

Cusimano in Mountain View, California, Joseph and Sue devoted their entire lives to the work of their business, and to the service of their community. For 50 years, Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary has maintained a family-oriented approach to providing mortuary services to the community—a commitment that has been carried on by their children. In 1980, in recognition of the exemplary professional standards and extensive community involvement, the mortuary was invited to join the distinguished association of Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Joseph and Sue lived their broad and continuing commitment to the service of their community—ranging from the Mortuary's 50-year sponsorship of the local Babe Ruth Little League team to Joseph's service as the Mayor of Mountain View. The generosity of the Cusimanos also extended beyond our community to others in need, as exemplified by their gift of children's caskets to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City tragedy.

Joseph and Sue bequeathed both their business and their sense of responsibility to their children. The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary is now managed by Matthew and Sherri, who have maintained the spirit of service and community participation that began with their parents 50 years ago. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Cusimano family as they celebrate this special anniversary.

IN HONOR OF VIOLET DE
CRISTOFORO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district's most outstanding citizens, Violet de Cristoforo. Today, the National Endowment for the Arts will honor Mrs. de Cristoforo with a National Heritage Fellowship Award, our country's highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

Violet de Cristoforo was born Kazue Yamane in Ninole, Hawaii. At the age of 8 she was sent to Hiroshima, Japan for her primary education. Then at the age of 13 she returned to the United States to attend high school in Fresno, California. Upon her graduation Mrs. de Cristoforo married Shigaru Matsuda. It was also around this time that Mrs. de Cristoforo joined the Valley Ginsha Haiku Kai, a local haiku kais, or poetry club, and began focusing on the newer kaiko style that loosened haiku traditional 5-7-5 structure.

With the onset of WWII, Mrs. de Cristoforo, her husband and three children were moved to forced detention facility in Jerome, Arkansas. After her husband refused to complete a questionnaire, the family was split up; Mrs. de Cristoforo and her children were sent to Tule Lake, California, while her husband was sent to a detention facility in Santa Fe, New Mexico. While under forced internment, she wrote hundreds of haikus reflecting on her environment and everyday life in the camps. Sadly, only fifteen of the hundreds of haikus survived upon her release in 1946.

It is important that we recognize Mrs. de Cristoforo not only for her own haikus but for the hard work and dedication she contributed to the preservation, translation and publication

of other haikus of the Japanese culture and life in the forced internment camps. Mrs. Cristoforo's own book, "Poetic Reflections of the Tule Lake Internment Camp, 1944" was published over 40 years after it was originally written. Years later Mrs. de Cristoforo compiled the haikus of many former internment camp poets and published, "May Sky: There's Always Tomorrow: A History and Anthology of Haiku". These poems are not just their history; they are part of our American history, because these people were also Americans.

It is sad that so few of these works survived that time, for not only were many lost in the camps but, prior to their forced detention when many of them were destroyed. At the time Mrs. de Cristoforo and her husband ran a small bookstore in Fresno. This material is forever lost which makes her work that much more important.

Madam Speaker, Violet Kazue de Cristoforo is truly deserving of our thanks and her recognition by the NEA with the National Heritage Fellowship Award is but a small token of appreciation for a lifetime of dedication and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 3246, H.R. 1657, and H.R. 3527.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 867 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 868 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1657, to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 869 on H.R. 3527, to extend for two months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. EHLERS, Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 867, 868, and 869, I was delayed because my airplane was very late in reaching DCA, due to weather problems in Minneapolis, and I was too late for the votes.

Had I been present I would have Voted "no" on rollcall No. 867, H.R. 3246; "yes" on rollcalls No. 868 and 869, H.R. 1657 and H.R. 3527.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, September 17, 2007 and was unable to cast votes on the House Floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007; "aye" on H.R. 1657, a bill to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs; and "aye" on H.R. 3527, a bill to extend for 2 months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF

2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3096.

When the U.S. and Vietnam resumed diplomatic relations over 10 years ago, it was the hope of many Americans that by increasing economic ties with Vietnam, we would be a beacon of light that would shine on the human rights atrocities also occurring in Vietnam.

Despite increased U.S. relations, Vietnam has failed to protect the rights of its people. The Vietnamese government controls the press, suppressing the basic, core right of free speech that we as Americans hold to be so vital.

While maintaining fiscal relations with Vietnam is important for a plethora of reasons, the overriding consideration for the U.S. in any relationship with a foreign country should be in evaluating how a foreign country treats its own people. The Vietnamese Communist Party has failed the people of Vietnam, and we fail with them if we refuse to recognize the atrocities occurring every day.

This bill, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, is an important step in continuing to keep pressure on the Vietnamese Communist Party. As we have learned in addressing human rights issues in numerous countries throughout the world, one of the most effective methods of protecting the rights of others is to hit oppressive regimes where it counts—in their wallets.

Under H.R. 3096, Vietnam would face losing millions in non-humanitarian aid unless the president certifies that Vietnam begins releasing its political prisoners and protecting the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion—rights that we hold self-evident not

as Americans, but as human beings. At the same time, this legislation provides \$2 million in humanitarian aid for the next 2 years, and \$9.1 million in FY 2008 and \$1.1 million in FY 2009 to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia. Providing access to this programming will help to empower the people of Vietnam and provide even more hope at a time when hope is most needed.

