

justice for all people. He graduated from Camden Academy High School in 1962 and entered the Armed Forces that same year, spending one tour of duty in Vietnam.

After his tour in Vietnam, in which he was honorably discharged from the army, Mr. Watson relocated to the Monterey Peninsula, taking up residence in Seaside in 1966. While working for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Salinas, Joe was elected to the executive board of the local United Rubber Workers Union, AFL-CIO, and served on that board until 1980 when the plant closed. He took his union leadership with him when changing careers to a meat cutter, becoming first a member and then the leader of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 506. As shop steward and as an executive board member of the UFCW local, Joe was instrumental in bringing a civil rights activist's approach to dealing with issues and negative actions by employers against members of his union in their respective work places. Mr. Watson was greatly admired by co-workers who saw him as an unafraid union leader who was totally committed to standing up for them and working in their interest.

During the mid-1970's, Mr. Watson became a member of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP. Elected almost immediately to the Branch's Executive Committee, due in no small part to his union activism, Joe took over the Branch's Labor and Industry Committee. There he had the responsibility of resolving issues involving complaints of discriminatory practices in hiring, on the job treatment and terminations. Over the years, the Branch received recognition for the outstanding work Mr. Watson and that committee carried out in this area of work, including negotiating a National NAACP-sponsored "Fair Share Hiring Agreement" with the local stores owned by Albertson's, conuniting these stores to hiring, retaining and promoting minorities.

In 1994, Mr. Watson was elected as President of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP, serving until 2000. During his tenure as President, Joe continued to lead the Branch in dealing with issues of police abuse against minorities, hate crimes on the Peninsula and continued to strengthen the ties between the Branch and organized labor in this county. Joe has laid the groundwork for the kind of activism in our branch that continues to be followed and emulated by those who have come after him. True to his tradition as an activist, Mr. Watson continues his lifelong commitment to the struggle for and protection and extension of civil, labor and equal rights and social justice, making him most deserving of this award.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, in my home state of New Jersey.

Beautiful Jefferson Township encompasses 42 square miles of mostly pristine forests and

lakes. It is home to New Jersey's largest freshwater lake, Lake Hopatcong, among many others, and the idyllic Mahlon Dickerson Reservation in the protected New Jersey Highlands watershed region.

When Jefferson Township was founded in 1804 by separating itself from the Townships of Roxbury and Pequannock, there were quiet farms and noisy mines linked by dirt roads. In time, the railroads came and by the turn of the century, they brought "summer escapees" from the cities who treasured Jefferson's scenic beauty, many lakes and its clean, cool, country surroundings. Summer resorts and campsites flourished in the area. After World War I, automobiles appeared on Jefferson's newly paved roads bringing with it scores of summer residents. And after the second World War, young families were looking to leave the metropolitan areas and began moving westward in New Jersey to inviting municipalities like Jefferson Township.

Today, Jefferson Township is still a blossoming community with a population approaching 20,000. While the once-thriving summer resorts are gone and most summer cottages have been converted to year-round residences, many tourists still make the trek to Jefferson Township to enjoy the vast open space of the Morris County Park System, protected watersheds and recreation activities on the region's numerous lakes. Indeed, lake communities still prosper throughout the Township bringing a unique sense of community to all of those who live in them.

Jefferson Township's municipal leaders have carried on a tradition of being good stewards of the area's natural resources. Through determined efforts to preserve some of New Jersey's most precious open space, Jefferson Township has been able to balance development by being an active partner in the acquisition of hundreds of acres of parkland, woodlands and watersheds.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 200 years, Jefferson Township has been a community which has brought Morris County and New Jersey great pride. No doubt the municipality will certainly continue to do so in the years to come. I congratulate the citizens of Jefferson Township on their special anniversary year, and urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing them well.

HONORING BEULAH HEIGHTS FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most respected houses of worship in the city of New Haven, Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church. This year marked the 80th anniversary of this tremendous church, throughout which time the leadership and its members have left an indelible mark on our community.

