

most valuable farm land. Toward the late 1960s, the County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution for the establishment of agricultural preserves for the county.

The current San Joaquin Farm Bureau Office was dedicated in 1972.

There were many changes during the 80s for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau. They reinforced the importance of the dairy industry to the county when the SJFB Board of Directors voted in sharp disagreement with the California Farm Bureau Federation when they asked for \$.29 per hundred weight drop in Class One milk. In addition, the president of Zenith announced its purchase of CalFarm Insurance. The partnership between the Farm Bureau and CalFarm began to materialize.

The Immigration Reform Act of 1986 came through a joint effort by the agricultural interests of California and Congress. The Alien Legalization for Agriculture program was formed in 1987 as a result of immigration legislation that passed in Congress. The SJFB contracted with federal officials to provide local agriculture workers the ability to gain citizenship through the amnesty program that was granted at that time. Thousands of workers were able to utilize this program to become U.S. citizens. At the end of the process, excess funds were used to help start the SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education.

In 1988, the Environmental Affairs Committee was formed and immediately set out to work on the Endangered Species Act, San Joaquin Air Basin Air Quality, and pesticide regulation and enforcement.

The 1990s brought the advent of many “new town” proposals, self-contained urban areas that would not become incorporated cities. Only one of these new town proposals, Mountain House, was supported by the San Joaquin Farm Bureau and remains an active, growing community in the county.

Efforts were made to create a rural crime task force under the Sheriffs Department to ensure adequate personnel would be allocated to counter crimes impacting agricultural operations. The SJFB initiated policy language at the State Farm Bureau Convention to prioritize metal theft, and to require recyclers to adhere to strict guidelines when accepting metal. Their efforts led to legislation that passed the California State Legislature the following year.

The 2000s enabled the SJFB to work with the county on what is now known as the Cabral Agricultural Center which houses the Agricultural Commissioner, U.C. Cooperative Extension, and the Office of Emergency Services.

San Joaquin Farm Bureau members and staff have advanced the concept of providing an “Ag Venture” program, which helps 13,000 3rd grade students from throughout the county attend one of three “Ag Venture” days. The program gives students the opportunity to learn more about where their food comes from and the benefits of eating local crops.

They have also advanced a “Farmers Market” program that educates 4th grade students in low income schools on the benefits of eating specialty crops that come from the region. At the end of the 4 session program, students are given the opportunity to purchase fresh produce for 10 cents each to bring home fruits and vegetables.

In the past two years, the SJFB was recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation under their “Counties Activities of Excel-

lence” program. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau’s advocacy efforts, agricultural education, and safety training programs all have contributed to their being recognized under this program. The SJFB was selected as the County of the Year in 2013 by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has accomplished a number of commendable things within the community. They have also maintained a county legislative committee that has worked with the State Legislature, and an economic committee that has made progress in enforcement of State realty laws. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has also assisted the Federal Land Bank to provide funds to farmers, and have campaigned for reapportionment of the State Legislature. In addition to this, the SJFB has maintained a cow-testing association, sponsored 4H activities, cooperated with the extension service in educational programs, and have represented livestock men in demanding dog law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation for their significant contributions, not only to agriculture, but to the community, and the State of California. Congratulations on the past 100 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

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HONORING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MID AMERICA BANK IN MISSOURI

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**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mid America Bank and recognize the contribution the institution has made to communities in Missouri during its 100 years of operation. Since April is Community Bank Month, it is fitting to celebrate the anniversary of one of Missouri’s finest financial institutions. On April 27, 1914, this community bank was founded as the People’s Bank of St. Thomas. It was then relocated to Meta, Missouri in 1951, where it operated as the sole location for 27 years and was renamed the Meta State Bank. In 1978, the name Mid America Bank was adopted as the bank grew and opened a second branch in Linn, Missouri. Mid America Bank has continued to expand and currently has five branches throughout the state that allow the people of Missouri access to the financial tools that provide stability and security in their daily life.

