

TRIBUTE TO PMI GROUP, INC.

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the new world headquarters for PMI Group, Inc. in Walnut Creek, California. Employees began moving in on August 19, 2002 while construction workers were putting the finishing touches on their new state-of-the-art energy efficient building. PMI Plaza includes the new seven-story, 195,000 square foot building, a five-story parking garage, a large outdoor lunchtime dining area, and 15,000 square feet of retail space. This Plaza, located across the street from the Pleasant Hill BART station and near the intersection of highway 680 and Treat Boulevard, is part of Contra Costa County's Redevelopment agency's plan for creating more transit oriented development. The Agency's plan calls for the construction of new businesses and housing, including new affordable housing units, in-filled around BART stations, which is key to reducing sprawl and air pollution. PMI Plaza exemplifies this smart growth plan and should be a model for growth around the country. I am thrilled to welcome them to our East Bay community.

TO HONOR LAURO AND MARGARITA GARCIA, RECIPIENTS OF THE 12TH ANNUAL PROFILES OF SUCCESS HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize two outstanding citizens who have been honored for their leadership qualities and service to their community. On September 6th, Mr. and Mrs. Lauro and Margarita Garcia were honored by their peers at the annual Profiles of Success Hispanic Leadership Awards presentation in Phoenix, Arizona. This event, coordinated by Valle del Sol, a local non-profit community based organization, kicks off National Hispanic Heritage Month in Arizona and is now in its thirteenth year of honoring worthy individuals.

Lauro and Margarita met during his service in the U.S. Air Force, after which they moved to Phoenix where Lauro began his studies at Arizona State Teachers College. They moved to Guadalupe in 1960 and began organizing the community by teaching Catholic catechism classes in their home. What started as three students quickly grew to 165 every Saturday.

In December 1964, they founded the Guadalupe Organization, which became the voice of its citizens in the absence of an elected town government. The following year, a small building was purchased and an office was opened to assist residents by distributing food, establishing a postal sub-station and registering voters. This office would become the first Office of Economic Opportunity in the state of Arizona to help establish Guadalupe's first credit union.

In 1963, citizens of Guadalupe were granted the first-ever voting precinct within the town's

boundaries, by Maricopa County, after extensive lobbying by the Guadalupe Organization. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz recognized Lauro for his dedication in improving Guadalupe.

Margarita organized a dental clinic for citizens in the mid-70s by seeking the help of volunteer dentists to provide care. She continues her community service with the local parish and most recently served on the Guadalupe Town Council.

The couple also participated, along with the Guadalupe Organization, in one of the first lawsuits over the issue of bilingual education by challenging the Tempe Elementary School District in 1978 for discriminatory practices against Guadalupe's Yaqui and Mexican students.

As a result of this litigation, the district was forced to adopt measures to rectify existing language deficiencies of non-English speaking students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing these outstanding citizens for their fine work and dedication. They have provided their community with vision, sacrificed to help the poor and under-represented, protected their culture and enriched the lives of Guadalupe's children.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE DIVELBISS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my respect and utmost appreciation for a woman of remarkable caliber. Maggie Divelbiss's hard work and integrity have immeasurably contributed to one of Colorado's most beautiful displays of art, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center in Pueblo. Maggie's diligence in her community is an inspiration to us all. Maggie is a remarkable woman, and her outstanding work earned her the 2002 YWCA Anna Taussig Tribute to Women Award. It is my pleasure to highlight her accomplishments and successes throughout her life.

Maggie currently serves as the Executive Director of the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, and was actively involved in the creation of the Center from its inception. Throughout her tenure as Executive Director, she has made it her personal mission to represent all aspects of the diverse community of Pueblo and its various cultures, as is demonstrated in the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center.

Outside of her profession, Maggie is a dedicated community advocate. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities and is a member of the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators, The Western States Arts Federation, The Rocky Mountain Arts Consortium, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Moreover, Maggie served a six-year term as a councilwoman on the Colorado Council on the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear why Maggie Divelbiss was chosen as a recipient for the 2002 YWCA Anna Taussig Tribute to Women Award. I thank her for her extraordinary contributions to revive the spirit of art in us all.

