

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

Lodge, he was awarded their 2003 Member of the Year Award, again proving that he is an invaluable asset to our county. John was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to serve on the 35th Agricultural Fair Board. This position allowed John to give back to the agricultural community in Merced County.

I am delighted to recognize all of John's achievements and thank him for his service to our community, the State of California, and our country. As a family man, businessman, and civic leader he truly is an example for others to follow.

IN MEMORY OF RUTH VREELAND

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in the hallowed halls of Congress to pay tribute to a colleague in public service, Monterey City Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland, who was killed in an auto accident on Highway 101 in Southern Monterey County.

What a loss! This 68-year-old woman had the energy of one hundred locomotives. Involved in everything—teacher, statewide education activist, 20 year City Councilwoman, statewide League of Cities Activist, Democratic Party Activist, mother, member of various boards. . . . She was always there, always prepared, always wanting to do more.

Born in Chunking, China, she grew up in Szechwan province where her parents worked as medical missionaries. Returning to Toronto, Canada in 1940, and moving to San Francisco where her parents taught at the University of California-Berkeley, Ruth earned a bachelor's degree in arts and education from San Francisco State University. She also met her husband, Dick Vreeland, there and then continued on to the University of San Francisco to earn a Master's Degree in organization development.

In 1956, she moved to the Monterey Peninsula to teach school, and was elected to the Monterey City Council with the intention of protecting the quality of life in the City of Monterey. "This town is more than buildings and streets, first it is people," she wrote in her campaign statement. She championed the tearing down of waterfront buildings so that people could see the Bay where California began. She replaced buildings with parks and recreational trails, now the highly successful "Window on the Bay Project."

She served in a variety of leadership positions including the League of California Cities Board of Directors, Institute for Local Self-Government, the 20th District Parent-Teacher Association, Monterey Bay Task Force, Quota International, Women in Municipal Government; Friends Outside of the Monterey County, and the Overall Economic Development Committee of Monterey County. She was also a Volunteers in Action Board Member, a Monterey City Council member since 1983, an alternate in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council and a former president of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the Monterey Peninsula Concert Association and the Winnie the Pooh Chapter of the Children's Home Society.

She was also involved with various organizations, including the Monterey Vista Home-

owners Association, Community of Caring, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, California Teachers Association, Monterey Bay Teachers Association, Responsible Hospitality, California Elect-ed Women's Association for Education and Research, Monterey Main Street Program, National Organization of Women, Old Monterey Preservation Society, Sierra Club, ACLU, State Theater Preservation Group, Monterey Civic Club, Monterey History and Art Association, American Association for Retired Persons, California Retired Teachers' Association, and the Unitarian Church.

Throughout her life, many of these organizations honored her outstanding commitment and service to our Bay community with awards. The Volunteers in Action honored her community service, the Sierra Club honored her for Outstanding Achievement, Planned Parenthood named her an Outstanding Woman in Politics, and the Monterey Rotary named her an Outstanding Teacher. Furthermore, the Fisherman's Wharf named her Wharf Rat of the Year in 1995, the California Democratic Party recognized her for Outstanding Service, J.C. Penney gave her the Golden Rule Award and the Old Monterey Business Association recognized her for Exceptional Dedication. The Monterey Civic Club honored her for being a Community Volunteer and finally, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments recognized her for her 20 years of service.

As I mentioned earlier, and as you can see from this lengthy list of accomplishments, Ruth was always moving, always involved. Her friends wondered if she ever had time to sleep. She adored her family and always seemed to be on her way to visit a child. In fact, the tragic accident that led to her death occurred as she returned from visiting one of her three daughters, Lauren, Amy and Melissa. Between the three of them they have seven of Ruth and Dick's grandchildren.

Ruth and Dick's home blended elements of Ruth Vreeland's youth in China with the Japanese culture that Dick Vreeland picked up in the Army. She cooked Chinese food and raised the children to use chopsticks. A proud naturalized citizen from Canada, Ruth also instilled civic values in her daughters. "She believed in this country because she was naturalized in it and she taught me what patriotism is," her daughter said.

Throughout her life, Ruth tackled the large-scale problems that had always energized her. The Sierra Club recognized her in the 1980's for fighting offshore drilling and sewage spills. She traveled to Sacramento and Washington to promote education and local government, rising to leadership roles I previously mentioned with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and the League of California Cities.

Ruth was active in Democratic Party politics and was not afraid to bring progressive political causes to Monterey. She challenged the city in 1988 for not having enough women and minorities in management positions, and a decade later she discouraged the council from subsidizing the Boy Scouts because of its exclusionary policies toward gays.

In the months before her death, Vreeland's last big project was saving education and local government in the face of California's budget crisis, a problem epic enough to discourage even the most ardent community activist.

But not Ruth Vreeland.

America will miss her. She came to this country to do good—we are all better for it and will miss her forever.

HONORING MR. MIKE SALVADORI

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 great friend not only to the 18th Congressional District but to my family and I, Mr. Mike Salvadori. The Merced County Chamber of Commerce is honoring him as the 2003 Ambassador of Goodwill, and I know this is a well-deserved honor.

Mike was born on December 2, 1936 in Merced County. He had the good fortune to be raised on his parent's dairy. Dairy work is not easy, and Mike quickly learned he had to work hard to be a success. Along with his brother and two sisters, the Salvadori family was taught to value and respect their neighbors and surrounding community. These two important life lessons are what have shaped Mike into a caring citizen.

After attending Modesto Junior College, Mike made the decision to serve his country. He enlisted in the United States Army, and he served our Nation for 2 years. Soon after, he met his wife Jeanne and the two were married in 1960.

The Salvadori's made a home in Merced County and worked on his father's dairy where they enjoyed the experience of milking cows and riding horses together. Continuing his interest with the dairy business, Mike took a job with Berkeley Farms and the couple moved to San Jose.

After a brief stint at Berkeley Farms, the two moved back to Los Banos, California where Mike then took a job with Wonder Bread. In 1963, Mike and Jeanne bought Bi-Rite Liquor Store in Merced, California. Mike and Jeanne were dedicated to turning their new investment into a success. They stayed focused and were soon able to open a new store.

While Mike was now successfully running his own business, he became interested in real estate. Through his good friend, Lou Gonella, he was able to begin selling real estate in Merced County. Always the entrepreneur, Mike opened his own real estate office in Merced—Century 21 Salvadori Realty in 1975.

Not only is Mike a very successful business man, but he is an incredible leader in our community. Always willing to lend a helping hand to any organization or charity, he has earned himself the respect of all of his neighbors and friends. As part of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, the Italo American Lodge, and Kiwanis, he and his family have proven their dedication to all in our community.

Mike's second passion in life is cooking. Merced residents know that if there is a large community event, they will find Mike cooking his famous pasta. Local organizations can always count on Mike to help cook for their events. He truly has a warm place in the hearts of locals who couldn't go without his services, or his wonderful meals.

Along with his wife and two sons, Michael and Paul, I am honored to recognize the dedication of Mike to our community. He is truly an