

The history of Nielsen Construction represents the very fabric of America. Mr. Joseph Nielsen immigrated to the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century; a time of tremendous growth and innovation. That young immigrant dedicated himself to hard work and perseverance. The qualities identified as uniquely American in the golden age of industry and expansion and his vision brought him to the growing, but still largely rural, western part of Virginia.

The next phase of Nielsen's success came through the acquisition of the existing W.M. Bucher & Son, a prominent builder in the Shenandoah Valley. This intertwined the futures of a young immigrant and his dream and the growth and development of the Shenandoah Valley.

Today, Nielsen Builders represents the best of American industry. It represents the highest quality in design and build construction. It provides the structure and security to thousands of church goers, students, businesses and families through its homes, churches, schools and businesses.

I wish Nielsen Builders success as it embarks on opening its second century of business and continuing the legacy of commitment, excellence and tradition.

I extend a hearty congratulations to the management and employees of Nielsen Builders of Harrisonburg, Virginia as they celebrate this tremendous milestone.

HONORING CAMERON AUSTIN LEEDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cameron Austin Leeds of Kansas City, Missouri. Cameron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cameron has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cameron has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cameron Austin Leeds for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HENRY CHANG, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and contributions of Henry Chang, Jr. An energetic public servant and advocate in the Greater Bay Area, Henry will retire this year from his elected position on the Oakland City Council.

Mr. Chang has tirelessly served the community of Oakland, California as a

councilmember-at-large for 14 years, serving as the city's vice mayor for 4 terms. Mr. Chang is sincerely committed to his community, and has employed his diverse life experiences and studies to improving the quality of life for his constituents and to adding greatly to the collective efforts of policy-makers, stakeholders, and public advocates in my district.

Henry was born on December 17, 1934 in Shantou, Guangdong Province, China. During the Japanese invasion of Shantou City, Henry and his siblings were separated from their parents for 4 years. In 1950 he moved to Sydney, Australia to study at Knox College. At that time, Mr. Chang was one of only two foreign students at his college. In 1952, Henry again made a bold move to further his education and opportunities, traveling to the United States in the hopes of attending the prestigious University of California, Berkeley.

In 1960, while attending UC Berkeley, Mr. Chang met and married Constance Poon. He graduated in 1961 from the School of Environmental Design at Berkeley. Mr. Chang worked for both the Novelli Engineering Company in Downtown Oakland and the Hugh M. O'Neil Company as an architect before founding his own architectural practice, Henry Chang, Jr. and Associates, Incorporated in 1971. Mr. Chang established his firm in the heart of Oakland's Chinatown District and immediately began using his skills to contribute to the vibrant business community and innovative urban planning needs of that area.

During this time, Mr. Chang began a long and impressive career of service. He has served in countless capacities on local and regional commissions and boards including founding member of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, several State and city anti-crime commissions, the Oakland Cultural Art Committee, the Lincoln Square Advisory Council, the Oakland Chinese Businessmen Association, serving as that board's president for 2 terms, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland Port Commission, the S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Oakland Community Development Commission, and the Oakland City Planning Commission. He was also a founding member of the Friends of Parks and Recreation Board. So great were Mr. Chang's contributions to Oakland, the city named September 27, 1990 "Henry Chang, Jr. Appreciation Day." In more recent years, Mr. Chang has served on the executive board of the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Alameda and Oakland Base Re-Use Commissions, the Alameda County Transportation Authority, and the A.C. Transit Major Investment Steering Committee.

On December 6, 1994 Mr. Chang was elected to the councilmember-at-large seat he has been continuously reelected to until his retirement this year. As a councilmember-at-large, Mr. Chang has sponsored important city legislation and has always been proactive in bringing stakeholders, community leaders, and residents of our area together to work on the complex issues facing the diverse and dynamic city of Oakland and its neighboring cities in Alameda County.

