

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR.  
CLAUDE M. ROHWER

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks and congratulations to Mr. Claude M. Rohwer, upon his retirement as Associate Dean of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. After nearly four and a half decades of service as a professor, he now concludes a stellar career in academia.

A native of Dixon, California, Claude grew up raising pigs on his family's Sacramento Valley farm. He received his undergraduate education at the acclaimed University of California at Berkeley, following which he earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1958. That same year, he began service to his country in the U.S. Air Force's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

From 1960 to 1961, Claude was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California. Following this experience, he launched a career in private practice with the firm of Downey, Brand, Seymour and Rohwer in Sacramento. After a few years as an associate in what was then the largest practice in the city, he became a partner from 1965 to 1967.

Mr. Speaker, having taught at the McGeorge School of Law since 1961, Claude decided to leave private practice in 1967 to take a full-time position on the faculty as one of four charter professors. Generations of law students are grateful that he did, for he helped the school develop from a small, unknown entity into a proud institution.

Claude has specialized in international law during his career. From 1982 to 1986, he was the Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs. And since 2003 he has filled duties as the Associate Dean for International Affairs. He has lectured and consulted all over the world. He has taught commercial and contract law courses in cities including Vienna, Salzburg, Edinburgh, Shanghai, and London. Most recently, he has consulted the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Trade to help rewrite that nation's civil code and commercial law respectively.

In addition to being an accomplished teacher, Claude has published many legal works. While much of his writing portfolio has an international emphasis, I benefited from his text "Contracts in a Nutshell" when I was his student at McGeorge.

Claude is a member in good standing of the California Bar Association, American Bar Association, and International Bar Association. Among his professional honors, Professor Rohwer belongs to the Order of the Coif, was named an Amicus Lex Scholar in 1982, and was the University of the Pacific Professor of the Year in 1981.

In retirement, Claude plans to write a history of McGeorge. In addition to spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren, he also intends to continue singing bass with the West Valley Chorale and pursuing the love of hunting he inherited from his own father.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in commending Professor Claude Rohwer for his outstanding service to our country as a member

of the Armed Forces, an able attorney, and a career educator. After all that has been said about him, he is simply a good and decent man, and I am personally thankful for his guidance and instruction he has provided to me and countless other students of the law. May he enjoy this next phase of life with the satisfaction of knowing he has had a tremendous influence on the profession he loves.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR RAYMOND K. DUSZA

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great labor leader, public official and dear friend and colleague who at the end of this year will retire from active public service as a member of the Erie County Legislature—the man commonly known as "Mr. Cheektowaga," Legislator Raymond K. Dusza.

During the 1990s, I worked closely with Ray, and saw firsthand his gentle yet persistent leadership style. Ray's leadership on so many issues important to taxpayers and consumers won kudos from countless local residents and praise from local taxpayers' groups.

Ray's call to public service came early in life. He enlisted in the United States Army and defended this country as a Paratrooper in the unit known as "America's Guard of Honor," Ray's beloved 82nd Airborne Division. When Ray came home after his military service, he started at the Westinghouse Electric corporation, where his reputation as a "man of the people" became apparent. Ray rose through the ranks and was chosen to represent 4,000 of his labor brothers and sisters as leader of the International Union of Electrical Workers, Local 1581.

In 1988, the 8th District seat in the Erie County Legislature became vacant. After many years of active service in the community and in the Democratic Party, Ray contested and won election that November, representing the residents of the Town of Cheektowaga and the Village of Depew. Over the past 17 years, Republicans and Democrats alike have bowed to the high regard with which this man has been held—Ray has never been seriously challenged for re-election.

Local consumers soon learned that they had no greater defender of their rights than Ray Dusza. Ray led the fight for a new Item Pricing/Scanner Accuracy law for Erie County, to ensure that prices consumers were charged for goods were properly reflecting prices on store shelves. Through Ray's work, scanners in supermarkets, home centers and other retail stores that were estimated to be accurate only 50 percent to 70 percent of the time must now offer consumers 98 percent accuracy. In addition, Ray will always be remembered as the "Coupon King" for his successful fight against the Proctor & Gamble Corporation's attempt to deny local shoppers free access to manufacturer's coupons. Ray fought hard for consumers, residents and taxpayers as Vice Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, and as Chairman of two legislative standing committees, the Government Affairs

Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee.

Ray Dusza added one more very important element to his service in County Hall: a robust sense of humor. Ray's philosophy was to "be serious about what you do, but don't take yourself too seriously," and he was indeed good to his word. Ray always added a refreshing sense of humor to the deliberations within County Hall, consistently entering committee meetings with the declaration that "the paratroopers have landed," and sarcastically questioning what time the perennially tardy "nine o'clock caucus" would begin.

