

CONGRATULATING GEORGE A.
CASTRO II

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of George A. Castro II, a community leader and businessman, who is being recognized at the Hispanic Law Enforcement Association of Union County 2007 Annual Gala. His rags to riches story is an inspiration to anyone who believes in the American dream; his dedication to the betterment of his community is an example of how one citizen can empower hundreds of others in the State of New Jersey, while enriching Union County's artistic and cultural heritage.

Mr. Castro came to the United States from Colombia in 1985—as he says—with a quarter in his back pocket. After acquiring his real estate license, Mr. Castro worked at an ERA office, producing \$27 million in sales in 2 years. His successes led him to create his own real estate venture: Countywide Realty. Later, he decided to join a national agency, opening Century 21 Atlantic Realtors, Inc., which has become one of the top sellers in the country.

Aware that with success comes responsibility, George A. Castro II became very active in his community, volunteering in social activities. Mr. Castro became president of the Hispanic American Association for Political Awareness, which promotes Latino political empowerment, leading numerous voter registration efforts. Later, he created its Hispanic American Political Action Committee, becoming one of the most influential Hispanics in New Jersey politics.

George A. Castro II has been appointed to numerous commissions such as the board of governors and board of trustees of Union County College, the Sports and Expositions Authority, and the Consolidated Police and Firemen's Pension Fund, becoming vice chair of its State Investment Council. Currently, Mr. Castro serves as commissioner of the Elizabeth Zoning Board of Adjustment and as a member of the board of trustees of PROCEED.

In 1994, George purchased the historic Ritz Theater and Performing Arts Center, a veritable landmark of Elizabeth, New Jersey. The old Drake Opera House, as it was originally named when it was built in 1865, hosted luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dean Martin, Desi Arnaz, Bruce Springsteen, and Julio Iglesias. Mr. Castro has taken it upon himself to refurbish the 2,772-seat venue, making it possible for New Jersey residents to preserve an integral part of their cultural heritage for many years to come.

Please join me in congratulating George A. Castro II, as well as his lovely wife Leonor and his children George and Gabrielle for their contributions to Union County and for setting an example of the success that can be achieved in our great country.

CONGRATULATING CAMBRIDGE CITY, INDIANA AND REALLY COOL FOODS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, new jobs are always really cool, but especially yesterday for Cambridge City, Indiana. Really Cool Foods, based in New York, announced that Cambridge City will be the home of their national production and distribution center.

I am especially pleased that Really Cool Foods will invest \$100 million in the complex with the possibility of creating more than 1,000 new jobs.

Madam Speaker, the integrity and work ethic of the people in the greater Richmond area are a perfect fit for Really Cool Foods and I heartily welcome the company to eastern Indiana. This new company will bring new opportunities to Hoosier families in Wayne County.

I would also like to congratulate Cambridge City, Wayne County officials, and Governor Mitch Daniels who worked so hard to bring Really Cool Foods to eastern Indiana. It is because of their efforts to create a positive environment for business and the quality of the Hoosiers in Wayne County that we are able to welcome such a well respected business to Cambridge City, Indiana.

RECOGNIZING THE WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this week the House passed a resolution commending the Wings Over Houston Airshow for its contribution to the appreciation and understanding of the United States Armed Forces. I am pleased to show my support as a cosponsor of this resolution.

The Wings Over Houston Airshow has been educating and entertaining men, women, and children for the last 23 years. With 50,000–100,000 visitors each day, the air show is rated as one of the top five events of its kind in the county.

This weekend Wings Over Houston will hold its 23rd annual air show at Ellington Field. Spectators will have the opportunity to tour dozens of military and civilian aircraft on display at the field, including trainer planes, fighter planes, and bombers used in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. In addition, during the two-day event decorated war-heroes, flying aces, and veterans will be on site inspiring the youth of our country with their war stories of bravery and heroism.

In my former life, as a Houston, Texas felony court judge, I ordered probationers to do litter patrol after the air show. Cleaning up the airfields and infield was part of their community service.

