

public service. He was elected to the Longmont City Council in 1977 and served as the City's Mayor from 1981–1985. He also served as the Boulder County Republican Chairman from 1993–1994.

I had the good fortune to serve with Bill in the Colorado State House. I found him to be an affable, effective policy maker willing to reach across policy lines to act in the best interest of Colorado. Most important of all, Bill had a reputation for basing his votes on principle, and not on party or politics. At a time when voters seem to feel increasingly disenfranchised by what they view as partisan dogmatism, Bill Swenson represents public service that transcends partisanship.

He is a recognized leader on transportation and served as the Chairman of the Transportation and Energy Committee. His values of practicality and fiscal responsibility helped shape the tone for the entire transportation debate. In addition, he has worked to find common sense ways to encourage investment in renewable energy resources and enhance the diversification of energy resources in Colorado. These efforts may not result in colorful political sound-bites, but they will inevitably lead to a stronger economy and future generations of Coloradans will look back on Bill's service with gratitude.

I am proud to have served with Bill Swenson and proud to call him my friend. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring him for his exceptional service, I thank him for his good work, and I wish him continued good health and success in the future.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE BY REVEREND D. MICHAEL TOBY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 27th, the congregation and community of Woodway, Texas honored Reverend D. Michael Toby for twenty-five years of dedicated service as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Woodway.

Reverend Toby graduated from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1974, where he won the H.C. Brown Jr. Award as the seminary's outstanding preaching student. On October 30, 1977, Reverend Toby joined the First Baptist Church of Woodway. Under his ministry, the church membership has grown to nearly four thousand people, requiring a new campus and larger facilities in 1990.

Under Reverend Toby's leadership, education programs in the church have been greatly expanded, winning First Baptist Woodway the "Fastest Growing Sunday School Award" three times between 1996 and 2000. Ministries within the church have been enriched with the addition of youth and adult discipleship groups, outreach efforts, prayer warrior and prayer room ministries, ministries for seniors, singles and college students, a church school, Bible Drill, Awana, Mother's Day Out, Young Women's Fellowship, Angel Tree, all age choirs and a Vacation Bible school that serves over 850 children each summer.

Reverend Toby has led his church in mission efforts both at home and abroad. In 1988,

the First Baptist Midway became a Key Church in the Mission Texas campaign, supporting the creation of churches like Brazos Meadows and West Robinson Baptist Church in Waco. Reverend Toby additionally encouraged members to lead mission trips to Russia, China, Africa, Mexico, the Philippines, Morocco, Turkey and other countries. Because of the financial commitment to these and other ministries, the church has been honored as one of the top 100 churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Cooperative Program giving.

During his ministry, Reverend Toby continued his education and his role in public service. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate of Ministry degree from the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary. He has served on the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and its human welfare board and public relations advisory committee. Within the community, Reverend Toby has served on the boards of Central Texas Good Will Industries and Special Wish, as president of the Rotary Service Club of Waco and as moderator and executive board member of the Waco Baptist Association.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the leadership and commitment of Reverend D. Michael Toby, and congratulating Reverend Toby and his wife Jackie on 25 years of dedication to the spiritual life and health of the community of Woodway and to Central Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 23RD STREET ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to The 23rd Street Association on the occasion of their Annual Award Luncheon. This year, the 23rd Street Association is honoring North Fork Bank and Carolyn Drexel for their outstanding community involvement. In addition, the owners and management of the Flatiron building are being recognized on this, the building's centennial anniversary, for their dedication to the buildings restoration and modernization.

Ranked number one by the leading industry publication U.S. Banker in their annual survey, North Fork Bancorp is considered one of the nation's top bank and thrift companies. North Fork was also ranked fourth among the top 100 banking companies that include all types of financial services companies. Organized in 1980, today, the total assets of the Bank are approximately \$19 billion with over 165 branch locations that provide a wide range of personal and commercial banking services throughout New York.

