

honor Janet Wolf, upon her retirement from the National Park Service. Ms. Wolf has distinguished herself with great determination and creativity during her 34 years of service.

Thirty-four years ago, Ms. Wolf began her career as an urban intake employee in Washington, D.C. She has served at numerous sites across the country including: the Catoctin Mountain Park, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Headquarters, the Fort McHenry National Monument and as Superintendent of the Fort Frederica National Monument and the Morristown National Historical Park. In addition, after spearheading the planning and implementation efforts to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Ms. Wolf had the distinction of serving as its first Superintendent.

For the past fourteen years she has prevailed with expertise as Project Director for the National Park Service's New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail. It is in this capacity that I came to know Ms. Wolf. I can attest to the fact that she has labored tirelessly to shepherd this project from concept to reality.

Established in 1988, the Trail has highlighted the natural beauty of over eight counties and six Congressional districts in New Jersey. Since its inception, the Trail has blossomed to its current size boasting over seventy destinations, welcome centers, and local information centers. All sites manifest a theme: Maritime History, Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Migration, Historic Settlements, and Relaxation and Inspiration. The Trail has prospered in part from numerous local partners including: the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism, and the Pinelands Commission. These partnerships have been successful due to Ms. Wolf's perseverance, experience, and creativity. As a testament to her outstanding work, Ms. Wolf has received countless recognitions, including a Citation for Meritorious Service from the Secretary of Interior.

Ms. Wolf's contributions also extend well beyond her role as Program Manager for the Trail. She has been an active participant in the local community, serving on numerous boards, committees and local foundations.

Mr. Speaker, Janet Wolf's contributions to the National Park Service are indeed numerous and noteworthy. By preserving our nation's environmental heritage, she has left a legacy with benefits too countless to number. Her indefatigable work on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail is portrayed in the eyes of a child upon seeing the ocean for the first time, or in the serenity brought in the solitude and wonder of New Jersey's forests, diverse wildlife, and coastal habitats.

For her many years of dedication and diligent efforts on behalf of our nation's parks, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her good health and a very joyous retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL ECKE, JR.

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of my friend, Paul Ecke Jr. who passed away on Monday morning after a long illness. Paul was a devoted husband and father, a

leader in the San Diego Community, and a force in the poinsettia industry. While his leadership in the poinsettia business made him an international figure; it was his warm heart and caring personality that made him a community leader, and a friend.

Since I came to Congress, Paul and I have worked together on issues important to our community of San Diego, and to the flower industry worldwide. Paul's boundless leadership and generosity was evident in his support of local charities like the Magdalena Ecke YMCA, the San Diego Museum of Natural History, California State University San Marcos, and the Del Mar Fair Grounds. In addition, Paul's industry has given America and the world the poinsettia for holidays. Nearly 80% of the world's poinsettias are licensed to the Ecke Ranch, and the popularity of this wonderful plant can be traced to Paul's hard work and efforts to grow the poinsettia as an indoor potted plant, and to make the plant suitable for mass production.

I will never forget the first time that I met Paul. He came to meet me in my home when I was a candidate for the U.S. Congress. He walked into my living room, picked up a basket of silk flowers from the coffee table, and immediately threw it into the garbage. He told me that he would replace it with "something better" and later that day sent me an arrangement of fresh flowers. Paul was a man who noticed every detail, never hesitated to tell you what he was thinking, and who always followed through with his promises.

Paul's life exemplified commitment and service to his community, and he leaves behind a legacy for his family, friends, and fellow Americans. Earlier this week, Paul's family released a statement that read, "In tribute to Paul's legendary support of the floral industry, we suggest that you send flowers today to someone you love." I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Paul's legacy by sending flowers to their loved ones.

I have attached an editorial from our local paper paying tribute to Paul and his works. I could share countless stories, but words are insufficient to convey the extent of his kind heart, ambition, and lifetime of effort to improve our community.

PAUL ECKE JR. SUCCEUMBS TO CANCER

(By Adam Kaye)

ENCINITAS.—Paul Ecke Jr., who expanded both his family's worldwide leadership in the poinsettia growing business and its emphasis on local philanthropy, died Monday at 76 from cancer.

Ecke Jr., who was president of Paul Ecke Ranch from 1963 until turning it over to his son in 1991, assembled the scientists and salesmen that perfected the mass production of poinsettias first developed by his father. Today, an estimated 80 percent of the poinsettias sold each year worldwide got their start, in some form, from the Paul Ecke Ranch.

Together with poinsettias, Ecke Jr. leaves a legacy of philanthropy.

His generosity extended to the Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA, named after Ecke Jr.'s mother, to the Del Mar Fairgrounds, local schools, Planned Parenthood and the Republican Party. Ecke Jr. also was instrumental in saving the landmark Carlsbad Flower Fields from being wiped out in the early 1990s.

"Paul Ecke Jr. was a model of what it means not only to be successful in business but also a good citizen who was almost

unique in how much he gave back to the community and in particular the community's youth," said Assemblyman Mark Wyland, who serves on the Ecke Family YMCA board of directors. "San Diego County owes Paul Ecke a great debt of gratitude, and he will be sorely missed."