Just one example of Mr. Chang's tireless advocacy and thorough approach to policy making is his comprehensive legislation addressing the serious issue of gun control. Henry has authored bills to ban junk guns and ultra compact guns from being sold in Oakland as well as legislation requiring trigger locks on

all guns sold. He also sponsored a tax on guns and ammunition sold in Oakland to offset the high cost of violence caused by guns. These laws became regional models for urban safety and firearms regulation. While on the city council Mr. Chang also initiated the City Management Academy which trains neighborhood activists so that they can better understand how the city works and established the Citizens' Assistance Center to help residents get the assistance they need from their city officials and agencies.

Perhaps most memorable of Mr. Chang's achievements as a councilmember-at-large is his work to bring giant pandas to the city of Oakland on loan from the China Zoological Garden of the Ministry of Construction and to build a state-of-the-art facility for their care while in the United States. I have had the privilege to travel with Henry to China and Cuba. He has a deep sense of respect for people throughout the world and uses his diplomatic skills to bring good will to our Nation. I am proud to call Henry my colleague and my friend.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional district, I would like to salute the honorable Henry Chang, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from public office. It is clear that his dedication, innovation and involvement in the accomplishments of the city of Oakland will not end here. I wish him all the greatest happiness in his retirement years and thank him for a lifetime of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN PEDROIA OF WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dustin Pedroia, who is being honored as the American League's Most Valuable Player for 2008, the first second baseman to receive this award since 1959.

From a young age, Mr. Pedroia has shown a passion for baseball. Although, at 5'9", he has never been the largest player on the field, he has shown time and again that he more than makes up for it by playing with his whole heart. After graduating from Woodland High School in 2001 he was recruited by Arizona State University to play for the Sun Devils. While at ASU he quickly made an impression on his teammates as well as his coaches and went on to be named a 3-time first-team all-Pac-10 selection, the 2003 Pac-10 co-player of the year and the 2003 National defensive player of the year. He never missed a game at ASU, all while batting an impressive .384.

Mr. Pedroia debuted in the major leagues in August of 2006 with the Boston Red Sox, becoming the first member of Boston's 2004 draft class to reach the majors. In 2007 he recorded one of the finest rookie seasons ever for a Red Sox player, breaking a 93-year-old major league record for the highest batting average by a rookie second baseman and also winning the Jackie Robinson Award for American League rookie of the year. He was also able to cap off this impressive start with a World Series ring by helping the Red Sox achieve a 4-0 sweep over the Colorado Rockies to win the championship.

This year, Mr. Pedroia has surpassed his performance last season by leading the American League in hits, runs, and doubles while also batting in 83 runs and hitting 17 home runs in his own right. He has now become the third player in the history of Major League Baseball to win the rookie of the year award and the most valuable player award in consecutive seasons, as well as winning the golden glove award for best fielding performance at second base.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor this fine athlete. His record of accomplishments is a testament to his talent, perseverance and character, as well as an indication of a promising career that is just beginning. I join the entire community in congratulating him for these achievements and wishing him and his family all the best in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL E. LANZA
AND ELVA M. POUNDERS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Samuel E. Lanza of Warren, Ohio and Ms. Elva M. Pounders of Akron, Ohio. In recognition of their honorable service to our nation and selfless dedication to their communities, Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders have been inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame as members of the Class of 2008.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was founded in 1992 in an effort to honor and to raise awareness of the outstanding military service and post-military accomplishments of Ohio veterans. Each year, an executive committee reviews scores of applications received from across the Nation and recommends 20 inductees to the Governor. These inductees represent each branch of the military and have served in armed conflicts spanning from World War II to Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Since its inception, the OVHOF has inducted nearly 900 veterans who, like Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders, have demonstrated a lifelong devotion to country and to community.

