

fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states.

Building safety codes provide safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters that can occur all across the country, such as snowstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildland fires, and earthquakes. Building safety codes also work to minimize other potential building catastrophes.

Building Safety Week, sponsored by the International Code Council Foundation, is an opportunity to educate the public. It is a perfect time to increase public awareness of the role building safety and fire prevention officials, local and state building departments, and federal agencies play in the first line of defense to protect the public.

This year's theme, "You Can Be a Part of Building Safety Week," encourages all Americans to raise our awareness of building safety, and to take appropriate steps to ensure that the places where we live, work, play and learn are safe. Countless lives have been saved because of the building safety codes adopted and enforced by local and state agencies.

This year, as we observe Building Safety Week, I ask all Americans to consider projects to improve building safety at home and in the community, and to recognize the local building safety and fire prevention officials and the important role that they play in public safety.

I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize building safety and fire prevention officials today and urge all people to participate in Building Safety Week activities and to commence efforts to improve building safety.

RECOGNIZING THE LATIN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Latin Business Association (LBA) for its 28 years of performing exceptional work in promoting business growth, advocacy and education for the Latino community.

Established in 1976 as a private nonprofit organization, the LBA is the nation's largest Latino business entity with an active membership of 1,200 and overall outreach to Latino business owners. LBA's membership and outreach efforts enable it to fulfill its mission of being the fastest and most effective leader of Latino business opportunities in the market place. In addition, the LBA helps Latino-owned businesses grow by providing business-training workshops and developing effective advocacy programs.

More than a leader in the business world, the LBA transcends political, cultural, and language barriers that impact our nation's economic balance. As a result of the LBA's hard work, Latino businesses, executives, and entrepreneurs are not only nationally recognized, but have the opportunity to influence the nation's economic public policy.

As the Latino population continues to grow, the development of new corporations and entrepreneurial businesses will jumpstart our economy. I believe the LBA will be at the forefront among strong and influential business organizations offering support and direction to the Latino business community.

Tonight's 28th Annual Sol Business Awards Gala is a testament to the emerging significance and influence of the Latino business community. I am proud to recognize the LBA, its Board of Directors, and its members for 28 years of successfully generating business opportunities, providing advocacy, and educating the Latino community for business growth. The LBA has distinguished itself as an exceptional leader in Latino business development and I wish it much longevity and prosperity.

COMMENDING MARK PEPOWSKI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor that I stand before you today to recognize the achievements of a fine college professor, Mark Peplowski, in Henderson, NV. He has dedicated himself to the service of Henderson students through his loyalty to the Community College of Southern Nevada. Beginning with his appointment as an adjunct professor in 1976 he has been determined to make Henderson, NV a better place by dedicating his career to Community College of Southern Nevada.

During his career as an adjunct professor and a professor, he has created programs to bring his students into the political world by providing ways for them to travel to our Nation's Capitol to work and meet with the many leaders of our Nation. He has been there as a mentor and counselor to his students in helping them accomplish their career goals in politics.

Mark Peplowski has also had a long-term goal of creating a Grass Roots Institute of Politics at the Henderson campus to give students from all backgrounds a chance to participate in and understand the political process with the opportunity to get involved in government.

I commend Mark Peplowski for his dedication to his students and his loyalty to his country. He has demonstrated that he is an effective teacher and has continuously taught his students the meaning of good government through his example and dedication to learning.

SPIRITUAL LEADER, BLESSED PRESENCE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, one of Michigan's finest citizens recently passed away. I have been searching for the right words to express my high esteem for Bishop Kenneth E. Untener. Having just read the editorial in the Saginaw News of Saginaw, Michigan, I feel that they have expressed well the love in which the Bishop was held by those whose lives he had touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Saginaw News editorial be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Saginaw News, Mar. 31, 2004]

SPIRITUAL LEADER, BLESSED PRESENCE

For the better part of a quarter century, Bishop Kenneth E. Untener served the Saginaw Diocese with humility, humor and unflinching devotion. His faith and commitment to God are unquestioned. Yet Untener's fidelity to the welfare of the region's people—people of all faiths, creeds and colors—was an equally profound reflection of his humanity and ability to lead.

