

Winterstella has testified before the Senate and Congress on the topic of clean air and water reform, subjects close to his heart.

A career such as this merits strong praise, so Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my dearest gratitude to Mayor Winterstella for his indelible service to the people of Monmouth County and the borough of Manasquan. In addition, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a personal friend for a storied career that has positively shaped the lives of all people whom he has served.

HONORING SY AND ESTELLE  
OPPER

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a couple with a truly outstanding history of community service and philanthropy. From their modest upbringing to the present day, Sy and Estelle Oppers have always been generous with their time and resources and giving with their heart. Sy and Estelle have come to embody the best qualities of community service and citizenship. As their friends, family and many admirers gather for the Shalom School Lighting the Way Gala in honor of their wonderful contributions to the Jewish community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected couples, Sy and Estelle Oppers.

Sy and Estelle Oppers are lifelong Sacramento residents who were raised with great family support and strong family values. Sy and Estelle were both encouraged by their loved ones to lend a helping hand to those who are in need. In the years after, Sy and Estelle have worked hard to transform this valuable lesson from childhood into a lifelong commitment to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate. Perhaps, more importantly, Sy and Estelle have passed the important values that they learned from their respective families to their four children and seven grandchildren. The people of the Capital Region should take great comfort in knowing that the Oppers' trademark spirit of philanthropy and sense of humanity will continue to bless us for generations to come.

In 1946, Sy Oppers opened five plumbing stores, Harold's Plumbing Supply. The last of this successful chain of plumbing stores would remain open until 2000. In spite of the considerable time commitment that is required to run a successful business, the Oppers never allowed their busy schedules to interfere with their resolute dedication to community service.

Throughout the years, Estelle Oppers has been active in a number of Jewish organizations including: Hadassah, TDX, Sisterhood, Jewish Family Service and the Grandparents Club at Shalom School. In addition, Estelle has also lent her name and efforts to help fundraise for Cancer research, the Breast Cancer fund of San Francisco and the River Oaks Center for Children, a multi-service behavioral healthcare agency for abused children and their families.

As for Sy Oppers, he has served as president of the board for many Jewish organizations such as the Jewish Federation and B'nei Israel Congregation. Much like Estelle, Sy has

also been active in a number of fundraising efforts. Sy played an instrumental role in the construction of the Washington Neighborhood Center of Sacramento, a place that provides after school programs such as free tutoring, computer workshops, dance classes and fine arts programs for at risk children and teens. Currently, Sy serves as on the board of The Trust Fund for Jewish Elderly and on the Jewish Family Service Board.

Together, Sy and Estelle Oppers have supported a number of important causes. Locally, Sy and Estelle have long been strong supporters of the regional theaters. Sy and Estelle were major donors and participants in the purchase of the property and building for the Jewish Foundation, where the area's only Jewish Day School, Shalom School, is located. On a national level, in addition to being long time members of AIPAC, the Oppers have been closely involved with the fundraising efforts for City of Hope National Medical Center, a place that provides essential help to millions of people facing life-threatening diseases. The goodwill of the Oppers extends well beyond the boundaries of the United States. Over the years, Sy and Estelle Oppers have participated in a number of missions to Israel.

Mr. Speaker, as Sy and Estelle Oppers' friends and family gather to celebrate and pay tribute to their wonderful legacy of community service I am honored to pay tribute to two of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. The Oppers continuous philanthropy is a true testament to the spirit of giving and helping those who are in need. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Sy and Estelle Oppers continued happiness and success in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK BEATY,  
RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Chuck Beaty is one of these individuals.

Chuck Beaty's career has been dedicated to education and community service. In 1961, Chuck received his B.S. in Education from the University of Kansas. While he was working towards his Master's in History and Political Science, at the University of Missouri, he taught American History and Literature at a local junior high school. After receiving his M.A. in 1965, Chuck became a high school social studies department chairman and teacher for 3 years.

