

honoring all that he has done for the families of Cape Cod.

HONORING THE CROATIAN
AMERICAN CIVIC CLUB

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2012

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Croatian American Civic Club of Farrell, Pennsylvania, as it celebrates the Centennial of the "Hrvatski Dom," the Croatian home. This architectural and cultural landmark, which still stands, serves as a reminder of the great impact the Croatian community has on our region's rich cultural history. Their commitment to the preservation of their culture is worthy of this body's recognition and admiration.

Croatian immigrants, who began construction on the Hrvatski Dom in September of 1912, would arrive immediately after their 12-hour shifts at the steel mills to work on the arduous task of laying bricks. On Thanksgiving, 1912, less than three months after the beginning of construction, the Hrvatski Dom was officially opened, serving as a testament to the dedication and perseverance of these immigrant laborers.

Starting as lodging for a collection of Croatian immigrants, the Hrvatski Dom quickly transformed into the central location for a community of like-minded Croatian Americans. As the hub for Croatian immigrants, the Hrvatski Dom became an educational, musical, and athletic haven for young and old alike—bridging the gap between the old country and their new culture as American citizens. I would also like to give special recognition to a celebrated member of the Croatian American Civic Club, who passed away earlier this year. Known as Aunt Polly, Mrs. Pauline Desput exemplified the love and care of the Croatian community in Pennsylvania.

I take great pride in celebrating and congratulating the Croatian American Civic Club of Farrell on its momentous day.

IN HONOR OF MEE MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Fiftieth anniversary of Mee Memorial Hospital in King City, California. Founded in 1962 to replace an outmoded and inadequate facility, Mee Memorial has served its small town home and over 5,000 square miles of surrounding rural farms, ranches, and scattered residences with the highest quality medical care for the last half century. In that time it has grown into modern facility with a network of clinics serving the whole cross section of the local community, from farmworkers and local retirees to visiting U.S. Army Reserve soldiers training at nearby Fort Hunter Liggett.

In the late 1950s, South Monterey County leaders recognized the need to upgrade their

community's medical care. Dr. L.M. Andrus and his son, Dr. L.H. Andrus, donated land for a new hospital. Local leaders secured part of the construction funding through the federal Hill-Burton Act. A community campaign raised the balance needed, with local ranchers Myrtle Mee and her son Tom Mee donating the final \$150,000. They sold a valuable herd of cattle to complete the campaign. The campaign leadership named the hospital in memory of Myrtle's husband, George L. Mee, in recognition of this final critical effort.

Mee Memorial has kept up with the changing needs of the community and in 2001 built its present 199 bed facility adjacent to the original 1962 facility. This modern hospital is the core of the Mee Memorial Medical System in Southern Monterey County which also includes four outpatient health clinics in King City and one in the neighboring City of Greenfield.

In 1962, only 10,000 people called Southern Monterey County home. Today the population has grown to nearly 50,000, and Mee is still the only hospital within fifty miles. The hospital's on-site heliport, a project supported by the King City Lion's Club, transports critical patients to other facilities as needed. Today Mee Memorial employs more than 500 people. Over seventy-five volunteers are active in the Service League and Foundation, which sponsor many events and fund-raisers to provide valuable services and equipment to meet the needs of the patients. It is these people, the doctors, nurses, administrators, and the deep bench of community support, that make Mee such a vital part of Southern Monterey County's quality of life. Mee Memorial has seen some challenging times in recent years, but the skill, dedication, passion, and professionalism of these people ensure that Mee Memorial's future is a bright one.

Mr. Speaker, I know the whole House joins me in congratulating Mee Memorial Hospital on its anniversary, and wish them many more years of quality service to the public.

RECOGNIZING ALVARO URIBE AND
RICARDO SALINAS, TWO KEY
FIGURES IN LATIN AMERICA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday October 1st, the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) hosted their First Annual Trade and International Affairs Symposium, which highlighted the contributions of the U.S. Hispanic community to the global economy. To culminate the day of activities, CHLI honored two important figures from Latin America during the Global Leadership Salon Dinner: Alvaro Uribe, former President of Colombia, and Mexican businessman Ricardo Salinas, President and CEO of Grupo Salinas.