I believe in the sense of patriotism that Wings Over Houston creates for our communities. I believe in the way it honors our veterans who have served this country faithfully

and wish them the best this weekend as they celebrate 23 years of educating Americans on the history of the United States Armed Forces. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP SAMUEL L. CARRUTH OF PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a citizen of Portsmouth, Virginia, who has devoted his life to the work of God and helping his fellow man. Today I would like to pay tribute to Bishop Samuel L. Carruth of Holy Light Church of Deliverance in Portsmouth.

Bishop Carruth, the eleventh of thirteen children, aspired to be an FBI agent as a child before heeding the call to devote his life to preaching the Gospel. Bishop Carruth was educated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he attended Benjamin Franklin High School and Temple University. He then served for 2 years as a staff sergeant in the United States Army.

Following his discharge from the Army, Bishop Carruth was stricken with tuberculosis in both lungs and hospitalized in East Orange, New Jersey. The doctor's prognosis was grim and the young Carruth suffered much weight loss and pain. Bishop Carruth credits his devotion to God to his full recovery from this horrible disease.

Shortly after his bout with tuberculosis, Bishop Carruth heeded the call of ministry and co-founded the Deliverance Evangelistic Church in Philadelphia with the late Reverend Benjamin Smith. He served as assistant pastor in that ministry and in the field of evangelism faithfully for 6 years. During this time, he also received a doctorate of divinity at Jamison Bible University.

In 1967, Bishop Carruth and his family left Philadelphia and moved to Portsmouth where he became pastor of the Holy Light Church of Deliverance, which at the time had a humble membership of 13 people. Within 6 months under Bishop Carruth's leadership, Holy Light Church's membership ballooned and became an overflowing powerhouse of activity. With this growth, the original church quickly outgrew its capacity. In 1968, Holy Light moved to a larger building in Portsmouth and expanded again in 1995. Their current facility can seat 1,000 and includes plenty of space for offices and classrooms.

For 40 years, Bishop Carruth has been leading God's charge and serving his community at Holy Light Church of Deliverance. Bishop Carruth has been a member of the Portsmouth Community Development Corporation and has launched numerous community outreach programs including the Adopt-a-School program with Emily Spong Elementary School, the Holy Light College of Bible, the Summer Camp for Youth, the Men's Community Breakfast, the HLC Telephone Ministry, and reading and tutorial programs to help at-risk students succeed in school.

Even as one of the most active pastors in the Hampton Roads area, Bishop Carruth has still managed to have time for his lovely family. He and his wife of 53 years, Mary C.

Carruth, have four daughters—Linda, Fayette, Dorene, and Sharron—two sons-in-law, seven grandchildren, and a niece and nephew-in-law.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY OF STRATFORD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Community of Stratford on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

In the late 1800's, the community of Stratford began taking the role of a trading post as an integral part of the booming mining industry that transformed communities across the country. Rich in vast fertile farmland, the production of cotton, hay, and grains soon became bountiful thus overtaking trade as the predominant industry in the region. A few years later, Stratford became home to a large dairy concentration as well as a diverse group of citizens. The ethnic groups of Stratford included Portuguese, English, Italian, and others from all over the world that settled in this charming community.

A glorious day occurred on October 7th, 1907, when Stratford was founded by the Empire Land Company as a development property. The history of this place further demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of cooperation and vision that thriving communities are born. I am honored to stand and shine a spotlight on the community of Stratford as they celebrate a century of pride and progress.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most prominent centers of agricultural research and education in the world on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. The Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems, CASFS, located on the campus of the University of California at Santa Cruz, enjoys a reputation as the Harvard of organic farming.

While this reputation is well deserved, it did not come easily to the UCSC Farm, as CASFS is more commonly known. The program began life in 1967 as an obscure 4-acre organic garden tucked away in a disused and unnoticed corner of the UCSC campus. It was birthed by master gardener Alan Chadwick who inspired a group of students to convert a dry hillside into a magnificent terraced garden that incorporated the latest techniques in chemical free horticulture and reflected the back to the land Zeitgeist of the day. In 1972, the project expanded onto another unused campus site where garden participants began a 17 acre, later 25 acre, experimental organic farm. There they set out explore ways of improving and applying organic farming tech-

niques. Throughout the 1970s, the little UCSC Farm community quietly grew with a mixture of a little campus support, some creative grant writing, and the sales of its farm produce. A steady stream of student apprentices advanced through constantly evolving program. By the 1980s, the UCSC Farm had come to a crossroads. Could it reach beyond the little world of the UCSC campus and help shape the broader world of agriculture?