His death this weekend of leukemia leaves a deep void in the Saginaw Valley, and not just among Catholics. The bishop's work to improve the community, to unite its interconnected and diverse components, was tireless. He was an inspiring presence within the region's religious and civic communities.

As former Saginaw Mayor Henry Marsh, his friend and compatriot in community affairs put it, Saginaw cannot replace him. His outreach brought hundreds of the region's leaders together via his monthly "bishop's breakfast" meetings. He was active in Saginaw County Vision 2020, Habitat for Humanity and myriad youth initiatives. He abolished perceived barriers among individuals and between groups.

There is no doubt Bishop Untener was taken, in the transitory, earthly way, too soon. It was only a few weeks ago that he announced his battle with cancer. He was 66.

The church, of course, will name a successor to lead the 140,000-member, 11-county Saginaw Diocese. The community will welcome the next bishop, and Untener's successor will embark on a path to leave his own mark.

Yet Untener's legacy will survive through his civic example and in his acclaimed religious writings. His "Little Books" are inspirational guides used by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The level of praise from within the religious community, from clergy of all faiths, is a testament to Untener's bridge-building skills. His outreach sometimes rankled members of his own faith, as in his support for female priests, as contradictory to traditional church doctrine.

As a man living among us, however, Bishop Untener's humble march toward unity serves as an example we all would wisely strive to follow.

The community was blessed by Bishop Untener's presence for nearly a quarter century. The people he touched are forever changed; the community he served was changed for the better, too.

IN HONOR OF ALVIN "SAM" SHRADER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Alvin "Sam" Shrader's dedication to public service as the Breakfast Rotary Club of Camarillo recognizes him for 60 years of perfect Rotary Club attendance.

As my colleagues are aware, the object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service in all aspects of one's life—business, personal and community. Alvin Shrader epitomizes that ideal.

Alvin Shrader and his wife, Avis (or Suzy as she's better known), will celebrate 70 years of marriage this June. They have three wonderful children, including my lovely wife, Janice. Alvin Shrader is as dedicated to his wife, children, eight grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren

and great-great-grandchild (soon to be two) as he has been to the Rotary over many decades.

In true Rotary fashion, Alvin Shrader also kept the Rotary ideal alive in his business dealings. He became a chiropractor in the 1930s and helped change its image and acceptability as an active member and past treasurer of the California Chiropractic Association. He is also a lifelong gardener, tending to his vegetables with the same care that he tends to all life.

Rotary has been the social center of Alvin and Avis' life. Prior to joining Rotary in 1945, Alvin was a member of the 20-30 Club's Los Angeles Chapter, where he also marked perfect attendance. He is a former Rotary Club of Los Angeles Southwest president and Avis is a former Rotary Ann.

When on the road, Alvin Shrader makes it a point to make up meetings by visiting other Rotary Clubs. He has attended meetings at clubs in Florida; Salt Lake City; Crystal City, VA; Carson City; St. Louis; Puerto Rico and the Kingdom of Tonga. When he was recently hospitalized with a broken hip, his biggest concern was making up Rotary meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have Alvin and Avis as my in-laws. As patriarch and matriarch of the Shrader family, they set the standard for generations to follow. It is a high standard of love and dedication that any family would be proud to follow. I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing Alvin "Sam" Shrader for a lifetime of service to family, his profession and his community by upholding and living the Rotary ideal.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-DULUTH MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the University of Minnesota-Duluth men's hockey team on reaching the 2004 NCAA Men's Frozen Four Hockey Tournament. This moment has been 19 years in the making, since the last UMD men's hockey team reached the Frozen Four in 1985. This is the second time the UMD men's hockey team has reached the Frozen Four, and the third NCAA trip for the men's hockey team.

I want to acknowledge, in particular, the accomplishments of Head Coach and Hibbing, Minnesota native Scott Sandelin. Scott has been awarded the 2004 Western Collegiate College Association's Coach of the Year award. He is one of the most promising young coaches in college hockey and has only 4 years behind the bench as head coach. He is not only a great coach, but also a superb instructor who has taught his players a great understanding of the game. The team has demonstrated that understanding of the game with their impressive 28-12-4 record. It is clear that the lessons learned on the ice will serve these student-athletes well after graduation, which is the hallmark of college athletics.