Originally called the Beulah Heights Mission, the ministry was founded in 1923 by Walter and Rosa Andrews. In its humble beginnings, the church was located in a converted store-

front and boasted a modest membership. Over the years and through the changes in leadership, the ministry steadily grew and eventually found a permanent home on Orchard Street. Over the course of its history, the Beulah Heights Pentecostal Church has developed a reputation as a leader in the religious community. Through its leadership and the commitment and enthusiasm of its membership, the Beulah Heights Church has made a real difference in the lives of many.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities, providing people with a place to turn for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening the bonds of faith, the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church have also given much to the city of New Haven. Throughout the years, as their membership grew, so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community, transforming neighborhoods one block at a time.

Currently headed by Bishop Theodore Brooks, a man whom I am proud to call my friend, Beulah Heights Church has taken on a great mission of neighborhood revitalization. It has erected an educational wing which is utilized by the New Haven Board of Education for its Urban Youth Elementary School for troubled youth. Founded by Bishop Brooks in 1994, its development subsidiary, Beulah Land Development Corporation, is responsible for the construction of 20 units of affordable housing and 12 units of supportive housing for senior citizens. Through these and other projects, they are bringing renewed security and stability to this neighborhood. I have every confidence that they will continue to do great things for the Dixwell neighborhood of New Haven.

In the last 8 decades, the Beulah Heights Pentecostal Church and its membership have made invaluable contributions of the city of New Haven, changing the face of our great city. I am proud to stand today and extend my very best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history.

Happy 80th anniversary!

HONORING MS. DAWN KINNEY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a model citizen from the 18th Congressional District, Ms. Dawn Kinney. She is being honored by the Merced County Chamber of Commerce for her service as their president for the past year. I know Dawn has worked hard on their behalf, and for the betterment of local businesses in Merced County. It is my pleasure to help the County Chamber recognize a wonderful woman, and a very good friend.

Dawn was born in Albany, Georgia and was raised throughout the United States while her father served in the United States Air Force. While living in Bossier City, Louisiana, she graduated from Bossier High School, and then went on to attend Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Soon after, Dawn moved to

Merced, California in March of 1975 to attend Merced College.

In May of 1978, Dawn was hired by Mr. Bob Ayers to work for Transamerica Title. Dawn had previously been employed as a legal secretary in Louisiana and California before joining Mr. Ayers and his staff. She worked hard with Mr. Ayers, and was asked to remain a part of the team after the company was purchased and renamed Transcounty Title. Currently, she is the Vice President and County Manager of Transcounty Title Company.

Since 1987, Dawn has been a member of the California Escrow Association, and was designated as a Certified Senior Escrow Officer by the Association in June of 1989. She became more involved with the Association and served as State Director of the California Escrow Association from 1995 to 1997. For her determined work ethic, she was awarded the Olga Mitchell Rookie Director of the Year Award in 1995.

Always one to take on a new challenge, Dawn participated and graduated from the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce Leadership Merced Program in June of 1999. This is a vital, voluntary program open to business leaders in Merced County. She has been involved with the County Chamber for many years, as a member on the Board of Directors, and holding a number of vital posts such as Secretary, Vice President, and finally as their President. Dawn's son, Christopher, is a junior at Merced High School and is a Varsity swimmer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues help me honor Dawn today for her hard work as President of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, and commitment to ensure Merced County has a bright and prosperous tomorrow. I am honored to call her my friend, and to recognize her for all of her accomplishments.

HONORING PAUL AND SHARON
ELERICK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Paul and Sharon Elerick, one of the most active and dynamic couples I have ever known. For over 30 years, the Elericks have selflessly donated their time, resources and often their home, in hopes of electing laudable candidates to represent the community of Santa Cruz. Paul and Sharon share their time with many charitable organizations and community advocacy groups, but their hearts and souls remain dedicated to supporting and promoting the Democratic Party. It is my honor to recognize them as the "Democrats of the Year" by the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee.