The longevity of Mid America Bank is not only a testament to its success and knowledge of the financial services industry, but also its commitment to our Missouri communities. Community banks such as Mid America Bank have a desire to help their customers improve their lives and realize their dreams, all while valuing the customer and respecting the vital role of relationship banking.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all the employees of Mid America Bank our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their service to the men, women and families of Missouri. Congratulations on 100 years and best wishes for continued success in the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MARIA DE LA MILERA AND GRATULATING HER ON A WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

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**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to celebrate the long and successful public service career of Maria De La Milera and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement. Her commitment to our community and our nation is exemplary and we are all forever grateful for her service. With over 30 years of experience and countless accolades and accomplishments over such an expansive career, South Floridians are truly losing an invaluable member of the fabric of our community.

Maria was born in Holguin, Oriente, Cuba, the oldest of three daughters. After the brutal dictator Fidel Castro seized power, Maria came with her younger sister to the United States in the largest exodus of unaccompanied children from the regime—known as “Pedro Pan.” She then spent four years in a Los Angeles orphanage until her parents were finally able to join her in the United States.

As an adult, Maria moved to Miami and began her career helping our South Florida community through public service, working as a constituent service representative for Senator Richard Stone. She continued her career in the office of Senator Paula Hawkins, focusing primarily on immigration cases where she earned a reputation as a caring and compassionate advocate on behalf of all those needing a helping hand. Her commitment to others allowed her to positively shape the lives of many individuals.

Maria then spent a few years in the political realm as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Miami-Dade County, and then joined the government of Miami-Dade County, where she spent the last 23 years supporting our local residents. She has long been known for inspiring those around her, people who will undoubtedly carry on her legacy of professionalism and commitment. There is no greater reward than the satisfaction gained through serving others, and Maria embraced this most noble of endeavors with remarkable principle.

It is my distinct pleasure to join Maria’s family; her children Beatriz Maria, Maritza Isabel and Raul De La Milera, Jr.; her grandchildren Michael, Mathew, Madison, Mark, Laenie and Rachel; as well as friends and peers as they honor her many accomplishments and outstanding career. Maria, thank you for your exceptional public service. I wish you only the best in any challenge you choose next to accept.

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ON RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF SAINT JOSEPH MERCY OAKLAND HOSPITAL’S SOUTH PATIENT TOWER

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**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the opening

of Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's South Patient Tower. The South Patient Tower is an eight-story, contemporary-styled facility that features 208 private, technologically integrated and enhanced patient care rooms, which provide ample space for the family and friends who we know are vital to the healing process. This patient-centered and technologically advanced addition highlights this hospital's dedication to administering a high-quality health care experience to members of our community.

Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital is an award-winning facility that has provided expert and compassionate care to the citizens of the Pontiac area for more than 85 years. In that time the hospital has chosen to focus its efforts on quality, patient safety and cost-efficiency. In doing so it has become nationally recognized for the high level of care that it provides and as a leader in Cardiology, Critical Care, Women's Health and Orthopedics. The South Patient Tower builds on that tradition, and illustrates Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's longstanding commitment to providing the best care possible to the community.

This South Patient Tower is the culmination of the Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's ongoing commitment to medical excellence. A major feature of the tower is the deployment of the most advanced integrated medical technology, which will transform the future of health care. The Intelligent Care System technology that this facility will employ creates the most technologically advanced health environment in the country. In doing so, hospital staff will be empowered to bring a new level of responsive, proactive, collaborative and innovative care to the patients that they serve.

Additionally, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital has chosen to invest in efforts to enhance every aspect of a patient's health care experience through their Healing Arts program. By recognizing that the physical environment is an integral part of the hospital experience, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital has taken efforts to create a calming atmosphere and restorative environment for patients through the integration of intentional art, architecture and esthetic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud to celebrate and recognize the opening of Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital's South Patient Tower. This institution is dedicated to putting patient care at the forefront of its mission and efforts, and by choosing to invest in the future of health care Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital continues its commitment to being an exceptional place to come for healing of body, mind and spirit.

