time to record his enlisted experiences and to share those with me. He has lived a life of integrity and has fought the good fight. He is a man of honor who was devoted to his country, to his fellow citizens, and to his wife. In short, Mr. Speaker, James Blackstone is a great American and a real American hero—and I am proud to call him my friend and to honor him today.

HONORING JAMES RIZZUTO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to a remarkable public servant, the Honorable James T. Rizzuto. Jim is stepping down as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, a position he was appointed to in January of 1999. He has served the State of Colorado well and I would at this time like to honor his service.

Jim began his career in public service by first serving as a First Lieutenant Infantry Commander from 1969 to 1971. His experience in the military as well as his educational background helped to prepare him for the leadership responsibilities he would later take on in public office. After graduating with a degree in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Jim went on to the American Graduate School of International Management, where he received his MBA in economics and finance.

In 1982, Jim ran and was elected to the Colorado State Senate where he served for 18 years. During his tenure in the State Senate, he served as a member of the Joint Budget Committee for 12 years. His work in the Colorado legislature earned him the LaJunta Community Service Award in 1994 and Colorado Business Journal also named him one of the top 10 effective legislators.

Jim has served his community, State, and Nation admirably. On behalf of the State of Colorado and the U.S. Congress, I would like to thank Jim for his outstanding commitment to public service and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.