Her passion for art has been clearly expressed and recognized and I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

DAVID SKAGGS AND THE CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate your former colleague and my predecessor, former Congressman David Skaggs, on his appointment as executive director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

Throughout his career David has been a dedicated public servant. He has represented Coloradans on both the state and federal level. During his twelve years serving Colorado here in the House of Representatives he did extensive work on public lands and environmental issues, advocated the rights of non-profit organizations, and supported basic research and higher education. He worked to promote bipartisan civility, and played a key role in helping to start an annual Bipartisan Retreat. Throughout his tenure on Capitol Hill, David was an effective and devoted representative of the people of Colorado.

David's post-congressional career is just as exemplary. Now, along with serving as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado and being of Counsel to a Washington based law firm, he is the executive director for the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

The Center's focus is to find ways to make the institutions of America's democracy work better. One project started by the Center is the Young Voter Initiative. The goal of the project is to encourage voting by some 30 million young people who are ambivalent about political participation. The Center meet with six groups of young adults ages 18-21 and asked what would be the most effective way to reach young voters. From the group's ideas the Center developed a "A Candidate's Tool Kit for Reaching Young Americans" as a practical guide of actions candidate's can take to promote the involvement of young people. The hope is that, as a result of this project, the Center can improve America's democracy by increasing the involvement of the citizenry.

David has repeatedly proven himself to be completely dedicated to the service of our nation and the improvement of our democracy. The Center for Democracy and citizenship is fortunate to have the leadership of such an inspiring individual, as noted in the following editorial from the Boulder Daily Camera:

[From the Daily Camera, Aug. 1, 2002]

VOTE? WHO, ME?

80% OF YOUNG PEOPLE WON'T, UNLESS TREND CHANGES

Former U.S. Rep. David Skaggs shouldn't have to spend part of his time looking for ways to persuade reluctant young people that voting makes a difference. He's doing the job because the rest of us haven't.

This would be a different country if young people heard a stronger message from parents, schools and communities about participation in democratic life; if older adults were a little less inclined to declare that voting doesn't matter or that elected officials

are crooks; and, yes, if politicians themselves could restrain some of their impulses to demean not only their opponents but government itself.

But it wouldn't be the United States, where cynicism about public life was a part of the environment in which today's young people grew up. Partly for that reason, voter turnout among young Americans is low—and getting lower. Fewer than one in three Americans under 25 voted in the last two presidential elections. If past trends hold, fewer than one in five will vote in this mid-term election.

The past two years have created an opportunity for change. If any event could send the message that "your vote counts," it was the 2000 presidential election, in which the candidates were separated by so few votes that a handful of people might have tipped the balance, kept the election out of the courts and literally changed the course of history. And after Sept. 11, who can say with a straight face that "government doesn't make a difference in my life"?

Young Americans may find in those events a new incentive to vote—but that's a hope, not a guarantee. There's still a lack of communication to overcome. Young people often report that they don't vote because candidates don't speak directly to them; candidates often don't seek out young voters because they don't vote.

No one initiative or individual can break this cycle, but David Skaggs is doing his part. A Democrat who represented the 2d Congressional District for 12 years in the House of Representatives, Skaggs now serves as executive director of a Washington-based outfit called the Center for Democracy and Citizenship. One of its projects is designed to help political candidates reach out to young voters.

The center has made available to thousands of political candidates across the country a "tool kit" of background information and common-sense guidance on reaching young voters. Candidates who study the material will find that it punctures a few stereotypes about young people. They're often disengaged from politics but aren't cynical as a group about the world around them; they're evenly divided in their political preferences and not wedded to any one party.

There's no need to dwell on details intended for candidates rather than the general public. It's worth noting, though, that many of the suggestions for reaching young people would be sound advice for reaching any group of voters. Meet them on their own turf. Make it easy for them to find information. Do not adopt a "youth agenda," because young people care about the same issues their elders do. Do not, under any circumstances, pretend to be one of them; they'll spot a phony in a minute. Show the connection between their concerns and the election results.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. HENRY ANDERSEN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Henry "Hank" Andersen of Lamar, CO who have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Hank and Marjorie Anderson grew up in the small town of Cozad, Nebraska. They were high

school sweethearts who married on July 31, 1942. For their lifetime commitment to each other and their strong example to their family and community, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends Hank and Marjorie and wishes them many more wonderful years together.

