

Father Patrick O'Dowd, St. Alphonsus pastor, attempted to solve the problem by purchasing a parcel of land at the corner of Atlantic and Panocha, planning for a chapel in the area. But the Korean War and freeways intervened.

Only through the efforts of two local residents, Alex Perez and Ben Garcia, was a Catholic committee formed in 1954 to survey the area, raise funds and communicate their plan for a church to Cardinal James Francis McIntyre. By early 1957 their hard work was rewarded when Auxiliary Bishop Timothy Manning sent them this encouraging letter: "I join with you that this year will see the completion of our plans for Bandini. We have purchased the extra property we needed." On June 14, 1957, the parish of St. Marcellinus was established, with Father Thomas G. Hayes named the founding pastor.

The 42-year-old New Orleans native started his first pastorate by searching for a location to celebrate Mass. On Sunday, July 14, in the upstairs dining room of Kelly's Restaurant, he celebrated the first Mass for 120 faithful and claimed that Christ had come to Bandini and gathered his friends around him in another "upper room."

A crew of parishioners "rigged the upper room for church" for 10 weeks until a former Protestant church became "home." Eventually a plot at Strong Avenue and Harbor Street was available and by Holy Saturday, 1959, Father Hayes sang the first High Mass in the new church.

Although several historical sources differ on the name and rank of St. Marcellinus (some claim he was a pope, others a martyred priest), it is recorded that many miracles have occurred in his name. Kind of like the phenomenon of this parish surviving in the midst of freeways and commerce.

HONORING JOE RAY STEWART

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Joe Ray Stewart of Houka, Mississippi, for his fine service to our Nation during the Second World War.

Mr. Stewart served in the European Theatre under Generals Patton and Eisenhower, and built bridges wherever needed. In December 1944, the soldiers of the 249th Engineer Combat Battalion moved from building a bridge on the Saar River to the Ardennes, to block German advances in the Battle of the Bulge. The battalion was then assigned to the engineer task force charged to cross the Rhine River in Germany, and later tasked with securing and maintaining the bridges on the Rhine.

It has come to my attention that during his deployment, Mr. Stewart fought in three major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, advanced to the rank of Corporal, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery in action.

The family of Joe Ray Stewart, residing in Tennessee's Seventh District, joins me in recognizing a beloved and great American. As with all who serve in our Armed Forces, our veterans' dedication and selflessness has allowed our Nation the enduring blessing of freedom and democracy.

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring Joe Ray Stewart and remembering the service of all those veterans who risked their lives to defend our country and the entire free world.

DONNA SHALALA, PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and happiness that our country is honoring one of South Florida's most outstanding citizens and a dear friend, Dr. Donna Shalala. This week Dr. Shalala will be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian award in the United States. This is indeed a tremendous honor and her lifetime of service to our Nation is a testament to her humility of character and steadfastness of vision. She was born in Cleveland and graduated from the Western College for Women. Dr. Shalala's enthusiasm for education did not cease after she received her bachelor's degree but grew alongside her passion for government and civic service as witnessed by the time she spent as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Having received her masters and then doctorate at Syracuse University, Dr. Shalala started an illustrious teaching career that started at the City University of New York and continued at Columbia. With great teaching experience, she commenced her professional path in academic administration as the President of Hunter College, then as the Chancellor of Wisconsin-Madison and finally in the position she now holds as the President of the University of Miami, my alma mater.

Dr. Shalala's career has also expanded into the realm of government where she has held many positions in varying departments. She was the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research in the Carter administration and the Chair of the Children's Defense Fund in 1992. Most significantly, she was the Secretary of Health and Human Service for the eight years of the Clinton administration.

In March of 2007, Dr. Shalala was named co-chair, along with former Senator Bob Dole, of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. Her knowledge and experience with the health care system proved invaluable as the Commission crafted its final report.

I am proud to represent Donna Shalala as a Congresswoman and delighted to share in this momentous occasion with her family and peers. More importantly I am honored to call her a friend.

GLADSTONE ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the outstanding achieve-

ment of the city of Gladstone, Missouri, for being named one of the 10 winners of the National Civic League's 2008 All-America City Award. The award recognizes communities that identify community-wide challenges and successfully deal with those challenges head on. Gladstone was one of 17 finalists for the award, and the only city in the Kansas City area that was a finalist this year.