Carolyn Drexel joined North Fork Bank as part of a new Management Training Program in 1979. After landing a position in the Speonk office as the Assistant Branch Manager, she continued to advance her career, and in 1993 became a Senior Vice President in charge of the Branch Network. In April 1997, Ms. Drexel's professionalism and skill led her to take on the responsibilities of managing the entire Retail Division which includes the Branch Network, Marketing, Sales, Retail Op-

erations and the Cash Management Department. Ms. Drexel was promoted to Executive Vice President in January of 1998. As Vice President, she leads more than 2,300 employees of the Bank with 168 branches located from Eastern Long Island to Upstate New York. Ms. Drexel has also been a tenacious community activist, and has volunteered her time at various organizations including the Epilepsy Foundation, Salvation Army, Suffolk County Special Olympics, Yeshiva of South Shore. Most recently, Ms. Drexel was appointed to the Board of Directors of Safe Horizon.

The legendary three-sided structure at the intersection of Broadway, Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street, The Flatiron Building, is one of New York's oldest surviving skyscrapers. Opened in 1902, the building's unique architecture in the form of a geometrically perfect, straight-edged right triangle, separates it from the New York City streetscape. Now, thanks to a recent refurbishment under new owners and last year's \$5 million reconstruction of the six-acre oasis of Madison Square Park, the building continues to be the flagship of the reborn Flatiron district.

I would also like to commend the 23rd Street Association in their mission of enhancing the quality of life for families and businesses in the area bounded by the Hudson and East Rivers from 17th to 28th Street. Incorporated in 1929 by 22 local business people, today's 23rd Street Association has approximately 300 members. Their efforts have included conducting business-training programs in local junior high schools, mobilizing the community to bring about a \$2.5 million renovation of Madison Square Park, working with the local police to combat drug dealing and other crime, and developing annual summertime concert programming and children's entertainment in the community.

The Association is fortunate to represent individuals and organizations that are so committed to the advancement of their community. In recognition of the invaluable contributions and the selfless efforts of tonight's honorees, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the 23rd Street Association on their annual award luncheon.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, a treasured Bronx institution and a historic house of worship that celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on November 1, 2002 at a dinner-dance and will commemorate the event at an anniversary Mass on November 24th.

Mr. Speaker, the Church of the Blessed Sacrament was established in July of 1927 per a request by Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Third Cardinal of New York. Cardinal Hayes asked Father Edward A. Loehr to establish a new Parish of Blessed Sacrament to serve South Bronx residents. More than seventy years later, Blessed Sacrament Parish is still thriving and serving a devoted congregation.

Throughout its 75 years of existence, Blessed Sacrament Parish has been a model of excellence as a house of God, with open doors to everyone. Not only are Bronx residents able to come to Blessed Sacrament Parish for spiritual enrichment and fellowship, they can come to the church for assistance with life's daily trials.

Mr. Speaker, many of the structures that make up Blessed Sacrament Parish are historical landmarks, rich with history. The Parish is in the progress of restoring these valuable structures so as to preserve the spirit from which the church was founded.

For nearly a century, hundreds of thousands of Bronx residents have found solace and aid within the walls of Blessed Sacrament Parish. I hope that all of my esteemed colleagues will join me in honoring this sacred and historic institution on this notable anniversary.

CONGRATULATING P-R FARMS AS AGRICULTURE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate P-R Farms of Clovis, California, for receiving the 2002 Baker, Peterson, and Franklin Agriculture Business of the Year Award at the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon in Fresno, California on November 13, 2002. This annual award is given to an agricultural organization whose achievements and impact have significantly contributed to the industry and the local community.

Vincenzo Bicchiuti, father of the founder of P-R Farms, arrived in America as an immigrant in 1914 and planted the seeds of a small family business in grapes and figs. Benefiting from his father's wisdom, Pat Ricchiuti learned that diversification would be the key to long-term success. Pat and his wife, Frances, began to plant plums and cotton which was the beginning of their farm's expansion. The goal for the newly-founded P-R Farms was growth while maintaining quality at every juncture.

Today, the philosophy and dedication of father and son is continued by grandson, Patrick Ricchiuti. Known worldwide for premium quality and excellence, P-R Farms' products are locally grown, packed, and shipped from their production facility in Clovis, California. P-R Farms has been an innovator in agriculture, developing many new techniques in Ag production, shipping, storage, and marketing.