After graduating from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, with a major in speech, Miss Marjorie Evelyn Ford married Naval Ensign Henry Stanley Andersen. In 1942, the couple moved to New York City, where Hank, a Naval officer who loved to fly, was stationed as a pilot. There, their small family grew to include a daughter, Sue Ford Andersen. After Hank's tour of duty ended in 1945, the Andersen's moved back to Nebraska. In 1947, they welcomed the birth of their second child, Stanley Ford.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska Dental School in 1949, Hank moved his family to Lamar, Colorado. There, he opened a successful dental practice, which he maintained for almost 35 years.

As their children grew, Hank and Marjorie became very involved in the life of their community. Marjorie joined two women's service organizations, Sorosis and P.E.O., while Hank became an active member of the South-eastern Colorado Dental Association. Both Hank and Marjorie have been active members of Lamar's First Presbyterian Church.

Family has always been very important to Hank and Marjorie. Throughout their married life, the Andersen's made numerous trips back to Cozad, Nebraska to visit their parents, Ralph and Pearl Ford (Pa Ralph and Sweetiepie to their grandchildren) and Henry and Ella Andersen, (affectionately referred to as Pa Henry and Squeezetight). Even after their parents passed away, the Andersen's continued to make the trip to visit their aunt and uncle, Floyd and Kate Mundell.

Hank and Marjorie take great pride in their children, and were very excited when Sue married James Ocken in 1966 and when they became the grandparents of Cassandra "Cassie" Ocken and Staci Ocken Helseth. They have also greatly enjoyed their great-grandchildren, Chase Henry Helseth and Courtney Laura Helseth. The Andersen's are always prepared to show off their most recent family photos.

Always avid sports fans, Hank and Marjorie held season tickets to the Air Force Academy football games during the 1950s, and never missed an opportunity to attend Lamar High School football and basketball games. The Andersen's have also continually encouraged the young people of their community, faithfully attending the school events of neighborhood children, long after their son and daughter left home.

After Dr. Andersen retired in 1983, the couple enjoyed traveling to Kennebunkport, Maine, the home of their favorite president, George Bush, and to the countryside of Wisconsin to see the fall colors.

After 60 years of marriage, Hank and Marjorie Andersen are still a beautiful picture of what it means to be in love. Everyone who knows them can see how much they enjoy being in each other's company. They take care of one another, laugh together and set a meaningful example of commitment in marriage.

Citizens of Colorado, Hank and Marjorie are a truly remarkable couple. I am proud of their

momentous accomplishment, and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Henry Andersen.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS B. AHART, PHILIPSBURG, N.J., ON COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS OF AMERICA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow New Jersey resident and truly outstanding citizen, Thomas B. Ahart of Philipsburg, who is completing his highly successful term as President of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA)—later this month in New Orleans. Tom is president of Ahart, Frinzi & Smith, a Philipsburg, N.J.-based independent insurance agency.

Tom's career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding contribution and relentless dedication to his clients, community, IIABA, the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey (IIANJ), and his independent agent colleagues across the country.

He began his volunteer service with IIANJ where he served as president and chairman of the board. He also represented New Jersey as its representative to IIABA's National Board of State Directors. He was chairman of IIABA's Education Committee for four years before being elected to the Association's executive leadership panel.

Outside IIABA, Tom has served as a member of the board of the New Jersey Joint Underwriting Authority and was president of the Eastern Agents Association. He has served as an advisor to the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and the Insurance Institute of America, and was just appointed to their board.

Tom was honored with several state and local awards. They include the 1982 New Jersey Young Agent of the Year, the 1986 and 1987 New Jersey Executive Committee Chairman of the Year Awards, the 1993 New Jersey Insurance Person of the Year Award, and the 1994 IIA of Hunterdon/Warren County Agent of the Year Award.

Tom also has distinguished himself as an active and concerned member of his community. He was elected to serve on his local school board, served as a trustee at his church, and as a little league coach for 25 years, and he's coached boy's wrestling, boy's baseball, girl's basketball and girl's softball.

I laud Tom for his tireless leadership of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and the many accomplishments benefiting all independent insurance agents and brokers realized during his tenure as President. I know that even though Tom will step aside as IIABA leader soon, he will remain involved with the Association because he is a concerned leader and wants to continue helping his colleagues build for a strong and secure future. Congratulations on a job well done, Tom!