I also want to congratulate University of Minnesota Duluth Senior, Junior Lessard, who became the seventh Bulldog to be named a Hobey Baker finalist. Mr. Lessard was se-

lected as 2004 Western Collegiate Hockey Association Player of the Year and helped the Bulldogs advance to the Frozen Four for the first time in 19 years. He leads the nation in scoring with 61 points and 20 assists in league play.

I want to commend Coach Sandelin, Junior Lessard and the entire UMD hockey team for their outstanding season and to wish them success in the NCAA Frozen Four tournament.

IN HONOR OF ANTONIA HERNANDEZ

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a great American and good friend, Antonia Hernandez, Former President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). To me, Antonia is many things: a national leader on civil rights and public policy, a pioneer who has opened doors for countless underrepresented Americans in this country, and a wonderful friend and mentor who after 23 years with MALDEF, has embarked on another ambitious journey by leading one of this country's premiere charitable institutions, the California Community Foundation.

Born on May 30, 1948, Antonia was raised in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico. At the age of eight, her parents, Manuel and Nicolasa Hernandez, emigrated, family and all, to the United States and settled in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. Growing up in the housing projects of East Los Angeles, Antonia learned her strong work ethic and core values from her parents. As the eldest of seven children (Maria, Guadalupe, Lisa, Mary Ann, Peter, and Manuel), Antonia demonstrated an incredible entrepreneurial spirit at an early age, going door-to-door in her housing project selling tamales to help support the family.

Antonia is a proud alumna of Garfield High School and East Los Angeles College. The first in her family to attend college, Antonia set her sights higher and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1970 and a Juris Doctorate in 1974 from the University of California, Los Angeles.

On October 8, 1977, Antonia married Michael Stern, and together they have become an indivisible team, blessed with a true partnership, friendship and love. Family has always been the top priority for these proud parents of three: Benjamin, Marisa, and Michael.

Antonia's illustrious career has taken her from the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice to the Legal Aid Foundation, the United States Senate Judiciary Committee and of course MALDEF, where she quickly became an indispensable asset and emblematic of MALDEF's tenacity to prevail. Her collaborative style and incredible network of relationships have propelled MALDEF to the top of our nation's leading civil rights and public policy organizations. She served a remarkable and unprecedented 18 years as President and General Counsel of this preeminent organiza-

tion. Under her guidance, MALDEF has gained long-term financial stability going from an organization that began in 1968 with a \$2.2 million grant from the Ford Foundation to one that operates a \$6.5 million annual budget and has offices in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Sacramento and San Antonio.

What mark has this human being left on America? She heroically led the fight defeating the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in the California courts in the 1990's. She courageously worked on the 1995 Edgewood case which held that the Texas legislature had the authority to require wealthier districts to share that wealth with less fortunate districts. Today, while still a work in progress, we are moving towards an educational system that provides a fair opportunity to all Texan children. And Latino families are forever indebted to Antonia for her instrumental role in pursuing accurate census counts in 1990 and 2000. Under her leadership, MALDEF took the lead in conducting nationwide census outreach campaigns and kept a vigilant watch over the complicated redistricting process so that Latinos would, for the first time, have a strong political voice throughout the country.

Antonia's years of demonstrated leadership led the California Community Foundation to name her as its new Chief Executive Officer and President. With this new position comes the opportunity to forge new paths and serve Californians in new ways.

Antonia's legal career has always embodied her passion for helping the Latino and other disenfranchised communities to "make sure that everyone has a place at the table." One of her former colleagues best characterized Antonia as someone who can interact respectfully with the most modest, humble immigrants and then translate their needs into action. As Antonia closes one chapter of her distinguished career and begins another, I would like to say "thank you" on behalf of the countless people whose lives she has changed by opening doors, leading by example and always holding firm to her convictions. Her innumerable contributions will be felt and appreciated for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to pay tribute to Antonia, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this truly remarkable example of the American dream. Fortunately for all of us Antonia has much vigor and fight reserved for her new calling at the helm of the California Community Foundation. Antonia, you have earned the luck that will be with you.

TRIBUTE TO ANN SUNSTEIN KHEEL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Sunstein Kheel who died in New York City on December 28 at the age of 88. Ms. Kheel was a woman as close to a saint as I have ever known. She dedicated her whole life to the fight for social and racial justice. Born in Pittsburgh in 1915, she went to Cornell University where she earned a degree