Alvaro Uribe started his career in public service as a Senator of Colombia, making great strides in increasing community participation in government decisions. Then, he became Governor of Antioquia, where he cut government spending and allocated more funding to the education system to improve schools. During his tenure as Governor, 40,000 people received training in the peace-

ful negotiation of conflict; and, with community cooperation, the number of kidnapping cases fell dramatically. In 2002, Mr. Uribe became President of Colombia and our country's staunchest ally in Latin America. With his integrity and courage, Uribe fought the extremist forces within his country and led an aggressive campaign to root out drug traffickers. Colombia strengthened its democracy, improved its judicial system, protected human rights, and enhanced the way of life for all Colombians. Mr. Uribe reaffirmed his commitment to the U.S. by negotiating the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, a critical alliance that benefits the security and economic interests of both nations. It is no wonder that in 2009, President George W. Bush honored Alvaro Uribe with the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom for his meritorious contributions to our country. To this day, Mr. Uribe remains a great friend of the causes of freedom, democracy, and human rights in Latin America; and a strong partner of the United States.

Ricardo Salinas has been a pioneer in breaking down walls of competition in key industries in both Mexico and the rest of Latin America. While his business achievements are admirable, his philanthropic work is perhaps even more laudable. Ricardo has been an outspoken entrepreneur who has dedicated his business career to promoting education, health and human rights among the communities he serves. Through Fundación Azteca, Ricardo has raised millions of dollars for important charities in Mexico. Following the steps of Fundación Azteca, Ricardo founded Fundación Azteca América, an organization that works to promote the well-being of the Hispanic community in the United States. As part of their work, Fundación Azteca América has developed a series of social campaigns such as establishing educational programs for young Hispanic students to access quality education; improving civic engagement; and learning about financial responsibility. The organization has also been a staunch supporter of comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I am honored to have these two significant leaders from the Western Hemisphere in our nation's capital. I would also like to thank CHLI for their vision of advancing the Hispanic community's diversity of thought in the United States and beyond.

SUPPORT AND CONGRATULATIONS
FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING,
JR. BIMINI PLAQUE PROJECT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and congratulations to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Bimini Plaque Project.

The project is an effort to bring attention and awareness to the connection Dr. King had with The Bahamas, particularly Bimini. A special celebration and ceremony scheduled for October 5-7, 2012 will include the unveiling and placement of a commemorative plaque and bust of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the mangroves where Dr. King is said to have

spent peaceful moments with boat maker and bone fisherman Captain Ansil Saunders in 1964 and 1968. The bust, in the image of Dr. King will be designed and sculpted by renowned sculptor Erik Blome. The activities will also incorporate the launching of a scholarship award program for deserving Bahamian students to attend the historic Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida.

Ansil Saunders, the bonefish man, tells the story of how he took Dr. King out into the mangroves of Bimini to think and meditate. Dr. King wrote his acceptance speech in the mangroves for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He also wrote the notes for his speech to the Sanitation Workers in Memphis in those mangroves three days before his death.

The project is supported by the Frisch family of Jacksonville, Florida, one of whom Ben, runs Bahamas Food Services in Nassau. The project will be unveiled in Bimini in honor of the 50th anniversary of the "I Have A Dream" speech delivered at the monument in Washington, D.C.

I want to personally thank members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Bimini Plaque Project Committee, including Joyce Danford, Executive Director, Dr. Richard Danford, Esmin

Shakespeare Master, Edward Waters College Scholarship Coordinator (who has Bahamian roots); and Nat Glover, President of Edward Waters College. I also want to thank Bahamian Prime Minister Perry G. Christie and Bahamian Minister of Tourism Leonard Stuart for their strong support of the project.

Bimini, about 40 miles east of Miami, Florida, was also a retreat for noted American author and journalist Ernest Hemingway, and American Politician Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

IN RECOGNITION OF LULA BELLE
WILSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Lula Belle Wilson for her contributions to the local community. A resident of Long Branch, New Jersey, Mrs. Wilson has selflessly dedicated much of her life to others.

A dedicated mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, Lula Belle Wilson has been a

member of the Second Baptist Church in Long Branch for over 60 years. Mrs. Wilson has led a life inspired in many ways by her devotion to her faith. A native of Cordele, Georgia, Lula Belle Wilson moved to New Jersey where she became a member of the Second Baptist Church in 1950. Since that time, Mrs. Wilson has been actively involved with the church. This includes her tenure as president of the church's Carnation Club, president of the Seacoast Usher Union, vice-president of the Kitchen Circle, and president of the Senior Usher. For over 60 years, Lula Belle Wilson has been a devoted member of the Long Branch community and the Second Baptist Church. Her faith has led her through good times and bad, and Lula Belle Wilson continues to share her faith and positive demeanor with members of her church and community. It is with great joy that I am able to join with the Second Baptist Church in honoring Lula Belle Wilson's over 60 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in recognition of Lula Belle Wilson. Her active role with the Second Baptist Church and the community of Long Branch make Mrs. Wilson truly deserving of this body's recognition.