Today, over 1.5 million Vietnamese reside in the United States. In the 11th District of Virginia, the Vietnamese community is a thriving population, many of whom I am proud to call my friends and neighbors. Vietnamese Americans are entrepreneurs, many owning small businesses and serving as constant reminders that the American Dream is alive and well. Their loved ones in Vietnam deserve that same dream.

I commend my good friend from New Jersey and the other sponsors for bringing this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in the passage of this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE BELIZE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 26th anniversary of the Independence of Belize, which will be on September 21, 2007.

On September 21, 1981, Belize became an independent nation within the Commonwealth of Nations, formerly British Commonwealth. Belize is located in South America and is a member of the Caribbean Community, also known as CARICOM.

Belize is an extraordinary country because of its people. Nowhere else in the world are people with diverse ethnicities and heritage so unified and harmonious. The country's population consists of people with Mayan, African, European, Afro-European, and Afro-American ancestry, just to name a few. In recent years, people of Asian descent have made Belize their home.

Due to globalization and other factors the world is getting smaller and smaller. It will be important for countries to be unified in order to interact politically, economically, and culturally within the world. Belize's diverse and unified characteristics can serve as a model to other nations struggling with internal conflict and peace.

I offer congratulations to the people of Belize as they celebrate their independence. I encourage people from all over the world to look to Belize for inspiration and hope for a better world.

TRIBUTE TO ZION EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Zion Evangelical and Reformed

United Church of Christ in Addieville, IL. One hundred years ago this past Saturday, the congregation of Zion Church of Christ set the cornerstone of their present church building. Contents of the cornerstone included, among other things, the church constitution, membership list, a catechism, songbook, and church calendar.

On May 31, 1908, the new church was finally completed. Over 3000 parishioners and spectators attended the dedication services. The magnificent edifice was erected at a cost of \$23,000 dollars and was hailed in the Nashville Journal as the finest church in Washington County, IL.

But while a sturdy and beautiful building is a testament to the handiwork of the church's carpenters and craftsman—the success of the Zion Church over the course of a century is a living testament to the souls who fill the church pews. May God continue to bless the Zion Church for another hundred years.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. LARRY LOVEJOY AND JEAN CARLOTTA LOVEJOY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two outstanding patriots in the Rio Grande Valley: Rev. Dr. Larry Lovejoy, and his wife, Jean Carlotta Lovejoy. They are very special people in our community and have greatly enriched our lives in south Texas.

Rev. Dr. Larry Lovejoy is a religious leader who uses simple human compassion, courage, and conviction to advocate for religious freedoms. He has worked diligently to make better the lives of both the American and Mexican people who populate the south Texas border community.

His tireless work with those who have less than many of us inspires people to trust him. They know he is working for the betterment of the community we all share.

He has promoted partnerships with the international community among the people of Brownsville, and has been instrumental in efforts to provide fresh clean water to the people living in colonias in Matamoros, Mexico. Colonias are poor, unincorporated neighborhoods outside of cities along the border.

He and his wife, Jean Carlotta Lovejoy, both helped coordinate efforts by the local business community and federal policy makers to a badly-needed new or additional postal facility for the rapidly-growing Brownsville community.

His wife, Jean, his partner in life and work, serves as the Postmaster for Brownsville, TX. She, too, works to improve the lives of everyday citizens in the border area of Texas, particularly the Rio Grande Valley area.

Jean has worked closely with the area food bank to secure food for the economically disadvantaged children of the community. Her efforts have resulted in underprivileged children being able to eat over the summer while out of school. This is an enormous effort on her part.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending these patriots who

love this country and believe in the possibilities of all our citizens—all God's children—to participate in our community and our national life.

IN HONOR OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF NOREEN EGAN OF GLEN ROCK, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous public service of Noreen Egan of Glen Rock, New Jersey. For the past quarter of a century, Noreen has been the rock of the Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

A graduate of Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing and Seton Hall University, Noreen settled in Glen Rock with her husband, Tom, and has raised two sons there—Dan and Jamie. She soon became interested in using her nursing skills to help her community by joining the Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Over the years, she has not only been one of its most active members, Noreen has also served as its Chief and Lieutenant.

Earlier this year, Noreen was nominated by her fellow Corps members for the John R. Rinaldi Special Recognition Award given by the Bergen County Chapter of the 200 Club at their Annual Valor Awards luncheon in April 2007. The award is a highly competitive honor presented to one person each year for his or her outstanding contribution to emergency services. And later this year, the Glen Rock Ambulance Corps will honor Noreen for her 25 years of service at their annual installation dinner.

In addition to serving people in need through the Ambulance Corps, Noreen has also served the children of the Academy of Our Lady as their school nurse for the past 24 years. And, last year, she was appointed Assistant Director for the Glen Rock Office of Emergency Management.

Furthermore, Noreen and Tom Egan—a Vietnam War veteran and Commander of VFW Post 850 in Glen Rock—have cultivated a sense of community spirit and civic responsibility in their sons. Dan, who joined the Ambulance Corps with his mother when he was in high school, is now an emergency room doctor at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York and at Bergen County's own Valley Hospital. Jamie just completed a tour of Iraq as an Army Ranger. The Nation has achieved its greatness because of families like the Egans.

The Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps has served the people of Glen Rock for just over 50 years—almost half of that with the help of Noreen Egan. She and her colleagues are what make the words of the Ambulance Corps' slogan, "Neighbor helping Neighbor," ring true.