

HONORING THE HENDERSON
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Henderson Memorial Baptist Church for their remarkable perseverance and dedication to their community.

The Henderson Memorial Baptist Church was formed in the homes and barns of the people of Farmington in 1810. Without a building to meet in, community members met in private spaces until they built their church in 1836. From its humble beginnings, the church and its members formed a strong bond that lasts to this day.

Despite many obstacles, the congregation continues to thrive. Two major fires disrupted the ability of church members to practice in their building in 1886 and again in 1938. Both of these fires were devastating, especially considering the loss of a new Austin pipe organ bought through donations during the Great Depression. However, the congregation has always rallied to rebuild and continue their good work.

The community of the Henderson Memorial Baptist Church has always come together and united for the common goal of keeping their church and congregation alive. The resiliency shown by this congregation during their tumultuous history is highly commendable.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Henderson Memorial Baptist Church for their resiliency, perseverance and extraordinary dedication.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
THE WEEKLY DOWNTOWN LOS
ANGELES COMMUNITY NEWS-
PAPER, THE GARMENT & CIT-
IZEN, AND ITS FOUNDER, EDI-
TOR AND PUBLISHER, JERRY
SULLIVAN

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles Garment & Citizen newspaper in Downtown Los Angeles, which, after 10 years in publication, is closing its doors this month.

With a weekly circulation of 10,000, the Garment & Citizen covered Downtown and the adjacent areas of Echo Park, Angeleno Heights, Silverlake, Westlake, Pico-Union, Chinatown, Little Tokyo, the Arts District and portions of south Los Angeles.

As the member of Congress who represents Downtown, I know the closure of this free weekly will leave a void. Jerry Sullivan, the paper's founder, editor and publisher, started the Garment & Citizen in 2000 to report Downtown area news and events that were not being reported elsewhere.

Every week, one could always count on Jerry to run news items that directly related to the diverse readership he served. The articles heralded the achievements of Downtown students, workers, families and businesses, and

provided a vehicle for residents to share a wide range of viewpoints.

I also salute the paper's contributors. They include John Fish, Roberto Porras, Sam Hassan, Rick Ness, J.C. Choe, Raby Savage, Eugene Yi, and Elias Cruz, among others. As Jerry says, they all served the Garment & Citizen and the community with great skill and dedication.

I wish Jerry well as he pursues new endeavors. While the Echo Park resident will no longer hang his notorious fedora in the office of the Garment & Citizen, all of us here in the U.S. House of Representatives will continue to have a unique connection to Jerry. We have the privilege of working closely with one of Jerry's eight siblings, John Sullivan, who has served as House Parliamentarian since May 2004. Upon learning of this tribute, John said of his brother, "It is impossible for me to overstate how proud I am to be Jerry's brother, and I know I can say the same for each of our brothers and sisters."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Jerry and his team for their accomplishments and success in publishing the Garment & Citizen. To fully tell the story of the newspaper, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Jerry's own reflections. They clearly reveal his passion and commitment to the news industry and Los Angeles' culturally rich Downtown neighborhoods that he and I both know well, love and celebrate.

WHAT WORKED

(By Jerry Sullivan, Editor & Publisher, Los Angeles Garment & Citizen)

"A lot of famous folks have said that they wouldn't change a thing if they had it all to do over again.

I don't think any of them ever had to shut down a community newspaper.

I would change some things if I had it to do over again.

I'd make some changes—apply the lessons of experience—because whatever I did as the founder and editor and publisher of the Los Angeles Garment & Citizen didn't get the newspaper through these historically tough economic times.

I can carry the weight of that outcome because—while I would make some changes if I had it all to do over—there are so many things that I would make sure to do again.

I would again keep my eyes and my mind wide open in order to give the community the coverage it deserves.

I'd still tell everyone's truth—not just this niche or that demographic group. I'd keep striving to tell the stories of the entire community, and to explain how and why this segment or demographic group matters to the other.

I'd continue to acknowledge the fact that readers are smart.

I'd keep giving advertisers credit for their roles as members of the community.

I'd always do my best to hold both readers and advertisers accountable for their actions as community members.

I'd keep assuming that immigrants are part of our American culture—whether they've obtained citizenship or remain uncertain about taking that step.

I'd still speak truth to power in plain language.

I'd still keep a civil tone in all matters.

