

President of the Offshore Mariners Association.

During his career, he owned and operated several scallopers along the eastern seaboard, the last being the F/V Mary Anne, which he designed, built, and operated with great pride. He served as the director of the City of New Bedford Harbor Development Commission, and later served as manager of the Popes Island Marina until his retirement in 2007. The building of that marina was one of his life's accomplishments.

He served as a member of the New Bedford Redevelopment Authority and the Economic Development Commission.

HOWARD W. NICKERSON

The late Howard Nickerson watched over the New Bedford waterfront for 65 years. He began his career as a young man, tub trawling in a sailing vessel, moving to commercial fishing on George's Bank as vessel engineer. Through the decades, Mr. Nickerson participated in the industry from every angle, as a fisherman, representing fishermen, seafood dealers, seafood workers, boat owners and directing state and municipal agencies, always fighting for fairer regulations.

He served as head of the Harbor Development Commission, the State Pier, the Seafood Dealers Association, the Seafood Workers Health-Pension Fund, the New England Fisheries Steering Committee and the Offshore Mariners Association.

A strong advocate of seafood marketing, Mr. Nickerson was involved in organizing the New Bedford Seafood Council and the New Bedford Scallop Festival in the 1950s and '60s, which helped build the market demand that allowed the scallop to become the port's cash leader.

RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN T. ELLIS AND ROBERT SICKLES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathleen T. Ellis and Robert Sickles for the laudable achievements that make them the well-deserved recipients of the YMCA's 2010 Champions for Children Distinguished Citizen Service Award. Both are successful local business leaders and committed community activists.

Ms. Ellis is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of New Jersey Natural Gas, the principal subsidiary of New Jersey Resources. NJ Natural Gas provides energy to almost 500,000 residential and business customers in the heart of NJ's vacation spots. She has also led a robust career prior to joining NJR in 2004; Ms. Ellis served as the Director of Communications to former Governor James McGreevey from 2002–2004, and as Manager of Communications and Director of State Governmental Affairs for the NJ-based energy company PSE&G from 1998–2002. In addition to all of her commendable business successes, Ms. Ellis has been an incredibly active member of her community, serving the interests of women and children at no compensation for her efforts. She is on the Board of Trustees for the private, nonprofit organization, 180 Turning Lives Around, which has focused on ending domestic abuse and violence in Monmouth County for 30 years. She is also on the board of New Jersey's PAM's List, which is active in raising money for pro-

choice women to run for public office, as well as the New Jersey League of Municipalities Educational Foundation and New Jersey Future.

Mr. Sickles, better known as Bob, is the owner-operator of the local Sickles Market in Little Silver, NJ, which has remained in business through three generations of Sickles. Although the Market itself was established in 1908 as a seasonal farmer's market, the Sickles' family history extends all the way to a King's Land Grant in 1663. Sickles Market is now a year-round, fresh foods market with 4 production greenhouses and over 10 acres of working farm production, as well as a garden center, all a result of Bob's transformative re-vamping in 1998 to keep the store open through the winter in competition with big grocery stores without losing its unique local flavor. It is thus unsurprising that Mr. Sickles has been the recipient of many awards in recognition of the Market's distinctive success, including the 2004 Innovator of the Year Award from Garden Center Management & Merchandising Magazine and "Random Acts of Beauty 2008" by the Little Silver Garden Club, to name only a few. Mr. Sickles is also heavily involved in his community, hosting Back to Garden and Kids Day events at the Market in order to educate children about healthy living and environmental awareness. In 2008, Sickles Market raised over \$300,000 over 5 years for the Holiday Express annual fundraiser, a local charity for the disadvantaged.

Madam Speaker, I would once more like to thank Kathleen Ellis and Robert Sickles for their contributions to their businesses and to their communities, and congratulate them again on their 2010 Distinguished Citizen Services awards from the YMCA, which they both highly deserve.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,078,420,280,010.67.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,404,722,523,042.60 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$35,272,010,674.80 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHATHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 175th anniversary of the Chatham Presbyterian Church in Chatham, Illinois.

The Chatham Presbyterian Church was founded in 1835 by some of Chatham's found-

ing citizens, the Reverend Dewey Whitney, T.A. Spilman and William Thornton. The first service was held in Mr. Thornton's home and was attended by about 15 families, some of whom had come by wagon from New York to settle Sangamon County.

