

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE LATE SENIOR DISTRICT
JUDGE SOLOMON CASSEB, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Senior District Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., for his dedication and contributions to the city of San Antonio and South Texas community.

Judge Casseb was born in 1915 in San Antonio, Texas. He attended St. Mary's University and University of Texas Law. By 1938, he was admitted to practice and later was enlisted as a Private in the United States Air Force at the break of World War II. After his service overseas, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Major to return home to a private practice of law. Thereafter, he was appointed for 2 terms as Judge of the 57th District Court and later served as Presiding Judge of the District Courts of Bexar County, as well as Presiding Judge for the Fourth Administrative District. It was 1985 when Judge Casseb acquired senior status and began serving as Senior District Judge of Texas. Shortly after in 1987, he received the Texas Bar Foundation's Outstanding Jurist Award. He was a member of the Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Joint Task Force. Judge Casseb's contribution to the community of law was further recognized when he presided over the critical phases of the Pennzoil versus Texaco case, which resulted in the largest jury award in American jurisprudence. The judgment of that case has been upheld by the Appellate Courts of Texas and proves monumental to the state and Judge Casseb's work.

The progression of Judge Casseb's career went hand and hand with the numerous awards, recognitions, and appointments he received. Early on in his career, he was chosen the Outstanding Ex-Student of St. Mary's University. In 1965, Judge Casseb was named Outstanding Judge of 1965 by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Thereafter, he received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the San Antonio Bar Association, San Antonio Bar Foundation and the Laredo/Webb County Bar Association. By 1991, Judge Casseb was named Mr. South Texas at the Annual Washington Birthday Celebration in Laredo. A year later, the University of Texas Law School established the Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., School in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Senior District Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., and I thank you for this time.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SER-
GEANT FIRST CLASS JOSE
"ROY" PARRA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy"

Parra, a Salinas, CA native who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of our nation in 1950.

Born in 1927, Army Sergeant First Class Parra spent his days as a young child delivering the newspaper, The Salinas Californian. Roy learned early on the importance of family and hard work by contributing his wages to his family. At the age of 17, he joined the Merchant Marines and later joined the Navy before enlisting in the Army. After receiving a post in Germany for 3 years, Mr. Parra returned to Salinas in 1949, only to be called to active duty the following year to serve on the Korean peninsula.

As a forward observer for artillery, Mr. Parra found himself on the front lines fighting north across the 38th Parallel and up to Pyongyang. His unit was ordered farther north and halted about 50 miles away from the Chinese border to await supplies. Just three months after being deployed, Mr. Parra was killed in action after he bravely took over a machine gun whose operator had been killed to repel waves of advancing enemy infantry. Sergeant First Class Parra was buried alongside 150 fellow American soldiers in a North Korean field where local Koreans placed unmarked crosses above the fallen.

It took three years before his family learned of his courageous efforts in the moments before he was killed and decades longer until they learned the fate of his remains. In 1954, after three years in a prisoner-of-war camp Lt. Walter Mayo, Parra's commanding officer, wrote to Parra's family detailing how the young man from Salinas sacrificed his life protecting his unit. The prolonged wait to return Sergeant First Class Parra to the U.S. ultimately ended when a recent excavation of a burial field in North Korea turned up remains. As soon as the identity of the remains was confirmed, an Army sergeant was assigned to escort the body of Sergeant First Class Parra home. After an agonizing wait of over 60 years, in August 2009, his family was finally able to bury their fallen hero in Arlington Cemetery.

For his dedication and service, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Parra was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy" Parra was laid to rest with full military honors. Mr. Parra's sister, Lucille Withers, led the fight to identify and bury his remains.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to have the privilege to share his story with you today and on behalf of my colleagues, want to thank U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy" Parra and his family for their service to our Nation.

HONORING THE SONOMA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has long served as a spirited defender of the Valley's interests, by encouraging new indus-

try, organizing beautification projects and managing flood control efforts.