Gladstone on the Move, a citizen-based organization that identified long-range goals for the city, played a large role in making Gladstone stand out as an All-America City. Its recommendations included a property tax increase to pay for additional ambulance service, public improvements, an extension of a sales tax for the beautiful new community center, as well as a strong neighborhood revitalization program. The city of Gladstone should be proud of the way it effectively identified and met the needs of their residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Gladstone's city leaders and residents for their example of excellence as a winner of the National Civic League's 2008 All-America City. Their pride in their community and drive to keep improving their city should be commended and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. MIGUEL NEGRON

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Negron on being honored by the Puerto Rican Cultural Committee of Hoboken on Saturday, June 21, 2008. Miguel and Nelly Negron came to the United States in the 1950s from Utado, Puerto Rico, through Patchogue, Long Island, before establishing themselves in Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1963. With their two children, Edith and Ivette, the Negrons began a new life and started their long commitment to their community. Miguel joined his cousin Israel Bula as a partner in the Bula Superette located in First and Garden Street in Hoboken. He later left the partnership and bought a bodega on his own where he and Nelly spent 6 days a week serving the neighborhood with native Hispanic food products for a total of 22 years.

In 1982 Nelly retired, and in 1985 Miguel joined her in retirement, although they hardly rested. Instead they cared for their three grandchildren. Miguel also continued to support his community by investing in real estate around the neighborhood and offering investment advice to his friends and neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Negron currently reside in the Caparra Home Townhouses in Hoboken, New Jersey, and are faithful parishioners of Saint Francis Church. The couple has been married

for 55 years and they enjoy a fruitful life with their family and friends in Hoboken, New Jersey. They are proud grandparents of Benjamin Michael and Vanessa M. Vega, and their youngest, Ashley Smulders. Please join me in honoring Miguel and Nelly Negron for all their accomplishments and years of commitment as residents of Hoboken, New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRIET R.
MICHEL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and accomplishments of Ms. Harriet Michel. I would like to thank Ms. Michel for all of her hard work and her contribution to the minority business community.

Harriet R. Michel's work as president of the National Minority Supplier Council, NMSDC, has created a platform for the growth of minority business development. Ms. Michel has contributed greatly to the empowerment of minority business owners by creating opportunities to compete for corporate contracts.

I would like to again thank Ms. Michel for her great contribution to the minority business community and I would like to wish her luck in all her future endeavors.

[From the *CaribWoman*, June 3, 2008]

NMSDC PRESIDENT TO RETIRE IN 2009

NEW YORK, NY.—Harriet R. Michel, president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), announced that she will retire after 20 years of service effective January 31, 2009. Ms. Michel was named president of NMSDC in September 1988.

"I'm very proud of what the NMSDC has accomplished in my 20 years with the organization," said Ms. Michel. "We have created programs to assist our corporate members in improving their minority supplier development processes, offered valuable training for supplier development professionals and provided thousands of minority business owners with the opportunity to compete for corporate contracts. While it saddens me to leave NMSDC, I have the comfort of knowing that the organization is as strong as it's ever been, and will certainly remain an invaluable asset to corporate America and minority business owners."

During her tenure, NMSDC's corporate membership nearly quadrupled, and corporate member purchases from minority-owned businesses increased from \$10.5 billion to more than \$100 billion. The organization's staff increased from 8 to 22, and its annual budget grew from \$2 million plus to \$16 million, which has strengthened the affiliate network, too.

Since Ms. Michel became president, nine chairmen from major corporations served as chairman of the NMSDC board, including David E. Miller (JCPenney Stores and Catalog, 1986-88); Joseph E. Antonini (Kmart Corporation, 1988-1991); Robert C. Stempel (General Motors Corporation, 1991-93); Arthur C. Martinez (Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1994-1997); George A. David (United Technologies Corporation, 1998-2000); Daniel P. Burnham (Raytheon Company, 2001-03); John M. Barth (Johnson Controls, Inc., 2004-05); and Steven S. Reinemund (PepsiCo, Inc., 2006-07). Terry J. Lundgren, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Macy's, Inc., is the current chairman.

Under Ms. Michel's leadership, the NMSDC experienced tremendous financial growth and implemented all of the core national programs available to its corporate members and MBEs today.

Under Ms. Michel's guidance, the organization expanded the size of its annual conference from 700 attendees in 1998 to more than 7,000. A one-day business opportunity fair was added to the conference, which is considered the nation's benchmark forum for minority supplier development.

The NMSDC's Minority Business Information Center was created in 1994. It is the only national centralized source of information about minority business development and trends.