In 1984, Chuck became Riverside's Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and was responsible for several department managers. He was promoted to Deputy Superintendent 2 years later and was the District representative to Riverside's Task Force 2000. During this time he also served as the Acting Superintendent and was responsible for the

administration of a 31,000 person ADA school district.

After serving in the educational field for 32 years, Chuck was elected to represent Ward I of the City of Riverside. He retires after a decade of leadership and service to the community of Riverside. He is also a member of the American Historical Society, the Association of California School Administrators, the Riverside Association of School Managers, and the Social Studies Supervisors Association. One of his true passions in Riverside has been for the Evergreen Cemetery.

In 1998, a former Riverside City employee broke into the Riverside City Council Chamber during a meeting and seriously injured several people including Chuck. Despite this incident, Chuck persevered and continued public service. His courage and devotion demand our deepest respect and gratitude.

Chuck's tireless passion for education and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. Chuck has been the heart and soul of many educational institutions and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

RECOGNIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NUCOR STEEL BAR MILL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as a former businessman, I can attest that one of the most important issues facing business today is how to remain profitable, productive, and efficient—while at the same time protecting the environment.

Many people would have us believe this is an "either-or" proposition. But I disagree. I believe strongly that many companies, large and small, are committed to preserving our natural resources. And recently, I had the opportunity to visit one, and see first-hand how it is successfully pursuing a strategy of operational and environmental excellence.

The Nucor Steel Bar Mill plant, located within my District in Jewett, Texas, is undertaking a modernization program that, when completed next year, will make it perhaps the most sophisticated facility in the industry. This three-phase, \$250 million initiative began in 1999, and includes new equipment, new technologies, and a new melt shop. It will improve the facility's operations at every level, and solidify Nucor's status as a world-class company. In the end, it will have a total annual economic impact on Texas of more than \$460 million.

But what is especially interesting about this modernization is that it will enable the plant to produce more steel and be more profitable, yet still provide even greater environmental protection. Specifically, Nucor-Jewett will increase its capacity from the current 750,000 tons of recycled steel per year to 1 million, and it will achieve that growth through the installation of pollution control equipment that actually supports rather than hinders the mill's prosperity.

This new equipment is more than simply state-of-the-art. It is state-of-the-future. The new melt shop will be tightly closed, and enable the plant to capture 100 percent of all air emissions. Advanced technologies will minimize the release of carbon monoxide and eliminate dust. All water-cooled furnace parts will have temperature sensors and flow meters to detect leaks.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, this is not an expansion for its own sake. It is an expansion for the sake of safety, the environment and the team of dedicated employees who work at Nucor-Jewett. I also want to point out that a centerpiece of this modernization is a new 90-ton electric arc furnace, or EAF. This too, stands as testimony of Nucor's commitment to performing in the most responsible possible manner.

The EAF process is one of the most efficient, effective technologies in manufacturing today. It is less expensive and capital intensive than traditional steel making, which has helped Nucor become one of the lowest-cost producers in the world. But just as important, it requires fewer raw materials and less energy.

The facts are staggering. For every ton of steel produced, the EAF process saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone. Annually, it saves enough energy to electrically power the city of Los Angeles for eight years. On top of that, it also reduces air and water emissions, and greenhouse gases that are associated with conventional steelmaking.

This kind of environmental responsibility is nothing new to Nucor. The company, which operates 30 facilities in 14 states—including four in Texas—is the largest producer of recycled steel in the world. It takes scrap metal that would otherwise be clogging landfills or tossed in fields or along roadsides and turns it into something of value that can be used in automobiles, farm machinery, metal buildings, furniture and recreational equipment.

But this modernization takes that commitment to a whole new level. As I said at the outset of my remarks, it demonstrates that economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, profit and prosperity can and should co-exist with efforts to preserve our natural resources.

In Texas, we have the good sense to understand this. Nucor's ability to undertake such a significant modernization program was in part due to voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1993 that provides tax exemptions on property used for pollution control. The amendment enabled companies to invest in environmental technologies without fear of seeing their property taxes increase. So we were able to protect the environment, strengthen our business climate and hold the line on taxes.