Ecke Jr. inherited the family poinsettia business his father, Paul Ecke Sr., started in Encinitas in 1923. The business launched Encinitas as a flower-growing hub and made the family a lowkey royalty.

Ecke Sr., who died in 1991, developed the first poinsettia cultivar from a wildflower native to Mexico, so that it could be successfully grown as an indoor potted plant. Over the years, the family marketed the plant so it became synonymous with the Christmas holidays. In 1963, when Ecke Jr. became president of the family company, production shifted to small cuttings in greenhouses. The company now employs 300 people in Encinitas and 1,000 in Mexico and also has an office in Denmark to handle European distribution.

LOCAL WORKS

Ecke Jr. left his mark in North County in numerous ways, friends and colleagues said Monday. Just down the street from the Ecke Ranch on Saxony Road is Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA, which began as a 5-acre gift from the Ecke family in 1968. Twelve years later, the Ecke family added 15 acres more.

Today it is one of North County's premier recreation centers, with the region's largest skateboard park, only public BMX course, gymnasiums, ballfields and pools for competitive swimming and diving. Much of the facility's growth is due to Ecke Jr.'s prodigious fund-raising efforts, said executive director Susan Hight.

A member of the YMCA's board of directors for many years, Ecke Jr.'s signature fund-raiser was the holiday Poinsettia Ball. The annual benefit would raise about \$75,000 a year for scholarships for children from low-income families to use the YMCA, Hight said.

His "attention to detail" at the facility would prompt Ecke to visit regularly, to check on the landscaping, pick up trash, and eat a sack lunch while watching the children play, she said. "He truly treasured the Y," Hight said. "And he will be sorely missed. We came to love him, respect him and treasure him."

From 1992 to 2000, Ecke Jr. was a member of the Del Mar fair board. During his tenure, the fair's flower show expanded to a nationally recognized event.

"Paul's expectations were always a little higher," said Chana Mannen, the fairgrounds' exhibit manager. "He didn't stand for anything that wasn't great."

Ecke Jr. brought to the fairgrounds a penchant for cleanliness and fresh paint. He ordered colorful landscaping for the grounds. And even when he was in his 70s, he rode the scariest rides at the fair. One of his favorites was the heart-stopping 120-foot tall bungee jump.

"He decided he'd go on it every night of the fair," said Andy Mauro, a former fairgrounds administrator. "And true to form, he took great delight in involving us all. At some point during that fair we each had to swallow our fears and brave that bungee jump with Paul. None of us would have done it without him, but we all remember our accomplishment with great pride. Paul inspired those around him to reach a little further."

LEGACY OF INTEGRITY

Ecke Jr.'s son, Paul Ecke III, runs the family business today.

The motto in the Ecke house was, "We never give up," Ecke III said.

That and an ironclad sense of integrity created a system that secured many business deals with a handshake.

"He showed us by example that you don't lie, cheat or steal," Ecker III said.

Ecker III and his father both attended the little elementary school that was once known as Union School on Union Street. The school had two name changes. It became Central School; then, in 1985, became Paul Ecker-Central School, named after Paul Ecker Sr.

Over the years, the family has supported the school's sixth-grade camp and literacy programs, Principal Gregg Sonken said.

This year, Ecker Jr. sponsored a field trip so each of the school's students could visit San Diego Natural History Museum.

"He would frequently call and ask if he could come by the school," Sonken said. "He was just a great benefactor of our school. He really took an interest in our students."

Ecker Jr. himself was a student at San Diego High School, where he graduated in 1942.

He soon joined the Navy and served in the Pacific aboard the USS Knapp. He was called back to duty in 1951 to serve as an ensign aboard the USS Perkins in the China Sea during the Korean War. Even then, his green thumb was irrepressible. After a day of heavy shelling, sailors had disposed of dirt that shook loose from planter boxes in the officers' mess hall. "He convinced the captain to send a patrol to (the North Korean) shore to get more soil," Ecker III said.

FLOWER POWER

During the years between his military deployments, Ecker Jr. earned a degree in horticulture from Ohio State University in 1949. From there, Ecker Jr. pioneered the use of greenhouses to grow poinsettias, because the controlled environment produced faster-growing plants that were less susceptible to disease.

His company would become the innovator that set competitive standards in the industry, said Chuck Gainan, president of the Society of American Florists. "People would aspire to do it as well as they do," Gainan said. Gainan and other agriculture experts say Ecker Jr. has given the flower industry political muscle and other support.

Bob Echter is a member of the San Diego County Farm Bureau's board of directors who grows flowers on property he rents from the Eckes. "He has always been very fair with his desire to help farmers grow and compete," he said.

Ecker Jr. was responsible for the construction of the Floral Trade Center in Carlsbad, a trucking and distribution hub for a number of North County flower growers. Beyond North County, he lobbied Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham to include language protecting flower growers' intellectual property in federal legislation that would become the North American Free Trade Act, said Bob Vice, a former colleague of Ecker Jr.'s on the fair board.