From that humble beginning, Chatham Presbyterian has expanded to more than 400 members, and several new buildings. Just after celebrating their sesquicentennial in 1985, Chatham Presbyterian moved into its current building on Walnut Street in Chatham. Over the years, Chatham Presbyterian has been an important part of the Chatham and Springfield communities, as well as carrying on mission work across the country and around the world. In addition, Chatham Presbyterian is active in our local community, hosting group work camps in Springfield's historic Enos Park neighborhood.

I want to congratulate Dr. Joe Eby, Pastor of Chatham Presbyterian, and the entire church family on celebrating this important milestone. I join with the other members of this House in wishing Chatham Presbyterian another 175 years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, I was not present for two recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 363—"nay"; Roll No. 364—"yea."

A TRIBUTE TO MANUEL SEMAN AND LUISE PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. SABLÁN. Madam Speaker, 86-year-old Manuel Seman Villagomez's kempt silver hair, easy smile and gregarious personality belie his years of hard work and difficult childhood. He came from a large family with meager possessions, but over time, intense work and unwavering devotion to his faith and family have made him a contented man.

Manuel, or Manny, Villagomez was born on January 24, 1924 on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands during the Japanese occupation. He is the youngest of ten children. His Chamorro father was born on Guam, but, at the age of 18, he moved to Saipan with his siblings. Manny's mother, half Chamorro and half Carolinian, was from Saipan.

Manny received a sixth grade level education, the maximum allowable for Chamorro children under Japanese law at the time. After he graduated from school, he worked at the family farm and sold produce to the Japanese stores to support the large family. He fished with his father to supplement the family income. His father's love of fishing for kichu, or sergeant fish, was the reason for his family being affectionately called "Kiyu."

During World War II, as American forces started their approach to the Mariana Islands, the Japanese government restricted Manny and his family, as well as the rest of the Chamorros, to their respective family farms. When the Americans landed on Saipan on June 14, 1944, Manny was one of the many Chamorros forced to flee to the jungle, hiding out in caves, trying to avoid the fierce battle that engulfed the island. On July 4, 1944, U.S. Marines found Manny and others hiding in a cave in Talofofo and led them out to Camp Susupe, where civilians were confined until after the war. After Japan surrendered in 1945, the U.S. Marines recruited Manny and 63 other Chamorro and Carolinian men to serve as marine scouts and search for Japanese snipers and holdouts on Saipan and in the Northern Islands. It was not until January 31, 2000—55 years later—that U.S. Armed Forces formally recognized Manny and the other marine scouts for their service. They were officially sworn in, and on the same day, formally discharged from the Marine Corps.

Right after the war, Manny was attracted to a young woman who would later become his wife for 58 years. She was Luise Pangelinan Villagomez, born on November 14, 1929 on Saipan. She grew up in a family of eight children. Luise only had a third grade education but she learned to speak three languages, Chamorro, Japanese, and after World War II, English. After two years of courtship, the young couple married on February 26, 1949. A month later, they moved into their new, albeit tiny house, which Manny had built with the earnings from his job as a police officer. Their marriage produced six daughters and six sons: Linda, Patricia, Thomas, Barbara, Manuel Jr., Joseph, Edward, David, Nora, John, Ramona, and Antonia.

Manny's first job after World War II had been as a mess boy for the American enlisted personnel, which is how he learned to speak English. Thereafter, he served as a policeman for 12 years under the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands' Insular Constabulary. He rose to the rank of sergeant and became an administrator. Manny quickly learned how the U.S. Naval and local governments procured goods. In 1955, he used his knowledge and experience to start a small grocery store, M.S. Villagomez Store, in Chalan Kanoa. It was the third locally owned grocery store in operation.

Initially, Luise, by then a mother of four, handled the store's daily operations. Realizing that his wife needed help and that the family business presented a better opportunity, Manny left his police job. In 1960, Manny and Luise relocated the store to a corner lot on Beach Road near the Chalan Kanoa post office. Six years later, in 1966, the couple built a large, two-story building to accommodate the expanding grocery and department store as well as provide office rental space.

As the business grew, so did the family, which by 1968, had increased to twelve children, most of whom were old enough to work in the business. Manny and Luise then built a second store in Garapan which they later leased to Duty Free Shoppers, now DFS Galleria. During this time, the family business expanded to the export of scrap and recycled materials to Japan. The couple also entered into a joint venture with Luise's brother and opened a store on the island of Chuuk, one of the other islands in Micronesia, from 1969 to 1977.