The Chamber began the evening of April 10, 1909, when 32 businessmen convened over dinner to discuss how they could stimulate commerce for the benefit of local merchants and professionals.

Membership quickly grew to 100 and the Chamber began their first initiatives, like publishing marketing material and establishing committees to begin tackling an ambitious agenda. In the early years, the Chamber called for transportation improvements and successfully lobbied Congress to protect a local federal facility from closure.

During the Great Depression, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in addressing needs of a paralyzed business community. To generate renewed interest in the organization, the Chamber hosted an event benefitting street and driveway improvements.

In the subsequent years, the Chamber pioneered many efforts, including the creation of a commuter bus service to San Francisco, the endorsement of a municipal water system, support for State Parks and advocacy for underground utility and telephone lines. Notably, the Chamber raised local matching funds for a job stimulus program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chamber was designated as a farm labor office tasked with steering workers to local farmers. In the years following the war, the Chamber focused on supporting an adequate sewage system, the introduction of local hospital and the adoption of a zoning plan.

By mid-century, the Chamber hosted an industrial conference, boldly escalating efforts to bring new industry to the Valley.

Today the Chamber has expanded its membership to more than 700 leaders who continue to help ensure a thriving economy through advocacy, promotion, networking, education and services.

Operating under the mantra that "Strong businesses make strong communities", the Chamber hosts events, publishes a business magazine and offers comprehensive business, community and visitor resources. The Chamber also leads recognition efforts, honoring the business of the year and green businesses.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that I acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE POINT ARENA
LIGHT STATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Point Arena Light Station on the magnificent Mendocino Coast in northern California.

A beacon to mariners since the original Point Arena Lighthouse was constructed in

1870, the Point Arena Light Station was rebuilt following its destruction by the devastating 1906 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. The old brick and mortar construction was replaced with a new design featuring steel reinforcement rods encased in concrete to withstand future earthquakes. Point Arena Light Station was the first lighthouse to be built in this manner.

The new Lighthouse stands 115 feet tall and began operation in 1908, nearly 18 months after the quake. The Light Station is home to a First Order Fresnel Lens built in France and one of very few left in the United States. It is six feet in diameter and weighs more than six tons. The lens is made up of 666 hand-ground glass prisms all focused toward three sets of double bull's eyes. It gave the Point Arena Lighthouse its unique "light signature" of two flashes every six seconds. This incredible optic, that holds an appraised value of over \$3.5 million, is set in solid brass framework.

Prior to the introduction of electricity, the lens was rotated by a clockwork mechanism. The Keepers, or "wickies" as they were called, had to hand crank a 160-pound weight up the center shaft of the lighthouse every 75 minutes to keep the lens turning. Later, two 1,000 watt electric lamps were installed to replace the oil lamp, and an electric motor was installed to replace the clockworks.

In 1977, an automated aircraft-type beacon on the balcony tower, and the historic First Order Fresnel Lens was discontinued. The 400-pound aircraft beacon was recently replaced by a modern rotating light that incorporates the Fresnel principles for the efficient projection of light. In addition, a radio beacon, with a 50-mile signal that originates from the station, also assists mariners. The original oil lamp was visible for approximately 18 miles, the 1st Order Fresnel Lens for 20 miles and the current modern rotating light can be seen for 16 miles. In 1978, the fog signal at the station was silenced, and a bell buoy was placed nearby.

In 1984, The Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Transportation transferred the Point Arena Light Station to the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, a nonprofit organization as part of a 25-year land lease. In 2000, the PALK became the official owners of the property due to their diligent historic preservation and educational efforts. Daily visitation, gift store sales, memberships and the rental of the historic Keeper's homes on the property as vacation houses, provide income for ongoing preservation, facility upgrades and educational endeavors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the ongoing contribution and historic significance of one of America's treasures, the 101-year-old Point Arena Light Station.

WELCOMING HIS ALL HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW, ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE, NEW ROME,
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

SPEECH OF

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.Res. 838. I am proud to be a co-

sponsor of this important resolution which welcomes His Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, to the United States of America.