Mr. Samuel Lanza served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and, after his discharge, continued his civil service by advocating and assisting his fellow veterans. He joined the Disabled American Veterans in 1948 and eventually served in every elected position at the DAV including State Commander. Mr. Lanza is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, and the American Legion. Additionally, Mr. Lanza participates as a member of the National Association for Uniformed Services and the past President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. For more than 45 years, Mr. Lanza has taken an active role in Memorial Day parades and decorated the graves of deceased veterans. For more than 27 years, he has transported his fellow veterans to VA hospitals and other medical appointments. In 1997, Mr. Lanza was appointed to the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission.

Ms. Elva Pounders served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era. Upon her retirement from the Corps after 20 years of active duty which she achieved Marine first sergeant rank, Elva made a commitment to assisting the veterans of her community. Concerned with veterans' healthcare, Ms. Pounders worked part-time at a pharmacy and delivered medicine and supplies to shut-in veterans. She volunteered in VA clinics and medical facilities in Akron and Brecksville, and in 2006, the Brecksville VA Medical Center awarded Ms. Pounders the 500 Hour Award. Ms. Pounders is a Life Member of the Marine Corps League, American Legion, North Coast WAVES 21, and the Retired Enlisted Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. She is the vice chairwoman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and she has served as a committee member with Summit County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.

Ms. Pounders serves as the Vice Chairperson for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. In 2007, in acknowledgement of her exceptional commitment to local veterans, the Summit County Veterans Service Commission recognized Ms. Pounders as "Summit County Veteran of the Year."

I would like to commend Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders for their extraordinary service and commitment, both in the military and in their communities.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMIE CATLIN PRAYTOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Jamie Catlin Praytor and pay tribute to her memory.

A realtor for four decades, Jamie was known to many throughout southwest Alabama as the founder and president of Praytor Realty; however, it was her longtime work with area charities and civic groups that gave her such a special place in so many of our hearts.

Jamie served as chairwoman of the Homeless Coalition Task Force, and she was involved with the Salvation Army and in fundraising for the American Diabetes Association. She also served on numerous boards including: Forward Mobile, Art Patrons League, Allied Arts Council, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile United, Alabama School of Math and Science, Junior Achievement, USA Small Business Development Center, Mobile 2000, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, Florence Crittendon Home, and Mobile Sunrise Rotary Club. Jamie was instrumental in helping to establish McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women and children.

Named Realtor of the Year in 1981, Jamie was an institution among Alabama realtors. In 1974, she opened Praytor Realty with an all-female sales staff, which was unique at the time. Labeled "Praytor's Pretties" by The Birmingham News, Jamie and her team quickly built a highly successful and respected company. Jamie gave much of her time to the realtor community as well. She was elected

president of the local Board of Realtors and became president of the state association in 1992. This year, the Mobile Association of Realtors established the Jamie C. Praytor Humanitarian Award, honoring her service. In 2001, Jamie was chosen First Lady of Mobile.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Jamie was a member of All Saint's Episcopal Church. She had served as stewardship chairwoman, vestry member, Altar Guild group leader and president of the women of the church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Tommy, Jamie Catlin Praytor will be dearly missed by her family—her daughter, Ellen Praytor Wingard; her sons, Hugh Thomas Praytor III and Wilson Wrath Praytor; four grandchildren, Hayley Catlin Praytor, Hugh Thomas Praytor IV, Charles Lee Wingard Jr. and Blake Dixon Wingard; her sisters, Anita Catlin Miller and Martha Catlin Willcox; her brothers, Paul W. Catlin, James G. Catlin, and Charles P. Catlin—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING BRANDON JAMES
O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James O'Brien of Kansas City, Missouri. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING A TRUE SURVIVOR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, many people, trapped in a cycle of despair, feel that there is no way out of homelessness, addiction, or prostitution. Exploitative pimps, callously indifferent law enforcement, and a lack of social services combine to make it almost impossible for some to escape the streets. Norma Hotaling not only successfully left that life, but has devoted herself to leading the fight to help those who remain behind.