Paul and Sharon have embodied the spirit of the Democratic Party since the beginning of their relationship in 1958. Paul's involvement with politics started when he cast his vote for President Kennedy. Since then, he has steadily risen through the ranks of the local Democratic chapters, ultimately serving a successful 5-year term as the chair of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee. Sharon began her own political activism by orga-

nizing voters for Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign. She has also served on the executive board of the Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz for several years. Both Paul and Sharon deserve enormous credit for securing vital funding for important local projects as well as sustaining the successful campaigns of many of our current legislators, including myself.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the Elericks for being rewarded "Democrats of the Year." I would also like to express my gratitude for their commitment to the community. The fruits of their years of dedication extend far beyond political appointments and we are grateful for their extensive contributions.

COMMEMORATING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS CENTER YMCA OF MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 130th Anniversary of the Morris Center YMCA, of Morris County, New Jersey.

Since January 2, 1874, the Morris Center YMCA has provided programs essential to the people of Morris County. The 172 Founding male members first gathered in four rented rooms located in the Old Post Office in Morristown. In 1889, the Board of Directors dedicated a new building that included a gymnasium, classrooms, bowling alleys and a game room. A third building was dedicated in 1913 in Morristown that included a wing exclusively for women. But by 1968, however, it became clear that a new building was needed and plans were made to begin construction.

On March 1, 1981, the grand opening of the newly completed fourth home of the Morris Center YMCA took place in Cedar Knolls. The Center featured a 25 meter swimming pool, gymnasium, track, racquetball courts, weight rooms and a fitness center. Over the years, renovations have been made to the building, bringing more programs to people of all ages in Morris County. In 2002, renovations were completed to update and expand the Y to include a larger fitness room, youth classrooms, and much more.

Caring for children has always been an important specialty of the Morris Center YMCA. In 1985, the YMCA added an in-house After-School Care program. Later in 1988, the Center opened the Y's Owl's Child Care Center which provided care to approximately 130 children each day. September 2003 celebrated the new home of the Y's Owls, now the Richard F. Blake Children's Center, which is located in a newly renovated building next to the YMCA creating a 13 acre campus. The Children's Center now accommodates over 215 preschoolers.

The Owl program received national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Building on the reputation of the Y's Owl Child Care Center, the Morris Center YMCA was selected to create and manage the childcare center of the Morristown Memorial Hospital and opened the Children's Corner in the Fall of 1996.

The Morris Center YMCA currently has over 400 volunteer members comprising the Board of Directors, all of its committees and program leaders. These volunteers are the heart of the Morris Center YMCA, working in all aspects of the organization. In short, the Center is people caring for people, not just buildings and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 130 years, the Morris Center YMCA has provided the citizens of Morris County with programs that benefit all those who participate. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating all past and present members of the Morris Center YMCA on this special anniversary year.

HONORING MR. JOHN PAZIN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John S. Pazin. John is not only a wonderful friend to Merced, California, but to my family and I as well. The Merced County Chamber of Commerce is awarding John's business, Pazin and Myers, Inc., with the 2003 Business of the Year award, and I know this fine honor is well deserved.

Born and raised in Merced County, John has always put his family first. He married Nada in October of 1954. Since then, John has spent the last fifty years as a faithful husband, loving father, and mentor to his four children. John also makes time to spoil his eight grandchildren.

John's second love is for his country and community. In 1951, he decided to serve his country, and enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Korean War, and for his service and courage in battle he was awarded the Bronze Star.

When John returned to the United States, he went to work on his family's dairy in Merced, California. He worked on the dairy until the early 1960's when he felt it was time to begin a new chapter in his life. He was led to a local fuel company, and began transporting fuel to customers. He worked for the company until 1963 when he was able to purchase his own fuel business.

John's company has experienced some great changes over the years. From name changes and buyouts and even structural reconfigurations, the one thing that has remained a steady fixture and pillar of strength to his company is John. He, along with Mr. Jim Myers, has developed a successful and dependable business in Merced County, Pazin and Myers, Inc. They are the model for other business owners in the area as they have learned to endure the best and worst that owning a business can offer. Their work ethic and positive attitude has made them business leaders in Merced County.

Not only is John a dedicated family man and business leader but he is passionate to make Merced County a better place to live for future generations. As past President and member of the Merced Boosters, and Past President and Member of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, John is able to combine his business experience and his commitment to community to lead Merced into the 21st century. As a member of the Merced Elks