His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a tireless advocate for religious freedom, Muslim-Christian dialogue, and international environmental protection. He has been internationally recognized for his work to improve our worldwide community in many ways.

His work in the Muslim world advocating for religious understanding and tolerance and his efforts with victims of soviet oppression have earned him the title of "Patriarch of Peace." In 2008, His Holiness was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine.

Madam Speaker, while I am pleased that the House of Representatives is expressing our strong support for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and his leadership on many important issues, it is equally as important that I address the fact that the Patriarchate itself operates under numerous unfair restrictions imposed by the Turkish Government, where the Patriarchate is located. Unfortunately, the Patriarchate's property rights, its ability to open religious schools, and other issues of religious freedom must be properly addressed by the Turkish Government. I hope that the United States and the world community will work with the Government of Turkey to end this terrible crime of inhibiting religious freedoms.

I am pleased to welcome His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and I look forward to joining with our country's leaders to formally welcome His Holiness to Washington. I look forward to learning from him and working with the Greek Orthodox Community in the United States to bring full religious freedom to the Patriarchate. His Holiness has been instrumental in bringing light to those who have lived in darkness and helping those who need it most. We all benefit from his teachings.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF WINSTON WALKER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Winston Walker, a Korean War veteran and a Northwest Florida community leader who passed away on October 29, 2009. Mr. Walker spent his life serving his country and his community, and I am proud to honor his dedication and his service.

Born in Baker, Florida on December 10, 1925, Winston was a life-long Florida resident. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1949 and became an Air Force officer. After serving honorably during the Korean War, Winston returned to Okaloosa County, Florida in 1954. He was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Fort Walton Beach City Council in 1957, and then became City Manager shortly thereafter.

Winston worked for the city for 23 years as City Manager, and many credit him for being instrumental in transforming Fort Walton

Beach from a small town into the thriving city it is today. He retired as Chief Executive Officer of Ready Bank. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason and a lifelong member of St. Simons on the Sound Episcopal Church.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Winston Walker as a Northwest Florida leader. Winston will be remembered as an important part of the fabric of our community. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his family as we remember and honor the life of Winston Walker.

ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as they join together in celebration of their 95th anniversary. The parishioners, along with Parish Priest, Father Marko Matic, and Parish President, Mr. Dennis Svilar, will be celebrating this very momentous occasion on Sunday, November 8, 2009. Festivities will begin with Divine Liturgy, followed by a banquet and program featuring Mr. Nicholas Chabraja as the guest speaker. This special event will take place at Saint Elijah Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, which was founded in Gary, Indiana, and is now located in Merrillville is one of the Midwest's oldest parishes. The tradition of Saint Sava's is well-known throughout Northwest Indiana because of the continued efforts of the clergy and parishioners over the past 95 years to perpetuate the Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions. In 1914, the founders proclaimed the mission of their new church before the Secretary of State in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their mission is as follows: "The purpose of this parish is to preach the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) and take spiritual care of its members; to spread goodness, justice, brotherly love, and respect among its members."

Named for Saint Sava, the first Archbishop of the Serbian church, Saint Sava's first formal church-school congregation was organized in 1914, followed by the first church in 1915. From there, the parishioners built the first church and school on 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street in Gary. Through difficult economic times, the parishioners at Saint Sava continued with their mission, and after the Great Depression, the parish built an even larger church, school, and parish hall on 13th Avenue and Connecticut in Gary in order to accommodate their rapidly growing membership. This building remained until a devastating fire consumed it in February of 1978, causing Saint Sava's to quickly relocate to a newly constructed chapel in a parish hall they had built years earlier. This hall, located in Hobart, Indiana, had been utilized as a place for summer meetings and family picnics.

From 1978 until 1991, Saint Sava's Liturgy continued to be performed in the Hobart chapel. However, it was during this time that long-time parish priest, Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich, and the church board