Ray's dedication to his community was not limited to his role in the Legislature. The following are just a few of the organizations Ray has dedicated his time and energy toward: the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Knights of Columbus—Father Justin Council, Polish Falcons Club, American Legion Gierlach Post, Depew/Cheektowaga Taxpayers' Association, AMVETS Buddy Knaus Post, Catholic War Veterans Post 1313, the Ushers Society at St. Philip the Apostle Church, and St. Josephat's Parish Holy Name Society. In addition, Ray is the leader of the eponymously-named "Ray Dusza Booster Club," a grouping of political supporters that Ray sentimentally refers to as his "commandos."

Mr. Speaker, I am a lifelong resident of another great Western New York community—South Buffalo, NY, and the highest compliment that folks can pay to someone from South Buffalo is that they remember where they come from, and remember the people who sent them to serve in public office. Few public officials remember from whom and from whence they came the way Ray Dusza does. I am delighted that you have allowed me to take a few moments to honor Ray's service to our community here today, and I am honored even more to call Ray Dusza my friend. To Ray, his wife Terry, to their children, grandchildren and to the entire Dusza Family, I want to offer my sincere thanks, and my wishes of good luck and Godspeed for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DONALD BASYE

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor George Donald Basye, a man who through hard work and dedication has become one of the most respected and accomplished water and flood attorneys in California. As his friends, family and colleagues gather to pay tribute to Mr. Basye's remarkable 50-year career with the Central Valley law firm of Downey Brand, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this great American success story.

George was born on June 21, 1926 in Porterville, California. After graduating from high school in 1944, George served in the U.S. Navy. As an enlisted sailor, George held the rank of Seaman Second Class Musician Striker and performed in Navy dance bands.

Upon honorable discharge from the Navy in August of 1946, George enrolled in the College of the Pacific and graduated in February

of 1948 with a B.A. in Economics. After graduation, George sought to expand his horizons and enrolled in a one-year graduate program at the University of Stockholm in Sweden.

Upon returning to the United States in 1949, George took an aptitude test which suggested that he was best suited for a career as a social science teacher, not a lawyer. As a result, he enrolled in the UCLA Graduate School of Education in the Spring of 1950 to take up a career in teaching. However, it soon became clear to George that law was undoubtedly his true calling. It was in August of the following year that George applied and was admitted to the new Boalt Hall School of Law at Berkeley.

Although George was about to pursue a legal education, he could never truly abandon his love of music. Thus, in a short stint before law school, he fulfilled one of his lifelong ambitions by playing the upright bass in a traveling jazz trio known as the Crazy Kats.

His decision to enroll in Boalt Hall would prove to be a pivotal point in not only his career in law, but in his personal life as well. It was during his time at Boalt Hall that George began dating Mary Alice Johnson, a student at Mills College. They were married in December of 1952. Today, more than 50 years later, George and Alice are the happy parents of four children, Anne, Jennifer, John, and Paul, and four grandchildren.

George graduated from Boalt Hall 7th in his class with an LLB degree. Upon graduation, George enrolled for a graduate degree in law and spent a year studying at the Uppsala University in Sweden. After returning to the United States in 1955, George began his new job at Downey, Brand, Seymour, and Rohwer starting on September 20, 1955.

While working, George wrote his Master's thesis and obtained his LLM degree from Boalt Hall in 1956.

When George began his career at Downey Brand in 1955, he was one of 8 lawyers in what would later become a 120-lawyer firm. For the first few years, George spent much of his time doing probate work, but then began to focus his efforts on water law and flood control matters for clients such as Reclamation Districts 537, 1000, 900 and 999, the California Central Valley Flood Control Association, and many mutual water companies. For the next 45 years, George's knowledge and experience in water and flood control law became expansive, and George shaped much of the law in these areas through his position as General Counsel for the California Central Valley Flood Control Association.

George also focused significant efforts on making Sacramento and California a better place by acting in leadership positions for the California State Library Foundation, the California Historical Foundation, the California Historical Society, the Sacramento Metropolitan YMCA, the Sacramento Symphony Association, the Crocker Art Museum Association, the Sacramento YMCA Foundation, the California Capitol Historic Preservation Society, the Sacramento Trust for Historic Preservation, the Pfund Family Foundation, and the Sacramento Pioneer Association.

Throughout an almost 50-year career, George Basye has been acknowledged as one of the modern fathers of water and flood law in California. His years of commitment, hard work, and dedication to the Central Val-

ley and the law firm of Downey Brand have undeniably contributed to the firm's amazing growth and positioning as one of the top law practices in the region.