While the UCSC campus family welcomed the project, the broader UC system didn't know what to do with it. It didn't have any formal accreditation and it was not located on one of the UC land grant institutions where agriculture was supposed to happen. It simply lacked the necessary pedigree to secure an official and funded place within the University of California system. As the State assembly member representing the Monterey Bay Area during the 1980s, I had the honor of securing a line for the UCSC farm in the State's higher education budget. In 1990, I authored the California Organic Standards Act, which was largely shaped by work at the UCSC Farm and the Santa Cruz community of organic growers that had grown up in its neighborhood.

Since entering Congress, I have worked hard to share the story of the UCSC Farm's important work with my colleagues. Congress has responded with a total of over \$3 million in direct appropriations to the UCSC Farm since 2000 to assist with its important research and extension work with the rapidly expanding organic farming sector. Indeed, the UCSC Farm's influence has been far reaching, inspiring many sustainable agriculture programs at other universities, including UC Davis, Cal Poly, and USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pass on the congratulations of the House to all the people who have worked so hard over the course of the past 40 years to make the UCSC Farm such a great success.

HONORING DONNA AND STEVE HILL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Donna and Steve Hill. The Hills originally came to the Baltimore County Department of Social Services interested in adopting one child, a boy. They had three daughters and were very much interested in adding a son to their family. The agency placed a young boy in their home who lacked impulse control and required a great deal of time, attention, and therapy. They were presented with many more challenges than they had expected. Several months later, the agency learned that a sibling of this child was also in foster care in Baltimore City, in a therapeutic foster home. When approached about taking this second child, a girl, the Hills again stepped up to the plate. In an effort to keep the siblings together, they agreed to be parents for this special-needs little girl as well.

When the sister was placed with the Hills, she had to share a room with the Hills' youngest daughter. After a short period of time, it

was evident that the two girls, being so close in age, were in constant rivalry due to a lack of their own space. As a result, the Hills decided to put an addition on their home to ensure that the siblings could continue to live together. Though the two children were biological siblings, they had never lived together since entering foster care and had not formed any significant attachment to each other.

The foster son was struggling with multiple emotional challenges, and the Hills pursued intensive individual and family therapy to stabilize both children. The Hills officially adopted their 10-year-old daughter on March 23, 2007. They are still working toward adopting their foster son, who has expressed some reluctance because of ties to his biological father. This family has consistently put the needs of the children first. They have dealt with many difficult situations, while at the same time providing a stable, loving home environment for the children in their care. In addition, if this family had not gone above and beyond their original request to adopt one boy, these two siblings would not have had the opportunity to live together.

Madam Speaker, today I ask that you join with me in honoring Donna and Steve Hill for being unsung adoption heroes and I am honored to recognize them in the Angel in Adoption program.

WHERE IS SPUTNIK WHEN WE NEED IT?

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago today, the Soviet Union changed the world by launching Sputnik I into orbit. People who were alive in 1957 vividly remember Sputnik. It shocked the American public and dwarfed the achievements of our rocket program. It was so serious that President Dwight Eisenhower had to go on national television to apologize for our failure, and promised a boost to our science efforts. This led to an awakening of innovation, which resulted in the United States launching a comparable satellite of its own, the Explorer I, into orbit fewer than four months later. More importantly, Sputnik spurred U.S. investment in aerospace, culminating in the Apollo Moon landing. There was also a great emphasis on improving our math and science education programs. This sparked an intense focus on equipping our workforce with the skills needed to compete with the Russians.

Unfortunately, once again the United States is falling behind other nations. This time, it is our children who are falling behind their peers in European and Asian countries that have more rigorous math and science education programs. We must do a better job of preparing our kids for the jobs of the future.

Already, economic pressures have pushed some States and the Federal Government to improve math and science education. For example, in Michigan the business community supported the effort to require that high school graduates take at least 4 years of math and 3 years of science courses. Michigan desperately needs a workforce equipped with math and science skills to attract employers to