

which is currently run by Don's son, Dino, producing a fourth-generation family dairy operation. Don's passion and commitment to agriculture was evident in his enthusiastic membership and leadership within a number of dairy organizations. Don was a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for 22 years and served as president for five years, a member of the California Milk Advisory Board for 12 years, and chairman of the Kings County Western United Dairymen for four years. In addition, his family was named Dairy Family of the Year in 1998. In 2008, he and his wife Jackie were honored as the Distinguished Dairy Couple at the 52nd annual Salute to the Dairy Industry Dinner in Hanford, California.

A truly notable son of the San Joaquin Valley, Don also found time to enrich the community as a member of the Kings County Citizens for a Healthy Environment. Balancing his time and service to dairy and agriculture issues, Don also served as a member of the school board for 30 years and 4-H club leader, clearly exhibiting his personal vested interest in youth and education programs in agriculture.

Whether he was spending time with his family and friends, or serving our community, Don will be remembered as a man filled with compassion and joy. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jackie; his mother Lilia; his four children Gina, Dino, Cara, and Mia; sister Patricia; five grandchildren; and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Fred Donald "Don" Giacomazzi, an honorable and respected man with an unwavering commitment to our community and his loving family.

HONORING "REMEMBER THEM:  
CHAMPIONS FOR HUMANITY"

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary and historic event taking place in California's Ninth Congressional District, the official unveiling of master artist Mario Chiodo's world-class bronze monument Remember Them: Champions for Humanity in Oakland's new Henry J. Kaiser Sculpture Park.

Originating as a heartfelt response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Mr. Chiodo's masterpiece honors 25 world-renowned humanitarians who boldly championed human rights despite hardship, barriers and personal risk. In the last decade, many in our community have helped to bring Remember Them to fruition. With the collaborative effort of private and corporate donors under the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Mr. Chiodo's vision has grown to include additional tributes to 14 local Bay Area activists. Remember Them is a source of Oakland pride and a powerful symbol of human altruism, sacrifice and resilience.

As we celebrate the three-section debut of the four-piece, 1,000-square-foot monument, we recognize that this magnificent work of art is not only the largest bronze sculpture in the West. It is a lasting, living legacy that will empower future generations to come. For exam-

ple, Remember Them is already part of a K-12 education curriculum developed with Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute as part of its Global Liberation Project. Thousands of young people in the Bay Area and throughout the country will have multi-faceted, hands-on access to the United States' first large-scale monument to promote global diversity and celebrate international humanitarians as a group. Another groundbreaking Remember Them feature is its unique access for visually impaired persons, including information in Braille. Moreover, a small-scale casting of the monument will be on permanent display in the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 25 global humanitarians who are honored today, and who will continue to inspire the hearts and minds of our young people, are (in alphabetical order) The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Maya Angelou, Susan B. Anthony, Ruby Bridges, Cesar Chavez, Chief Joseph, Head of the Nez Perce Nation, Sir Winston Churchill, Frederick Douglass, Shirin Ebadi, Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller, Coretta Scott King, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Harvey Milk, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Oskar Schindler, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rigoberta Menchu Turn, The Unknown Rebel of Tiananmen Square, Elie Wiesel, and Malcolm X.

The many names and faces of Remember Them represent our vast global community and the beauty of our differences. Yet, more importantly, they remind us of what we share in common: the capacity to demonstrate extraordinary acts of human decency in the face of injustice and iniquity. In fact, this monument is designed on a spiraling axis that emulates the helix of humans' common DNA. Therefore, as we commemorate those who have made larger-than-life contributions to social justice, let us be reminded that we are well-equipped to follow suit.

On behalf of the residents of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to salute all who have contributed to the success of Mario Chiodo's Remember Them: Champions for Humanity. Thank you for your service to our community, and for ensuring that peace and social justice are a lasting symbol in our daily lives.

CONGRATULATIONS EDWARDS  
FAMILY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friends Shawn and Susann Edwards on the birth of their son Robert Lacy Edwards. Robert was born on Monday, August 22, 2011, at 5:36 p.m.

Robert Lacy Edwards is seven pounds and eight ounces of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Gerald Robert and Marsha Miller of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Lacy and Pauline Edwards of Marion, South Carolina. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Edwards family and wish them all the best.

HONORING GREGORY WAYNE  
MEYER, M.D.

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved doctor in the Merced Community, Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D.

Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D. was born in 1957 in Merced, California and died at the age of 53 after a tragic hiking accident on June 29, 2011 in Yosemite National Park. A family lost more than a husband, father, son and brother when Dr. Meyer died while trying to rescue a friend and colleague in Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite National Park.

Dr. Meyer, 53, and physician assistant Richard Fox, 53, were swept to their deaths while trying to cross a bridge at Wapama Falls, which was swollen by near-record ice melt and an unseasonably late thunderstorm. Meyer was trying to save Fox, who was overtaken by rushing water according to Paula Meyer who survived the accident.

The Meyer family lost a budding rancher, a gourmet cook, the driver of a battered '69 green pickup, a tree grower, a pie baker, a wine connoisseur, an ice cream maker and a man whose trademark under pressure was striving to be the calmest man in the ER. Greg touched all those around him with a special sense of "grace and elegance," which is how he defined a "great" practitioner of emergency medicine, which is what he did at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier.

That's where the Merced High graduate met his wife, Paula, in 1997, when he was a doctor and she was a physician assistant. It wasn't love at first sight—"we bonded over cooking," she recalls—but after they were married in 2006, they became inseparable and expanded their joy with twin daughters, Kate and Emily, in 2008.

His parents think back to a boy who borrowed \$140 from his dad at age 8 to buy a Hereford bull. He saved nickels from his allowance to pay back the loan, with 1 percent interest, until his dad finally told him he could pay him in full when he sold Cheyenne, the bull. "He had 30 head of cattle when he went to college," his mom remembers.

And Paula, Texas-born but Southern California-bred, had no clue that the guy who took her to lunch at the Bel Air Hotel in L.A. for their first date was more comfortable riding in the "Green Beast" pickup, wearing an old straw Stetson hat and muddy work boots. "Bet you never thought when you met me you'd get cow bleep on your shoes," he told her after one of their trips back to Merced. It was also on a visit to Merced that he took her to the Branding Iron and they dined under his own brand.

He blended a high-profile career in emergency medicine with a down-home love of the ranch. Paula used to surprise and entertain friends at the ER with photos of the two of them in Merced, hauling compost and working the land. In recent years, they'd begun to spend two weeks in Whittier and two weeks in Merced, at the 17-acre ranch where he planted oak, peach, almond, cherry and plum trees. "He was living his dream," his mom says. Adds Paula: "We had a charmed and beautiful

life. I've never met anybody who had a happier childhood and lived everyday to the fullest."

Greg was an Elks member, donated to the Merced Theater restoration project, contributed to the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Foundation in Whittier as well as to Mercy Medical Center Merced although his own medical partnership was in Southern California.

He learned to cook and loved it. Their babies' first solid food was fresh steamed broccoli and rutabagas he'd grown. With good food came good wine, and although he wasn't a snob, he liked to pick wines he liked. Years ago, he proposed to Paula at Hetch Hetchy after telling her to come look at some "variegated stones" in the water—and the ruby one was a bottle of Peter Michael wine. Two days before he died, he repropoed to her, using the same ploy and the same wine, while asking if she knew everything she knew now back when he first asked her to marry him, would she have done it? "Oh yes," she told him. "I had no doubts in how much I was loved."

Greg was all-Merced through and through, a career lifesaver and a hero to many. One of his partners says that although there were 13 doctors in the Whittier partnership, Greg was an "influential de facto leader. He had this ability to get in there and work with all the partners." One of them, Dennis Conneen, was on a 10-day religious retreat in England, broke off his trip after two days and flew back to California when he heard Greg had died. He was a cherished friend of Greg's and delivered a beautiful eulogy at Greg's memorial service in Whittier.

Greg is survived by his wife, Paula, his twin daughters Kate and Emily, his parents, Chuck and Annetta Meyer of Merced and sister; Kellee Meyer and her husband Doug Brown, also from Merced, his grandmother, Mary Wood, his aunt, Myrna Akins, of McHenry, IL and three cousins, Andrea Akins Berrett of Arrington, TN, Angela Smith of Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, and Aric Akins of Poplar Grove, IL and their respective spouses and children. Greg was predeceased by his grandfather, Iris (Spud) Wood, who was extremely inspirational to Greg in both his love of the outdoors and farm life.

