

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOLAR
ENERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the forward-thinking men and women of Southeastern Arizona who for the past two years have served as members of my Solar Energy Advisory Council.

Arizona is known throughout the world as a place of abundant sunshine. Harnessing the power of the sun and putting it to use as a source of energy has been among my top priorities as a member of the United States House of Representatives. Great strides have been over the past two years in advancing this goal, the most significant of which has been the extension of the investment tax credit.

Many individuals across our country played a role in this achievement. Among them are the twelve determined members of my Solar Energy Advisory Council. Each and every council member played a crucial role in helping expand the availability and use of solar energy in our nation.

The Members of my Solar Energy Advisory Council are:

Tom Alston, Roger Angel, Kendall Burt, Dennis Dickerson, Prabhu Dayal, Richard Elias, Steve Farley, Tedra Fox, Michael Gering, Britt Hanson, William Harris, Scotty Johnson, Katharine Kent, Leslie Liberti, Mayor Paul Loomis, Jacquie McNulty, Tom Peterson, Bruce Plenk, Luther Probst, Valerie Rauluk, Denise Richerson-Smith, David Rousseau, Joaquin Ruiz, Shirley Scott, Joe Simmons, Denise Smith, Mayor Bob Strain, Leslie Tolbert, Nina Trasoff, Karin Uhlich, Mayor Robert Walkup, John Waszczak, John Wesley Miller.

I commend them for their hard work and dedication and look forward to their ongoing advice and counsel as we continue to make solar energy more available to the citizens of my District, the state and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS CITY,
KANSAS, CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE'S CONGRESSIONAL
FORUM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Congressional Forum luncheon group sponsored by the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce. Forty years ago in 1968, this group was founded to be a link between the elected congressional representative and the business community served by the Third District of Kansas. It has continued to the present day, and shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

At that time, Congressman Larry Winn represented the Third Congressional District of Kansas in the United States House of Representatives. Budgets for travel between Washington and Kansas were limited. Con-

gressman Winn and his chief of staff, Dick Bond, wanted to find a way for Congressman Winn to return more often to his home district. The Congressional Forum luncheon group was founded to help cover those travel costs, and to give its members a monthly report from their Member of Congress.

Even after Larry Winn retired, the group and its traditions have continued. For 40 years, the scheduled speaker at Congressional Forum has been the Member of Congress for the Third Congressional District, unless he or she was unable to attend. If that was the case, then the Member of Congress made arrangements for a substitute speaker.

Although the representation of the Third District has changed over the years, the Member's commitment to this unique group has not. Every Member of Congress elected since 1968 has agreed to attend and speak to this group on a regular basis.

Those Members of Congress include:

Congressman Larry Winn, who served in Congress from 1967 to 1985;

Congresswoman Jan Meyers, from 1985 to 1997;

Congressman Vince Snowbarger, from 1997 to 1999;

And me, Congressman Dennis Moore, from 1999 to the present.

For some time, the group actually held their meetings across the state line at the Golden Ox Restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri, because a portion of the parking lot of that venerable restaurant was actually in Kansas City, Kansas. At the present time, the group meets once again in the heart of downtown Kansas City, Kansas, at the Reardon Convention Center.

It is a testament to this group that an organization founded by Republican business leaders has continued even when a Democratic congressman like me was elected. I have found that this group gives me a great sounding board on the thoughts of my home district. While not every member of Congressional Forum supports me at the ballot box, I know they will express their views to me with candor and courtesy.

For most of its history my good friend, Dr. Fred Bosilevac presided over the Congressional Forum luncheons as its President. For most of us, Dr. Fred remains the heart and soul of the Congressional Forum luncheons. Now age 92, Dr. Fred is still an active and interested member of Congressional Forum, although Bill Eppenhimer has taken over the gavel (or rather the cowbell) as President since Dr. Fred's retirement in 2006.

It is a distinct honor for me to express my affection and high regard for this unique group. A copy of my remarks will be presented at the Congressional Forum's December meeting, which hopefully will include many former Members of Congress from the Third District, as well as Dr. Fred; Bill Eppenhimer; Cindy Cash, the current President of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce; and many other important leaders to this group and our community.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to share the story of the Congressional Forum with our colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WOLFF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for nearly 6 decades Thomas Wolff built a legacy in Connecticut that included a prolific business career, leadership in academic and political communities, authorship of countless books and articles, and extensive philanthropic endeavors. His legacy has touched countless lives and will continue to inspire generations to come. While his passing brings great sadness to our community, reflecting on the memories of this extraordinary man brings solace to those in mourning.

Thomas was born in New York City in 1928. In 1949, he moved to Vernon, Connecticut, and married his high school sweetheart, Bette. Following service in the Korean war, Thomas attended the University of Connecticut and graduated cum laude with a degree in economics. Shortly after, he would translate these studies and an uncanny business sense into a lifelong, successful business career.

In the late 1950s, he launched Wolf-Zachin and Associates, a successful insurance firm that has remained a fixture in Connecticut's business community. The firm, now called the Wolff Group, is currently headed by his three children, Gary and Greg Wolff and Debi Davis, as well as his grandson, Keith Wolff. In 1969, Thomas launched Vernon Publishing Services, Inc., a publishing company that created training manuals and presentation binders for professionals in the insurance industry.

His work in the insurance industry would define him as one of the most respected and knowledgeable leaders in the field. Highlights of his career include president of the Connecticut Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, chairman of the board of Life Insurance Underwriters Training Council, and recipient of the International Insurance Society Gold Medal for Excellence.

Additionally, Thomas served on the Vernon Board of Education, UConn's University Foundation Board, and was a member of Vernon's Town Council. He also brought the Big Brothers and the YMCA to Vernon, was the president of the Rockville Rotary Club, and endowed countless UConn programs and campus amenities.

Beyond these numerous accolades, contributions, and achievements, Thomas was a devoted family man and friend to many in our community. His wife, Bette, whom he married in 1949, was his closest confidant for nearly 6 decades. The outpouring of love and support from his wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family reflects the strong bond that they shared.

Thomas lived an extraordinary life, filled with personal and professional vigor and he will be greatly missed. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring his life and offering condolences to his family.