The success of Nucor-Jewett shows quite clearly that the wisdom Texans exhibited in 1993 continues to pay off today. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Nucor Steel Bar Mill Group, its employees and management for helping to make Texas a land of greater environmental and economic opportunity.

## TAIWANESE REFERENDUM

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker Taiwan and the United States have a long and fruitful relationship. Taiwan's democracy is modeled after ours and its economic prosperity depends much on the mutual trade between Taiwan and the United States. Taiwan's leaders were mostly educated in the United States and Taiwan has nearly 30,000 students studying in America colleges and their tourists' number one overseas destination is the United States.

So despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan is a close ally of our government. It has supported our global war against terrorism and has pledged humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq.

On the other hand, we have the Taiwan Relations Act, a law of the land which is designed to provide Taiwan with adequate weapons to protect itself against invasion from China. The U.S. policy on Taiwan-China relations is to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's planned March 20 referendum, contrary to what Chinese leaders have said about it, is designed to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is not to provoke Chinese leaders. It merely asks Taiwan voters whether their government should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refuses to withdraw its 496 missiles targeted at Taiwan and whether their government should open up talks with China about other issues.

I feel the 23 million people of Taiwan have a right to hold such a referendum. We mustn't allow China to intimidate Taiwan with talks of overtaking Taiwan by force and other verbal threats.

## RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT E. WEST UPON RETIREMENT FROM YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP HOUSING AUTHORITY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Robert E. West, who has recently retired from the position of Executive Director to the Neptune Township Authority.

Robert E. West was born in New York, and moved to Neptune, NJ at an early age. After graduating as valedictorian of his high school class, and finishing his education at Monmouth Junior College, he began work as an insurance agent in New York, eventually moving to the prestigious North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to selling insurance, Mr. West worked with Haso Maintenance Inc., working to dispatch taxis to the city's Bronx borough.

After 15 years working in the private sector, Mr. West's heart wished to stay in the place that he had resided since childhood, and began what would be a storied career in the

Neptune Township Housing Authority. From humble beginnings as a rent collector, Robert West rose through the ranks of the Authority to the prestigious position of Executive Director.

Mr. West's distinguished period of public service included affiliations to the Neptune Lions Club, Jersey Shore Medical Center and stints as the President of the Neptune Board of Education, who's most notable contribution was to save the school marching band through personal endeavors and vigorous fundraising efforts.

Under Mr. West's tenure as Executive Director, the Neptune Housing Authority has experienced growth unlike anything that has ever seen. Director West implemented programs to improve the quality of life for tenants, improve the quality of the residences in which they resided, and helped to make the administrative offices of the NTHA handicap accessible. For his work, the United States Housing and Urban Development Association awarded Mr. West several outstanding achievement awards.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my dearest gratitude to Mr. West for his indelible service to the community in which he lived. A career such as his truly merits praise, and I too ask, that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Robert E. West for a storied career that has touched the lives of all those whom he had served.

## HONORING MURIEL JOHNSON

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman with a long and impressive list of contributions to the County of Sacramento. To say that Muriel Johnson is an important and treasured member of our community would only begin to skim the surface of the extraordinary service that she has given our communities over her 41 years as a Sacramento resident. Muriel, who is currently in the last year of a successful 12-year stint as a Sacramento County Supervisor, has deservedly been acknowledged by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the 2003 Sacramentan of the Year Award. As her friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate Muriel's illustrious career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of the Capital Region's most accomplished and widely respected leaders.

Muriel Johnson grew up in Nebraska and earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of Nebraska. Before beginning her formal career in public service, Muriel contributed to the betterment of her community by serving as a high school English and music teacher. In addition, Muriel also taught "Management by Objectives" during her teaching career.

Even before she was elected to the Sacramento Board of Supervisors, Muriel was an active and instrumental member of the local volunteer community. Muriel played a vital role in raising more than \$10 million dollars for a number of community service projects, the arts, and local charity. Muriel served as President of the Crocker Art Museum Board, the