I'd still receive whoever found their way to my office, and listen to their story even if their only point is to let someone know that they weren't always in the shape they're in today.

I'd continue to make ideas the heart of reporting.

I'd keep in mind that important and even great ideas can come from unexpected sources buried deep in conversations.

I'd keep the Letters to the Editor section as a truly open forum for all voices and viewpoints in the community.

I'd continue to laud police officers for the job they do so well the vast majority of the time.

I'd keep calling police officers to task—and give others the opportunity to do so—on matters of public concern.

I'd continue to make space for the poets who happen to wash dishes or manufacture garments on their day jobs.

I'd keep reminding longtime, hard-pressed Downtown residents that property owners have a right to build lofts—and young, upscale tenants have a right to move into them.

I'd still tell developers and young, upscale tenants that a community existed Downtown long before anyone built any lofts—and remind them that all communities deserve respect.

I'd keep telling the folks in Echo Park about the Lions Club.

I'd continue to highlight the success stories of youngsters in Westlake and Pico-Union.

I'd keep mentioning Angeleno Heights at every legitimate opportunity.

I'd always expect the unexpected in Chinatown.

I'd still keep some space reserved on deadline for late-breaking news on the latest community cause in Little Tokyo.

I'd keep asking why suffering has such a comfortable home on Skid Row.

I'd remember to always respect my elders on Bunker Hill.

I'd continue to appreciate the artists of the Arts District.

I'd continue to learn from the contentious culture of the Fashion District.

I'd keep marveling at the blend of old and new ways in the Jewelry District.

I'd still highlight folks who work hard and choose decency every day as the Local Heroes of our society.

There are many more things I would do again, because the Garment & Citizen earned some great victories. Our coverage has mattered. We saved taxpayers money. We gave credit where it was due to the mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and workers and business owners who make our city work. We added valuable insights, criticisms and plaudits to the public debate.

The Garment & Citizen served with honor and distinct style. We developed a voice that reached our readers and earned a strong and unique connection with their lives. We reached rich, poor, working-class and middle-class individuals and families. We reached across ethnic and racial and religious lines. We reached them all—and called them a community.

The Garment & Citizen will disappear but the community shall remain.

It's now up to others to serve this community with the comprehension, courage, and clarity that's called for by the guarantee of freedom of the press that we enjoy under the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The Garment & Citizen has demonstrated that it can be done.

Our fate also shows that it could be done better.

I will look upon the next effort with interest.

Respectfully,

JERRY SULLIVAN.

TRIBUTE TO TRACY PATTON, 2010
STATE WINNER OF LETTERS
ABOUT LITERATURE COMPETITION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tracy Patton and congratulate her as a state winner of the Library of Congress 2010 Letters About Literature competition.

Letters About Literature is a program developed by the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores and state Centers for the Book. It aims to promote reading and writing to young people in fourth through twelfth grades across the nation. Students are encouraged to read a book, then write a letter to the author, dead or alive, conveying their appreciation for the book and its impact on their lives. More than 70,000 students from across the nation that entered the contest, a 25% increase from last year's competition.

The Letters About Literature competition divided students into three divisions by age, and the top letter from each age level were chosen from the states. Level three included all high school students, in ninth through twelfth grades. Tracy was chosen as the Level 3 state winner for 2010 by West Virginia's panel of judges, comprised of authors, editors, publishers, librarians, and teachers. She addressed her letter to renowned playwright and poet William Shakespeare, about his tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*. Tracy is from Charleston, West Virginia and attends Capital High School. Tracy's teacher, Rosalie Blaul, submitted this winning letter.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Tracy Patton, a student that has committed herself to scholarship in reading and writing. Bright young minds such as hers are truly the future of the Mountain State, and I wish her congratulations.

PROTECTING GUN OWNERS IN
BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5827, the Protecting Gun Owners in Bankruptcy Act of 2010. This legislation will ensure that individuals' Second Amendment rights are secure when they enter into bankruptcy.

In these challenging economic times, I have heard from families in Michigan's 15th Congressional District concerned they will lose their ability to protect themselves and their families should they enter into bankruptcy. As the Supreme Court recently ruled in *Heller* vs. the District of Columbia and confirmed in *McDonald* vs. Chicago, the Second Amendment affords individuals across the nation the right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self defense. Hardworking Americans who have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn should not fear that they will be stripped of those rights because they are try-

ing to turn their lives around through bankruptcy proceedings.