The Ricchiuti family has been active in leading California State University, Fresno's Ag One Foundation, College of Agricultural Sciences, and Technology, Alumni Association, and Bulldog Foundation. They developed fundraising programs for Clovis schools, and have served on the governing board of the Clovis School District. In addition to agriculture and education, the Ricchiutis have been very involved in local healthcare serving on boards and councils for both Central California Children's Hospital and Clovis Community Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate P-R Farms for earning the 2002 Baker, Peter-

son, and Franklin Agriculture Business of the Year Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing P-R Farms many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. AND MRS. ANNMARIE AND KEVIN O'GRADY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Annmarie and Kevin are celebrating their marriage today, October 19, 2002; and

Whereas, Annmarie and Kevin have a deep and abiding love for one another; and

Whereas, Annmarie and Kevin have demonstrated a firm, loving commitment to each other; and

Whereas, Annmarie and Kevin will share a life together of generosity, joy, accomplishment and fulfillment;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. O'Grady as they begin their marriage.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND FLORINE MEINHART

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to pay tribute to Donald and Florine Meinhart of Glade Park, Colorado. Today, I would like to highlight the Meinharts for the wonderful contribution they have made toward protecting Colorado's most treasured natural resource: our environment.

The Meinhart Ranch is located in an area that is highly regarded for its ecological importance. By recently agreeing to an easement, Donald and Florine have promised to restrict development on their ranch, which will help protect the natural habitat of an area that is home to many of Colorado's wildlife species, including the Gunnison Sage Grouse, elk, and mule deer. The Gunnison Sage Grouse has become so rare in recent years that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has considered placing the animal on the endangered species list. By agreeing to an easement on their ranch, Donald and Florine are helping to guard the sage grouse's natural habitat and ensure the protection of the species.

The Meinhart Ranch also provides a popular migration corridor for elk and mule deer. The ranch is surrounded by national forests and provides an avenue for the animals to move between their summer and winter grazing areas. The easement will benefit these species as well because it provides them with an open place to move, protected from encroaching homes and motor vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, it with great respect that I recognize Donald and Florine Meinhart before this body of Congress and this nation for the generous and responsible management of their property. Donald and Florine have agreed to protect their property from future de-

velopment and ensure that their land remains free and open. I commend them both on their decision and wish the Meinhart ranch a rich and happy future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD A. HOLT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Donald A. Holt, a highly respected citizen of Champaign, Illinois, who is retiring from his position as Senior Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Holt's positive influence in biotechnology, systems modeling, computers in agriculture, organization of agricultural research, and development of funding strategies, continues to be strongly felt on the University of Illinois campus, as well as throughout the state of Illinois and the nation.

As a student in the University of Illinois Department of Agronomy in the 1950's, as a manager of his family farm near Minooka, Illinois, from 1956 to 1964, and as a cutting-edge researcher and teacher at Purdue University from 1964 to 1982, Don Holt honed his skills to serve science and society as an enlightened, visionary leader of agricultural research in Illinois.

In his pioneering research and teaching activities at Purdue, Dr. Holt built his programs with a "systems perspective" that he began developing while operating his family farm in northern Illinois. There he developed a comprehensive research program in forage physiology and management that contributed to increasing crop production. Dr. Holt also pioneered the use of anhydrous ammonia and organic acids as hay preservatives. He was an early implementer of computer modeling and used it to develop and commercialize software for crop yield forecasting.

When Dr. Holt returned to the University of Illinois in 1982, he quickly began to leave his imprint on the college's research and teaching systems by improving the college's resource base and infrastructure and building a partnership between the college and its stakeholders in the food and agricultural sectors throughout the state.

Since his return to the University of Illinois, Dr. Holt has made great contributions to enhancing Illinois' food and agriculture sectors. His leadership in the college as a department head, associate dean, director of the Illinois Agriculture Experiment Station, and senior associate dean is unparalleled.

Dr. Holt led the effort to mold the college into a leader in biotechnology research by securing funding for the Center of Excellence in Crop Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering and for the Edward R. Madigan Laboratory. He also led the effort to improve the state and national investment in value-added research for Illinois producers. This led the remodeling of the Agricultural Bioprocess Laboratory and the establishment of the National Soybean Research Center.

Dr. Holt laid much of the groundwork to redesign public agricultural research in Illinois through landmark legislation called the Illinois