Greg attended Merced High School, University of California at Irvine for both his undergraduate and medical degrees. He completed his internship and residency in Emergency Medicine at Harbor UCLA in Los Angeles, and a fellowship in Hyperbaric Medicine at Long Beach Memorial, Long Beach, CA.

Greg's family is profoundly grateful to Mark Alee, the California Conservation Corps professional who bravely risked his life trying to save Ric and Greg. Paula acknowledges she may not be alive today if it weren't for Mark's selfless act of heroism, quick physical strength and his strength of character. Steve Yu, the lead investigator, Rebecca Lund, the family liason, both with the National Park Service have treated our family with unusual kindness and respect throughout this tragedy. We also are grateful for the many men and women who searched tirelessly for Greg after the accident under extreme conditions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D. for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to the Merced Community. The life of Dr. Meyer serves as

an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

#### HONORING COLONEL GREGORY B. CANNEY

#### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight the distinguished career of Colonel Gregory B. Canney. Colonel Canney's career spanned 26 years that began in Florida at Eglin Air Force Base and ended in Tampa at MacDill Air Force Base.

Colonel Gregory B. Canney is the Commander, 6th Dental Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. As the Commander, Colonel Canney was responsible for providing top quality dental restorative and preventive care to the 6th Mobility Wing and its 36 mission partners. Colonel Canney ensured the world-wide deployment of over 10,000 active duty members from the 6th Air Mobility Wing and two combatant commands. Colonel Canney interfaced with command, wing, group and squadron leaders on dental matters and managed a \$400,000 annual budget and 53,486 annual dental visits.

Colonel Canney was born in Groton, Connecticut. He completed his undergraduate education at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. He entered the Air Force directly from the University of Connecticut, School of Dental Medicine in 1980 and served 10 years. After a break in service, he resumed his Air Force career in 1995 and has enjoyed a total of 8 assignments. He is guided by the credo "attitude is everything."

Living by that credo is what led Colonel Canney to receive several major awards and decorations such as the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters. As the Deputy Group Commander for the 6th Medical Group, Colonel Canney has directly impacted the careers of hundreds of troops in all Healthcare Corps and will influence several generations beyond the tenure of his career.

The Tampa community and MacDill Air Force Base are proud to recognize Colonel Canney for his outstanding career and his many significant contributions to the Air Force and our country. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Nation's Armed Services. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable patriot for his service to his country.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ERNEST L. THOMAS

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ernest L. Thomas for his career and commitment in academia and educating America's youth.

Dr. Thomas, who has been the President at Tarrant County College South Campus since 1998, graduated with a major in Sociology

from Washington State in 1971. He received his master's from the University of Massachusetts in 1976 and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in the Community College Leadership Program in 1996.

From 1975 to 1990, Dr. Thomas was the Director of Educational Support Programs and Dean of Student Development at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Before holding his current position, Dr. Thomas was the Vice-President of Student Development at Brookhaven College in the Dallas County Community College District for almost eight years.

Dr. Thomas has been involved with numerous professional committees and organizations including the American Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In addition to his professional involvement, Dr. Thomas is actively involved with several community and civic organizations such as the Fort Worth Independent School District and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce where he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for nearly five years. In addition, Dr. Thomas serves as a motivational speaker for numerous community events.

Dr. Thomas' outstanding service has been well documented and has earned him a long list of achievements and awards. These honors include the Kellogg Fellow Award from the Community College Leadership Program of the University of Texas at Austin, and the Silver Scholar award from the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education. Please join me in recognizing and thanking this exceptional educator and community leader and his lifelong commitment to education.

#### BILL MATTOS RECOGNITION

#### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect that I rise today to recognize my friend, Bill Mattos, who is being recognized with the Golden Rooster Award from the California Poultry Federation for his outstanding service to California's Poultry Industry and whose dedication and inspiration is an example for all of us to follow.

Bill was born and raised on a farm in Stanislaus County. He is an honors graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he was named Outstanding Graduate in Journalism. He also holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently lives in Newman and is the proud father to two daughters, Toni and Natalie.

Bill was the Founder and former President of Mattos Newspapers, Inc., where he operated a local newspaper and printing company for 30 years. He currently hosts a cable television program, "Westside Stories," which features monthly interviews with elected officials, non-profit executives and leaders throughout Stanislaus and Merced County communities.

Bill has served our community through many different facets of government and community service. Bill was appointed by the Governor to the Stanislaus County Fair Board and