Mr. Speaker, as George's friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate his admirable career, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most selfless and dedicated citizens. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing George Donald Basye continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. TIPKINS HOOD, SR.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 6, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Dr. Tipkins Hood, Sr. of Oakland, California. Dr. Hood was a compassionate physician, devoted husband and father, a leading member of our community and a wonderful friend. He passed away on September 22, 2005 in Oakland, California.

Dr. Hood was born on December 15, 1936 in Camden, Texas, where he was the third of nine children in a loving and close-knit family. A precocious child, he had an unsurpassed zeal for learning, and throughout his primary and secondary education he excelled in reading, the sciences and mathematics. Graduating early from high school, he enrolled at Texas Southern University at age 15, earning a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and later graduating from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1964, Dr. Hood married Ms. Ruth Starnes in St. Louis, Missouri. Sadly, Ruth passed away in 1978, but their union produced a son, Tipkins Hood, Jr. A dedicated family man and hard-working student, Dr. Hood completed his internship at Homer G. Philips Hospital in St. Louis, his general residency at Washington University, and his specialty orthopedic surgery training in St. Louis at the University of Missouri and the nearby Veteran's Administration Hospital.

As a young doctor, Dr. Hood voluntarily served from 1960 until 1970 in the United States Navy-Marine Corps, during which time he was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat V as well as a Meritorious Service Award for serving above and beyond the call of duty. At the end of his military service he was also awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Honor.

After completing his education and military service in 1970, Dr. Hood began his medical practice in Oakland, California. After getting his board certification in Orthopedic Surgery in 1974, he practiced for more than 35 years in Oakland, contributing immeasurably to the health and well being of our entire community. For close to 4 decades, he maintained an extensive inpatient and outpatient practice, and treated a wide range of patients including children, adults, the elderly and low-income individuals. Over the years, his medical expertise benefited groups such as the Oakland Police & Fire Retirement Association, the Oakland Raiders and the Social Security Administration, as well as an untold number of individ-

uals and families who otherwise may not have had access to that kind of medical treatment.

Though Dr. Hood's medical achievements were extraordinary, his accomplishments and leadership extended far beyond the realm of medicine. Throughout his life he was involved in a variety of business, community and academic endeavors, and supported a number of important civic and political causes. He was a tremendous asset to the late Mayor Lionel Wilson of Oakland as well as to Congressman Ron Dellums, and was one of my longtime and consistent supporters. For this, I am deeply grateful.

Additionally, in what he considered to be one of his most important roles, Dr. Hood was a dedicated and lifelong member of the Board of Trustees at his medical alma mater, Meharry Medical College. A deeply spiritual person, Dr. Hood was also a longtime member of Downs Memorial United Methodist Church in Oakland, California.

In 1981, Dr. Hood married Ms. Carol H. Williams, and together they raised two children, Tipkins Hood, Jr. and Carol Henry Hood, Jr. Their life together was enriched by their devotion to each other, and they delighted in the arrival of a grandson, Tipkins Milton Hood. Dr. Hood enjoyed sharing his love of travel, fishing and cooking with his family and friends, and took every opportunity to spend time with them. His dedication to his family was unsurpassed, and throughout his life his loved ones brought him great joy.

As a close personal friend since the early 1970s, I benefited from Tip's advice, keen intellect and remarkable wisdom. He was a "wise man," yet he had a lot of heart. For example, this summer he took the time to provide his medical insights to one of my family members who had also been his patient many years ago. Not only did he give his best thinking regarding treatment options, but he also gave reassurances to call and visit every day during recuperation. Tip comforted those who needed comfort and always went beyond the call of duty.

The last time I saw Tip was in my Washington, DC office very recently. He cared about the aging and sick prison populations and wanted to provide treatment facilities for the Federal and state penal institutions. Tip concluded this very intense meeting by pleading with the Federal prison officials to understand that providing this treatment was the humane way to treat these individuals. His compassion profoundly impacted everyone in the meeting, just as it had always impacted everyone who knew him.

Throughout his life, Dr. Hood "did it his way." He was a man for all seasons whose wit, charm and brilliance will be forever remembered. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and his spirit will inspire us all, especially young African American men, to soar to heights unseen, and to do so in his memory.

Today Dr. Hood's family and friends come together to celebrate his life and work, and the immeasurable personal and professional impact he has had on all of us. On behalf of the 9th U.S. Congressional District of California, I salute and thank Dr. Tipkins Hood, Sr. for his invaluable contributions to the people of Oakland, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.