

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
FRANCESCO VITUCCI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Francesco "Frank" Vitucci, who passed away on September 26, 2012 at the age of 74. Frank will be remembered in the hearts of many as a generous and ambitious man whose drive gave him unprecedented achievement in business. His memory will live on through his family whom he loved deeply.

Frank was born on September 29, 1937 in Pacentro, Italy and his family lived there until the German invasion during World War II. When Frank was only five years old his father, Paolo passed away, so his mother, Maria was left with two young children, Frank and his younger brother Roberto. When the war ended, Maria met Pasquale DiCicco. He was a widower with four young children: Nick, Alberto, Giuseppina, and Lucia. Shortly after meeting, Maria and Pasquale married and conjoined their families.

In 1952, Frank and his younger brother Roberto made the journey to America to join the rest of their loved ones as well as three new additions to the family: Giulia, Paul, and Rosaria. After living in Detroit for a few years, the DiCicco's uprooted their lives again and moved to Fresno, California.

Frank and Alberto washed dishes at Maselli's Italian Restaurant. Money was tight, but with hard work and dedication, Frank, Roberto, Alberto, and Nick seized the opportunity to buy Maselli's Restaurant when the owner, Sam Maselli was looking to sell.

Subsequently, the four brothers became widely known as the Four Sons of Italy. Frank was in charge of the pizzas while his other brothers handled the other functions of the business. DiCicco's Italian Restaurant quickly became a family business requiring long hours of hard work. Successfully, Frank and his brothers were able to open various locations across California for a total of 15, twelve of which are in the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1972, Frank married Lindain, which resulted in a 40-year marriage with four children: Greg, Ron, Mario, and Joanna.

In his final years, Frank spent time most of his time with family, playing with his grandchildren, and catching up with close friends. One of Frank's greatest joys was traveling, and he did it very often. Going back to his hometown, Pacentro, Italy, was something Frank loved to do. His roots were there and even though he was a part of a successful restaurant business in America, he never forgot where he came from.

Frank exemplified the American Dream through his hard work, dedication and compassion. A lasting legacy has been built not only by his business achievements but because of the generosity and endearment created by all those who were blessed to enjoy his companionship. As the last of the DiCicco's founders passes on, we shall not forget the legacy and impact Frank has had on the community. A model to follow, Frank will be remembered for his kind gestures and enthusiasm for creating a better life for his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN CARLOS ADULT COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SAN CARLOS ADULT COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the San Carlos Adult Community Center on the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and the Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center on the 20th anniversary of its founding as a nonprofit. The center is dedicated to providing programs and activities for persons age 50 and above while recognizing the importance of people of all ages.

Groundbreaking for the 17,000 square foot center took place in 1982 and at the time the building was the most completely equipped facility of its kind in the nation. It cost \$1.5 million to build and about \$550,000 of that funding came from federal and county sources. The remainder was contributed by San Carlos. The residents received quite a bargain, given all of the amenities of this facility.

The center has a modern kitchen and its meeting room, which I've been privileged to speak in, is first-rate. The center also has a paperback library and computer lab, regular health screenings and is available for community events. In short, the San Carlos Adult Community Center is a place where people come to refresh themselves after a hard day's work or to maintain their connections to others while in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, there are a handful of public services that connect people to their governments. One such service is recreation, including physical activity and continuing education classes. The San Carlos Adult Community Center draws people out of their homes and into recreational activities and thereby knits the community together. For example, the AARP offers driver safety classes. Adults can create lasting friendships by participating in health and wellness classes or by learning a new hobby such as painting, cooking or gardening. Adults can become better creative writers by taking a class and the current events sessions often feature local experts. Pedro tournaments draw persons from age 18 and up, while the moonlight and roses social dance draws people who remain young at heart.

There is another aspect to the San Carlos Adult Community Center that also merits special mention because not everyone in San Carlos is self-sufficient. Some need additional assistance, and this is where the Caring Cupboard Food Program becomes important. Twice per month, the Caring Cupboard, operated in part by center volunteers, delivers canned food, boxed food or packages that are non-perishable to seniors whose budgets do not stretch through an entire month. The volunteers in the Caring Cupboard also check on the welfare of the seniors who are served, and provide companionship for those who might not see another face for many days in a row. The center also helps seniors understand their Medicare choices by supplying HICAP volunteers who can explain options during open enrollment, a vital way to ensure that seniors remain independent.

The Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center provide extensive fundraising support for the budget of the center. Anchored by a strong board of directors, the "Friends" are a group of volunteers who know that communities thrive when their volunteers build local institutions that provide great services. I'm sure that this mission of providing a place for adults to learn and to build bonds with the community makes the "Friends" one of the largest official matchmakers on the San Francisco Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, there are quite a few strong community institutions in San Carlos. The city prides itself on being the City of Good Living. The San Carlos Adult Community Center is a concrete example of why people love this town. In his book "Democracy in America," the 19th Century French historian Alexis de Tocqueville remarked on the role of volunteerism in the young nation known as America. He contrasted it with the lack of a similar ethic of volunteerism in France at that time—a nation that he said required an official act to create even the smallest civic accomplishment. San Carlos is very much like America in its early years, filled with the warmth of volunteerism and the ethic that actions speak louder than words. We salute the San Carlos Adult Community Center on the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and the Friends of the San Carlos Adult Community Center on its 20th anniversary. During every single day, they make a difference for the better in the lives of countless persons in the special community on the San Francisco Peninsula known as San Carlos.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ANASTASE POMONIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Anastase Pomonis, lifelong entrepreneur and community icon. He was born in Athens, Greece on May 3, 1941 and passed away on July 10, 2012. He was an inspiration to the local Greek community and the community at large. He came to the Champaign-Urbana area in the 1960s and soon developed many entrepreneurial ventures.

Anastase, or Stacy as he was commonly known, was an excellent example of what living the American dream is all about. He came from a far away land to become a life story of great American success. Stacy developed The Brown Jug club in Champaign, whose house bands included the now famous REO Speedwagon. He went on to establish several local restaurant and diner chains, as well as several other businesses that thrive to this day.

He was proclaimed a Patriarch of the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church upon his passing. It is important to also remember him as a good father and husband. He was a man who was a mentor to many people. Speaking five languages and capable of reciting philosophical doctrine from heart, he was known as an intelligent and insightful man. He offered himself to the community through his words, heart and charity. Thank you, Anastase, for

your extraordinary life and contribution to our community. We will miss you tremendously.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED REVEREND WILLIE H.
CARTER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to honor the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Reverend Willie H. Carter. All of Northwest Florida, and in particular the people of Century, Florida, mourn the loss of this extraordinary man.

Reverend Carter spent the majority of his adult life in service to his fellow man. He was a strong advocate of human dignity and a tireless proponent of the importance of living up to one's God-given potential. Whether it was early on, as a counselor in the schools of Century, Florida, or later as Pastor of Pilgrim Lodge Baptist Church, Reverend Carter's love of our Lord was matched only by his devotion to the betterment of the youth in his community.

Friends and neighbors warmly recall this humble man with a ready smile and firm handshake who made a deep impact on all who had the good fortune to know him. "Your life is in your hands," he was fond of telling young people. "You can make it anything you want it to be." But Reverend Carter also called upon them to improve themselves by turning off the television and picking up a book. He was famous for challenging young people to "watch TV for an hour, close your eyes and see what you got out of that. Then read a book, close your eyes and see what you learned."

Aside from his work in education and in the church, he was an advocate for schools in the community, was named one of the Grand Marshals of the Northview High School Homecoming Parade in 2010, took part in the 2010 Northview Baccalaureate service, and was previously named a NorthEscambia.com Person of the Year. Additionally, in 2011, I was pleased to welcome Reverend Carter, a World War II veteran, to Washington D.C., when he took part in the ninth and final Emerald Coast Honor Flight.

To some, Reverend Carter will be remembered as a spiritual leader; to others, he will be remembered for his tireless work on behalf of the youth of the Northwest Florida Community; and to his family and friends he will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He touched the lives of many with his self-giving devotion and tireless commitment to service.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life, honorable service and accomplishments of Reverend Willie H. Carter. He will be missed by many, but his memory will live on through the timeless legacy he leaves behind. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to Kraig, Audra, Paris, Lauren, Aerial, and the entire Carter family.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM NEIS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William E. Neis, a resident of Bucks County who passed away on September 22 at the age of 93. Mr. Neis served as the honorable Mayor of Doylestown, PA, retiring after 25 years of volunteer service. He retired at the age of 86 as the longest serving mayor in Doylestown history and was known as "The Doylestown Cupid" for the thousands of weddings he performed for local couples. Friends and colleagues remembered him as a soft-spoken, modest man who embodied the characteristics and contributions of the "greatest generation."