Most States, including Michigan, do not protect gun owners in bankruptcy because firearms are not listed among the "household goods" exempt from the claims of creditors. In 2005, amendments to the bankruptcy code made it even more unlikely firearms would be considered a "household good." However, H.R. 5827 changes that. Specifically, it permits firearms—rifles, pistols and shotguns, up to an aggregate value of \$3,000—held primarily for the personal, family or household use of the debtor to be exempt from the claims of creditors under federal exemption law.

Enacting H.R. 5827 will allow the citizens of Michigan and across the United States the ease of knowing they can protect themselves and their families in good times and bad. This is an important bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

HONORING THE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CONTAINING THE RANGE 9 AND MERIDIAN BOUNDARY FOREST FIRES IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women who showed bravery and perseverance in fighting the Meridian Boundary and Range 9 Fires in northern Michigan's Crawford County and surrounding areas in May of this year. Through their impressive efforts the fire's damage was contained with minimal loss of structures and no loss of life.

On May 18, two separate forest fires broke out only two counties apart—one in Crawford County and the other on land within Camp Grayling's Range No. 9 near the border of Crawford and Kalkaska Counties. Federal, State and local agencies worked together, managing the two fires as one single complex. In total, 16 local fire departments worked alongside members of the Michigan Army Reserve National Guard and State and federal forest management officials, to have the fire 95 percent contained within 8 days.

In all, nearly ten thousand acres were impacted by the fires, with 12 residences destroyed and 6 residences damaged. These firefighters and responders acted with expertise in the field and crews worked around the clock to fight and contain the blaze. Without their determined efforts and quick response the situation on the ground likely would have been far worse.

Agencies involved in containing the Meridian Boundary and Range 9 Fires were: South Branch Township Fire Department, Higgins Township Fire Department, Frederic Township Fire Department, Beaver Creek Township Fire Department, Grayling Fire Department, Lovells Township Fire Department, Luzerne-Big Creek Township Fire Department, Tri-Town Fire Department, Merritt Fire Rescue Department, Clam Union Fire Department, Lake Missaukee Area Fire Department, McBain Fire Department, Lake City Fire Department, Otsego County Fire Department, Otsego Lake Township Fire Department, Vanderbilt Corwith Fire

and Rescue, Michigan Army Reserve National Guard, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Forest Management Division and USDA Forest Service, Mio Ranger District.

Madam Speaker, the men and women of these agencies did excellent work controlling and containing the Meridian Boundary and Range 9 forest fires and keeping people in the surrounding communities safe. Therefore, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing their service, honoring their bravery, and thanking them for the heroic job they did in fighting these fires.

HONORING MR. IRVIN R. LAI

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mr. Irvin Lai, who passed away on July 16, 2010, at the age of 83. My heart goes out to his son, Laurence; his daughters Arlene Lowe, Corinne Gill, Irene Jong, Kathleen Lih and Pauline Yau; his brother Collin and sister Mildred Wong; his 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and the rest of his family and friends.

Irvin was an extraordinary citizen, a role model for community activism and a powerful advocate for the Chinese American community. His selfless and just nature was cultivated in childhood during the Great Depression by his mother, Effie Lai, an unpaid social worker who helped Chinese immigrant women navigate the U.S. social welfare system. It was his mother's work, and his education in a segregated "Oriental" school, that taught him the importance of joining together and helping his community.

Lai first served his country as a teenage volunteer in the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marines during World War II, where he achieved rank of Chief Steward during his 2 years of service. In 1950 he was drafted into the Korean War, where he served for 2 years in the 4th Infantry Division, 42nd Field Artillery in Germany.

But it was upon his return from the war that Mr. Lai's civil rights activism really took off, when he joined the Los Angeles Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in 1957. He worked his way up to national Grand President of the Alliance by 1985, and along the way he fought hard for equal political and economic rights for all Chinese Americans.

Irvin is probably best known for saving the Peking duck in America, when he led the charge to change a law that required Chinese restaurateurs to throw away large quantities of Chinese roast duck and dim sum, or receive costly citations. As a direct result of testimony from Mr. Lai before the State Legislature, a roast duck exemption was added to the health code.

Mr. Lai also stepped forward to help arrange the proper reinterment of Chinese remains unearthed during construction of the Gold Line Eastside Extension, and the preservation of artifacts found at the site.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring our community hero, Mr. Irvin for