The Center's resources include access to online databases; a vast collection of magazines, newspapers and journals with articles pertinent to minority business development; statistical data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census; books containing corporate facts and figures; information on legislation affecting minority business development; links to relevant sites for the government, media, and other organizations; publications, order forms, audio and video cassettes; NMSDC Council referrals for certification; and the organization's e-Newsletter and archives.

In 1990, the NMSDC created the annual Minority Business Leadership Awards Dinner-Dance to recognize MBEs and corporations for their long-standing achievements in minority supplier development. Today, more than 1,700 guests attend the event.

Ms. Michel will remain in her position through the end of January 2009. An NMSDC search committee will work with a national executive search firm that specializes in non-profit leadership recruitment to fill the position.

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER GEN-
ERAL WALTER J. "BUD" BACON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor a man whose professional accomplishments and personal character have brought great distinction to Tennessee and this Nation.

Retired U.S. Air Force BG Walter J. "Bud" Bacon passed away on Monday, June 2, 2008. General Bacon was always very kind to me and is a man for whom I have the greatest respect.

As a Vietnam and Korean War Veteran, General Bacon earned many decorations and awards, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters and Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

For a man of many remarkable military achievements, it would have been easy for General Bacon to lose touch with his roots. This was never the case. After his retirement, General Bacon was a vocal, active presence at Knoxville area Veterans meetings and a founding member of the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association. Memories of his humor, humility, and devotion to East Tennessee will endure for many, many years.

General Bacon's life is a truly America story of Patriotic determination. He had always wanted to attend West Point but was turned down twice for not meeting the height require-

ment. As the story goes, he came up with a plan to have his friends carry him lying flat early in the morning to the physical. The reason—he heard you were tallest when you first wake up.

Whether the doctor was impressed with his determination or the tactic truly put his height over the top, General Bacon went on to have one of the greatest careers in the Air Force of any man ever. It was an American dream come true.

General Bacon loved God, family, and his Country, and never stopped serving them all. Right up until his death, the highly-decorated General greeted wounded soldiers returning home from Iraq.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I offer my condolences to General Bacon's family, and call to the attention of my colleagues and other leaders of the RECORD the eulogy of General Bacon, given by his friend Retired United States Air Force COL Joseph E. Sutter, which is reprinted below.

EULOGY FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER J.

"BUD" BACON, USAF (RETIRED)

Friday, June 6, 2008, First Presbyterian
Church, Knoxville, TN

(Delivered by Joseph E. Sutter, Colonel,
USAF (Retired))

Joyce, Betsey, Katy, and all of your families—let me thank you for the honor and high privilege to say a few words about my friend, Bud Bacon. I knew him as "Bud," and for some reason he called me "Josephine." I can't say that I ever knew why.

Some of you knew him as "Buddy." Some as "General." Others as "Pa," and some of you knew him as "Grand Buddy." No matter—we all felt the same about him.

I first met him some 14 years ago, and I certainly wish I had known him longer. Within a few weeks of meeting Bud, I remember coming home and telling my wife Geri: "When I grow up, I want to be like Bud Bacon." Allow me to share with you a few of the reasons why.

Bud had a great attitude about life. One of the entries in the blogs in the Knoxville News Sentinel said that Bud Bacon had the attitude that the "glass is half full." He was always happy, and had an infectious laugh. As his daughter Betsey relates, her father was fond of saying: "If I die tonight, I will die a happy man."

He had the love of his family—actually two families. He loved to travel. He loved his country, and made serving his country his profession. I'll say more about this a little later. And he loved his God.

LOVE OF COMMUNITY

Bud loved his community. He came home after a distinguished Air Force career and immediately began to "give back" by supporting so many worthwhile activities, including the Ramsay House Plantation, the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Youth Leadership Forum, the University of Tennessee Center for the Study of War and Society, the Knoxville Veterans Day Luncheon, Memorial Day Services, Pearl Harbor Day Ceremonies, Flag Day Ceremonies, the Air Force Association, and so many others too numerous to mention.

LOVE OF FRIENDS

Bud had the love of so many friends, and he would go "the extra mile" for any of them. Allow me to tell you a short story of how he went not only the extra mile for me, but the extra 6,000 miles! Geri and I were visiting Vienna, Austria, a number of years ago and were window shopping on a Saturday afternoon. There was a unique terry cloth robe in one of the stores that I wanted to get