Mr. Neis enjoyed distinguished careers. First, he served as a master sergeant in chemical warfare for the U.S. Army in World War II. He was the owner and CEO of William Neis & Son, Doylestown's soft drink bottler and beverage distributorship. He also was the state director of the PA Bottlers Association before becoming Mayor of Doylestown.

William Neis represented the best of Bucks County. A lifelong resident of Doylestown, he served his community for a majority of his life, maintained a loving family and was respected by all in Doylestown for his humble and selfless nature. His contributions will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUTH WISNOM

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Wisnom, the most committed and altruistic volunteer I know. Ruth has dedicated her life to helping others and creating a better future for all of us.

Ruth started volunteering with Peninsula Family Services 48 years ago, a testament to her perseverance and commitment. She and her husband David Wisnom have also passed on their passion for volunteering to their children and grandchildren.

I commend Peninsula Family Service for honoring her with the Wisnom Family Award. The organization could not have chosen a more deserving family which exemplifies its mission to empower children, families and older adults to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

Ruth grew up in Ontario, Oregon. She went to Ontario High School and received her B.A. in Speech and Hearing Therapy from the University of Oregon.

From 1955 to 1957 she was the Assistant Director of the speech clinic at the May T. Morrison Rehabilitation Center in San Francisco. The following year she was a speech and reading consultant and English teacher at the Taipei American Schools in Taiwan.

She used her speech therapy expertise to set up speech clinics at the Crippled Children's Society in Monterey County and at UCSF Medical Center.

Since Ruth started volunteering for Peninsula Family Services—formerly Family Service

Agency—in 1964, she has served on many boards of directors and committees, including Family Service Agency 75th Anniversary, Biennial Family Service Agency International Conference in Detroit, Family Service America, Family Service Agency of San Mateo County and as president of San Mateo County's Hillsborough Auxiliary. She is still an active member of the auxiliary and established its popular annual travel auction in 1970. Ruth is an honorary lifetime board member of Peninsula Family Service.

Ruth's service to the community includes other non profits—Peninsula Community Foundation, the Monterey County Symphony, and the San Francisco Opera Guild Board where she has been a tireless advocate for children's education and served as vice-president of fundraising. Her love for children is also evident in her work for the Avery Fuller Children's Center Foundation, the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew's and the Junior League of San Francisco and of the Monterey Peninsula, the Children's Home Society and the Crippled Children's Society.

Ruth's love of flowers, especially roses, has driven her to support the Hillsborough Garden Club where she was president from 1995 to 1997 and served on the Bay Area Steering Committee planning a weeklong flower, horticulture and ecology show.

Her unwavering commitment and service to our community have been recognized with several volunteer of the year awards from different groups.

Ruth and David are the parents of two children, David Wisnom, III and their late daughter Carol Wisnom Kastner who passed away in 2008. The garden at the Peninsula Service's Child Development Learning Center is named in her memory, "Carol's Kinder Garden."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an extraordinary human being who epitomizes inexhaustible generosity and kindness. Our community and the world is a better place because of Ruth Wisnom.

TRIBUTE TO MALALA YOUSAFZAI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to an eloquent op-ed article by First Lady Laura Bush, published in the Washington Post this week following the horrific attack by Taliban gunmen on a 14-year-old girl, Malala Yousafzai. Mrs. Bush writes: "Malala inspires us because she had the courage to defy the totalitarian mindset others would have imposed on her. . . [she] refused to look the other way. We owe it to her courage and sacrifice to do the same."

We are all horrified by the news of the savage attack on Malala. Taliban gunmen hunted her down as she returned home from school in the Swat Valley town of Mingora, Pakistan. The Taliban attackers also wounded two other schoolgirls riding on the bus with her.

This was a tragedy that could easily have been foretold. Malala was perhaps the most famous 14-year-old girl in the world, and for