

1985—the church tithes about \$100,000 a year to various local and national needs. Although these accomplishments are extraordinary, Monsignor's greatest achievements may lie in his daily work and prayers with the parish staff and parishioners, as well as implementing influential local programs over the years.

There is no doubt that Monsignor Sears will be greatly missed as the pastor of St. Joseph Parish. However, knowing his passion for the community and devoutness to charity, Monsignor will continue his service to God and will continue to impact the communities of Southwest Michigan.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN, SYMBOLIZED BY "ROSIE THE RIVETER," WHO SERVED ON THE HOMEFRONT DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 413 honoring the contributions of the more than 6 million American women, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter," who served our country on the homefront during World War II and the changes to our society that came about because of them. I am extremely proud to join all 62 women Members of Congress as cosponsor on this legislation as well.

Today, we recognize the contributions to those who may not have faced enemy fire but were no less a part of our decisive victory in those dark times: the millions of Americans who across the Nation heeded a call to serve when their country needed them.

During World War II, this remarkable band of women picked up the rivet guns left on factory floors and shipyard docks by their departing husbands, boyfriends, sons and dads and those women started building the tanks, airplanes, and ships that America needed to win the war.

The legacy of Rosie the Riveter is the creation of opportunities to all Americans. For the first time in America, during World War II, women and minorities gained access to high-paying jobs in industry. Employee-sponsored health care and services such as child care for children of workers were developed during this time. I am proud to join my colleagues today in applauding the improvements in the workplace and our society during the Rosie the Riveter Era and in honoring these women for stepping forward when their country needed them.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO SALDIVAR

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique American patriot, Francisco Saldivar, a man who, after having spent over

40 years with the Brownsville Independent School District, has recently retired as principal of Yturria Elementary School.

Mr. Saldivar comes from an educator's background. His mother, a teacher from Mexico, helped make an early impression on his life-long desire to educate and give back to the community. To this end, Mr. Saldivar has served in a number of roles and duties within the school district, from teacher to administrator.

Mr. Saldivar spent over 12 years teaching fourth grade before becoming an assistant principal at Victoria Heights Elementary. Since then, he has also served as an assistant director of adult education as well as the principal of several elementary schools, most recently with Yturria.

With each new role he took on, Mr. Saldivar invariably displayed his selfless dedication to providing a well-rounded and worthwhile education. Indeed, as principal of Yturria Elementary, Mr. Saldivar still managed to take the time to help ease the transition of transfer students.

And after 6 years as principal of Yturria, Mr. Saldivar is finally retiring; and while he will certainly miss his old position, we will miss his commitment to our children's education even more.

There is no question that the education of our young people constitutes an important priority in our society. Education does more than simply impart knowledge; it prepares our children for the challenges they will meet in adulthood. Mr. Saldivar has worked with children for nearly half a century; he knows the problems they face, and has actively worked to alleviate them.

Our Nation is strengthened by dedication of educators like Mr. Saldivar in our school systems. The origins for our Nation's future will always lie within our youngest generations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Principal Francisco Saldivar, for his indelible influence over the young minds in the Valley. His legacy is in the bright young minds he touched and shaped. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOCKHEED MARTIN PLANT IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of Lockheed Martin Plant in Syracuse, New York, which was recognized as one of the top ten plants in the United States by Industry Week magazine.

IndustryWeek looks to reward plants that are leading the nation in their efforts to develop competitiveness, increased customer satisfaction and an outstanding work environment. The 2,039 men and women employed at this Lockheed Martin plant were recognized for their accomplishments of \$650 million in sales and \$1.0 billion in backlog. Among these employees are 1,250 scientists and engineers and 350 manufacturing and support staff. The payroll for this honored Lockheed Martin plant in Syracuse is greater than \$108 million per year and has been in operation since 1948.

I would like to express my congratulations to the employees of the Lockheed Martin plant in Syracuse for receiving such an outstanding honor. They work very hard and deserve such recognition. I offer them my sincere congratulations.

IN HONOR OF BILL B. PASSMORE, THE FATHER OF LAKE HIGHLANDS EDUCATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the father of Lake Highlands Education, Bill B. Passmore. I am proud to represent the Lake Highlands community in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas, and Mr. Passmore's commitment to education in the community has been long and distinguished. Mr. Passmore is being honored this Sunday afternoon, June 13, 2004 for his career achievements, and I congratulate him and his family on a lifetime of accomplishments.

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin with a BBA degree in 1949, he taught for two years in Angleton High School before moving to Dallas. Mr. Passmore resumed his teaching career at Richardson High School in the fall of 1952. He taught business subjects for two years before being named the Business Manager and assistant to Superintendent J.J. Pearce for the 1954–55 school year.

Mr. Passmore was selected in 1955 as the principal to open the first school in the Lake Highlands area: Lake Highlands Elementary School. He was later named as the third principal to serve the school in 1976. Named principal of Richardson High School in 1956, he remained in that capacity for nine years.

When the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) opened El Centro College as its first campus, Passmore was hired as the first of eight counselors for the college. During six years at El Centro, he left the counseling department to serve as Dean of the Evening School and later as the Associate Dean of Instruction. When the Richland College opened in 1972, he moved to the new campus to serve as Association Dean of Instruction until 1976 when he returned to the RISD as principal of Lake Highlands Elementary School.

In 1979, Mr. Passmore was again asked to serve as principal of a new school in the Lake Highlands area: Merriman Park Elementary. He retired from Merriman Park Elementary in 1989, and since that time has worked ten years for the University of North Texas on a part-time basis as a University Supervisor of Student Teachers.