In December 1976, the family suffered a major setback when fire engulfed their department store building. Manny and Luise salvaged what they could from the fire and quickly reopened a small store across the street. As they accumulated some assets, they invested in real properties and gradually developed and rented them out. They resisted any loan offers from banks and were extremely cautious and conservative in their investments.

In 1978, Saipan began to see the influx of foreign investments particularly from Japan. Manny and Luise leased their prime properties to investors for large scale developments. They reinvested their new capital in other real properties by again self-financing the construction of commercial space and apartment buildings. They also purchased some undeveloped real properties in the United States for investment and security. Having survived World War II and seen his own father go through changes in sovereign control in Guam and then in Saipan, Manny felt the need to own real property in the continental United States in the event the family had to flee or relocate from Saipan. In 1979, the Villagomez family joined several other Chamorro families in purchasing houses in San Leandro, California. Manny and Luise then moved their younger children to San Leandro to further their education.

In the 1990s, Manny and Luise shifted the focus of their business from retail to the construction business, and to commercial and apartment rental. So that they could pursue their love of traveling, they also decided to transfer the management and operation of the business to their children. Manny and Luise were able to visit many cities in Europe, traveled extensively throughout Asia and the U.S., and spent considerable time at their San Leandro home.

While Manny is widely known for his business accomplishments, he is most proud of his service as the first Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for the Northern Mariana Islands, a position he held from 1988 to 2000. As the NMI's CASA, Manny enjoyed the time he spent supporting the generals, veterans and active soldiers.

Manny and Luise never lost sight of their civic duties. In 1990, they made a sizeable donation for the construction of the first major public library, the Joeten-Kiyu Library, in Susupe, Saipan. They were generous benefactors to schools, churches and charitable organizations. Manny and his children continue the tradition of giving and assisting others in the community.

It was always the couple's dream to have their children reunited on Saipan. During the 1990s, Manny and Luise subdivided their large Fina Sisu property purchased in the 1950s and helped their children build their own homes there. Today, the lake and ocean view property, known as the MSV Kiyu compound, is a quaint, friendly place where all the twelve children have homes and where a majority of the 40 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren can be seen visiting throughout the year. It is also where Luise peacefully passed away surrounded by her loving family in September 2007 at the age of 77 years.

Today, Manny lives in the family compound with ten of his children and their families. He still travels but spends most of his time in the compound tending to his mini-farm, fruit trees,

and other plants, and living a quiet and peaceful life.

HONORING JOHN JESSE SALDAÑA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Jesse Saldaña, Sr., a civil servant, community leader, and former serviceman who passed away June 9, 2010.

Mr. Saldaña made history through both his illustrious postal career and military service. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 45 years and was appointed to the position of postmaster on December 7, 1974. Mr. Saldaña was the first Spanish-surnamed postmaster since 1836 and was the first merit postmaster in the nation. He worked not only as the Postmaster of San Antonio, but as the manager for the San Antonio Sectional Center covering a service area of 33,000 square miles, 226 post offices and 4,527 employees in South Texas. He was named "Postmaster of the Year" in 1983.

As a Combat Infantry Officer in the European Theater during World War II, Mr. Saldaña was wounded twice in action in the Huertgen Forest and in the Battle of the Bulge, where he was the sole survivor of his unit. For his valiance and heroism in service, he was awarded a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Mr. Saldaña also tirelessly worked to preserve the history and cultural heritage of San Antonio. Mr. Saldaña served as president of the Canary Island Descendants Association and the Harp and Shamrock Society. In 1981, he was named by the Isleños Canarios Committee as the Chairman of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the Villa de San Fernando. He was also a lifetime member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. Mr. Saldaña also worked to preserve our nation's military history by returning to his alma mater, Lanier High School, of which he was Valedictorian of the Class of 1939, to meet with students each Veteran's Day. Lanier honored him as one of the first to be commemorated on their "Wall of Fame."

Additionally, Mr. Saldaña was very active in many church, civic, and philanthropic organizations. He was a life-long Oblate Associate and was presented with the Oblate cross in 1973 for his active participation with the Oblate fathers. He was a founding board member of Sisters Care of San Antonio, a ministry which offers in-home assistance to many elderly who are ineligible for government assistance. He was a director of the United Way and the Vice-Chairman of the combined federal campaign. He was also a member of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

San Antonio has suffered a great loss and it is my humble honor to rise to recognize the many contributions that Mr. Saldaña has made in his lifetime and to extend my thoughts and prayers to his family.