Locally, Ecker Jr. chose not to oppose Encinitas' incorporation in 1986 as long as the family's acreage was not included as part of the city. That decision came at a time when many flower growers were against incorporation, anticipating their property taxes would rise. "He didn't want to get involved in a controversial situation," said former councilman Rick Shea. "In essence we created a city shaped like a doughnut. The Eckes were the hole in the middle." As the city's general plan took shape, the Eckes were open and receptive, Shea said, and eventually annexed their property into the city.

Lola Larson, a longtime neighbor who attended elementary school with Ecker Jr., said

he was "very likeable and always on his best behavior." Except on certain days when he walked to school with boys who threw stones at a glass greenhouse. "They eventually broke every pane," she said. "Finally the owner got incensed and came to the school. He said 'Who did this?' Paul jumped right up and said he did it."

THAYNE ROBSON

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, the State of Utah has lost one of its favorite sons with the sudden, untimely passing of Thayne Robson.

In a career spanning more than four decades, Thayne Robson counseled governors and local government leaders, dispensing an incomparable blend of wit and wisdom about Utah's economic fortunes. His stature as the dean of an elite cadre of Utah economists is fixed in the state's history. He helped craft the fiscal policies of Governors Cal Rampton, Scott Matheson, Norman Bangerter and Mike Leavitt. Always a gentleman but frequently contrarian, Thayne was known to temper his colleagues' rosy forecasts with a word of caution and to see clear skies where others foresaw storm clouds. His track record was exceptional; his influence immeasurable.

Thayne's word was golden—good enough, in fact, to take to the bank. And that's exactly what Utah officials did. His expert forecasts of Utah's Economic climate contributed to the sterling credit ratings bestowed on the State of Utah by New York rating agencies.

Not only was Thayne a trusted economic forecaster and policy advisor, he was the impetus to restructuring the state's economic development efforts. He forecasted the decline of Utah's mining and agricultural sectors and encouraged government officials to diversify the state's economy through travel, tourism and technology. He spearheaded a move to strategically focus state and local economic development efforts within a single organization, known today as the Economic Development Corporation of Utah.

Thayne's professional credentials include teacher, researcher, respected business economist. But he was also a great civic leader. Not one to live quietly in academia's cloistered halls, Thayne was active in local organizations and community affairs, lending his support and expertise to a host of favorite causes. He demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the betterment of the community and the state he loved so much.

Thayne was a gifted communicator. He had a rare ability to translate complex concepts into language people could understand. Thayne's plainspoken interpretation of economic news was a regular feature in the media's broadcasts and news columns.

Thayne was fond of saying, "If you laid all the economists in the country end to end, they still couldn't reach a conclusion." In at least one instance, he was wrong. I am certain his colleagues join countless other Utahns and me in affirming that Thayne Robson was a man of great intellect, uncommon wisdom and good humor. His passing is a great loss. We will treasure his memory and give thanks for his incalculable contributions to the state of Utah.

IN TRIBUTE TO RUDY FAVILA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend of the Inland Empire, Rudy Favila. Rudy will be awarded the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Award for 2002 this Sunday, May 19th at the California ScienCenter in Los Angeles. This honor is being given to Rudy for his dedicated leadership in supporting the Ontario community and the Democratic Party.

Rudy is a California native, born in Sacramento, California, where he got his degree from Sacramento State University in Criminal Justice. Rudy and his wife of 33 years, Claudia, moved to Ontario in 1978. They have two children, Colleen and Cristel, who grew up in Ontario, and now have two young grandchildren.

Rudy has served as a dedicated community servant for the past 25 years. He held positions as both Health and Safety Officer and Treatment Team Supervisor of the California Youth Authority. In these positions he worked to safeguard the health of our youth in correctional facilities and to shape their daily experiences. Through this work he was able to provide these youth with opportunities for a positive future. Rudy made a mark on Ontario by serving as a Council Member of the City of Ontario. He worked hard on efforts to create the Ontario Teen Center, to build the Ontario Convention Center, the Mills Mall and to expand the Ontario Airport Terminal. He was also instrumental in implementing Neighborhood Watch Programs, Community Policing, and programs to recycle and conserve water resources.

Although Rudy recently retired, he has continued to work to improve and support the Inland Empire by promoting outreach, health and wellness. The American Red Cross recognized Rudy's work coordinating resources and funds to rebuild the Red Cross facility in the wake of September 11th by awarding him their Dedication and Leadership Award. Rudy has also been active in the Ontario Democrats, Kiwanis International, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and as a member of the Special Education Community Advisory Board.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Rudy. I thank him for being a model of community service and for contributing so much to improve the quality of life for all the residents of the Inland Empire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 159 through 161 due to an academic awards ceremony involving my son. Had I been present I would have voted 'yea' on rollcall vote 159, 'yea' on rollcall vote 160, and 'yea' rollcall vote 161.