During his professional career, Mr. Passmore earned his Master's Degree from the University of North Texas and some 36 hours of post-graduate credit from the University of Texas at Austin. He was a member of the Richardson Kiwanis Club for 12 years and served for one year as its president. He was a staff member or an administrator during the opening of seven new campuses in Angleton, Richardson, and DCCCD. Mr. Passmore's personal commitment to education and the Lake Highland's community have been exceptional

for several decades, and I congratulate him for his lifetime of public service.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KENNETH WENTS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a man who served his country with dignity, and lived his life with honor. Mr. Kenneth Wents of Hacienda Heights, California, will always be remembered for his courage and heart.

Mr. Wents led a full and exciting life. Even as a prisoner of war during World War II for forty-two months, he faced extraordinary challenges with determination and optimism.

Mr. Wents touched the lives of many, especially the generous volunteers of the Greater La Puente Valley Meals on Wheels, who valued him and appreciated his warm spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Mr. Kenneth Wents has greatly impacted the lives of many in a positive way. It is my honor to join his family and friends in commemorating his legacy.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLOWER MOUND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, heralded as the first Presbyterian church in Denton County, Flower Mound Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. I am proud to congratulate Flower Mound Presbyterian on this great accomplishment.

Flower Mound Presbyterian Church's main priority is to foster a sense of "family" within its membership and, at the same time, open its doors wide to welcome the community. They continue the church's rich legacy of religious service to Flower Mound residents.

The church has lovingly preserved its original furnishings and all of the cherished memories that go with them. Each Sunday, the sanctuary is flooded with music from an old-style piano donated years ago. The original pews still sit in their initial circular arrangement around the lectern which also dates back to the church's beginnings in 1854.

The church remembers its past with numerous photo albums depicting the congregation as it has grown in number and traditions through the years. Images of the church's steeple being constructed provide a visual representation of the changes the church has undergone over time.

The church's white clapboard building, located in the area formerly known as "the Long Prairie," witnessed Flower Mound's growth from a sleepy rural hamlet to a vibrant suburban community. Flower Mound Presbyterian Church will commemorate its 150 years by erecting a historical marker in its cemetery.

Congratulations to the congregation at Flower Mound Presbyterian Church on their anniversary. One hundred and fifty years of worship is a milestone to be celebrated.

HONORING THE MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mariposa County Courthouse on its 150 years of service to the needs of the community of Mariposa. The courthouse is holding numerous anniversary events throughout 2004 leading up to the actual anniversary.

Founded on September 8, 1850, the courthouse was built on land donated by Mr. John C. Fremont and cost a mere \$9,300 to construct. Throughout the last century and a half, the courthouse underwent several additions, including a clock tower in 1866, its first telephone in 1895, and electric lights in 1907. In 1958, the courthouse was officially recognized as a California State Landmark and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The court has operated continuously ever since it's opening in 1850, making it the oldest, active courthouse west of the Rocky Mountains. Today, the original clock keeps the residents of Mariposa on time, just as it had done for the last 100 years. In addition, the services of the court have expanded into seven departments, including criminal, family law, small claims and traffic.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate and honor the residents of Mariposa for their preservation and dedication to the Mariposa County Courthouse for the last 150 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Mariposa County Courthouse many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2004, during Rollcall votes 229 and 230 I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall votes 229 and 230.

MR. ROBERT ERVIN TAYLOR, IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor in honor of his retirement as City Manager of Colonial Heights, Virginia for serving 20 years of dedicated service from 1984 to 2004.

In 1968, Mr. Taylor received his Bachelor of Science in History and Political Science from Appalachian State University. Upon the completion of his Master of Public Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1972, he became the Senior Administrative Analyst in

the Budget Office of the Finance Department for the City of Nashville-Davidson County. From 1973 to 1979, Mr. Taylor served as Assistant to the City Manager and Director of Personnel and Budget for the City of Suffolk, Virginia. He later served five years as City Manager for the City of Red Bank, Tennessee.

As City Manager for Colonial Heights, Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor has been responsible for the implementation of policies adopted by the City Council under the direction of five mayors and 22 council members. In addition, he has been in charge of enforcing all city laws and ordinances, the appointment and supervision of heads of 12 departments, and the preparation and execution of an annual \$38 million operating and \$3.5 million capital improvements budget.

With a penchant for community service and natural leadership, Mr. Taylor has served on several state, local and regional organizations. He has served as chairman of the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority and the South Central Wastewater Authority. Moreover, he was the Treasurer/Secretary of the Appomattox River Water Authority, and was on the Board of Directors for the Crater Planning District Commission and the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he served as the President of the Colonial Heights Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Taylor has worked closely with the community to ensure the best quality of care for the citizens of Colonial Heights. He has been instrumental in carrying out the vision that has been set forth for the community; as such, the people have been able to rely on the dedicated and dependable service of Mr. Taylor.

Because of Mr. Taylor's resounding success, and his dedicated years of service the Colonial Heights community has benefited immensely from his leadership. He has consistently demonstrated a remarkable spirit of unity in his relations with other leaders in the community and an equal level of enthusiasm for serving the Colonial Heights area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor for his loyal and dedicated service and the many contributions he has made to his community.

A TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR CHIEN-JEN CHEN

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to join my many colleagues in offering best wishes to our great friend, Ambassador Chien-Jen Chen of Taiwan as he finishes his tour of duty here in the United States and returns home.

C.J. Chen has a long and distinguished career in public service. A highly-respected academic, he still holds the position of Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Diplomacy at National Chengchi University.

Prior to his appointment as his nation's representative to the United States, Ambassador Chen served in the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China, rising to the position as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Immediately preceding his current assignment, he served as Taiwan's Foreign Affairs Minister.