RECOGNIZING BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA FACILITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bridgestone Americas, one of our nation's leading tire manufacturers, as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its pas-

senger and light truck tire plant in my home-town of Wilson, North Carolina.

I have represented the Wilson plant for nearly ten years and am reminded each time I pass it on my way to Washington, DC the impact it has had on the City of Wilson and Wilson and Edgecombe Counties, and indeed the state of North Carolina.

For 40 years, the Wilson plant has built a reputation for producing superior, high quality products that help protect drivers, passengers, and pedestrians in my state of North Carolina, across the country, and throughout the world.

The Wilson plant produced its first tire on March 1, 1974. Since then, Bridgestone Americas' Wilson plant has grown to be Wilson County's second largest employer and has provided good paying, stable jobs for thousands of people that call eastern North Carolina home.

Bridgestone Americas' Wilson facility is massive, spanning some 500 acres with two and a half million square feet of workspace. In January 2014, the plant received the highly sought and prestigious "Zero Waste to Landfill" certification by Underwriter Laboratories.

Bridgestone Americas is committed to environmental sustainability so much so that the men and women who work at the Wilson plant developed the land surrounding the facility into the Freedom Wildlife Habitat and Refuge. The area was certified as a "Corporate Lands for Learning and Wildlife at Work" site by the U.S. Wildlife Habitat Council. I am particularly proud of the Wilson employees who contributed their time and resources to make our region a better place to live and work.

Without question, Bridgestone Americas and their facility in Wilson, North Carolina have contributed greatly to our state and national economies. The Wilson plant is an integral part of our community and a great corporate partner for our region.

I am so pleased to recognize Bridgestone Americas' 40th year of manufacturing passenger and light truck tires in their Wilson facility and look forward to sharing in many more of their achievements.

**HONORING BESS ENLOE**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bess Enloe who was honored last night at the 2014 Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Art's benefit gala located at the Meyerson Symphony Center. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Ms. Enloe currently chairs the Executive Board of the SMU Meadows School for the Arts and is a Life Trustee of the Dallas Theater Center. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the AT&T Performing Arts Center, where she co-chairs the Development Committee. Previously, she chaired the Facilities Committee for the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre.

Ms. Enloe's contributions have enriched the Dallas-area's culture. The fine arts is a key component in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence of its effectiveness in reducing student dropout, raising stu-

dent attendance, developing better team players, enhancing student creativity, and producing a more prepared student for the workplace. In Congress, I have always advocated for sustained investments in the arts and humanities.

Ms. Enloe has been an energetic leader and supporter of many of Dallas' arts groups throughout the years and deserves to be commended for her contributions to the community. Over the years Ms. Enloe has been the recipient of several prestigious awards in recognition of her work, including the TACA Silver Cup Award in 1993, the TITAS Award for Excellence in 2007 and the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 2009. Mr. Speaker, our country is a better one because we have a Bess Enloe.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBI O'DONOHUE FOR HER THIRTY YEARS OF SUCCESS AND SERVICE

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding small business headquartered in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, which I have the honor and privilege of serving. Awards & T-Shirts Specialists, Inc. is celebrating thirty years of successful business. Their founder and owner, Debbi O'Donohue, is the driving force behind this nationally recognized company.

As elected leaders, it is important for us to salute successful businesses such as Awards & T-Shirts Specialists, Inc. The entrepreneurial spirit of Debbi and her company is truly what makes our country great.

Their founder and owner, Debbi O'Donohue, started Awards & T-Shirts on March 3, 1984 as a trophy business in her parents' basement. It rapidly expanded three months later to offer screen-printed apparel and custom-made awards. Today, this company is the premier provider of American-made and union-decorated promotional products in the United States, having customers in all fifty states and Canada.

Debbi was a trailblazer in 1986 when Awards & T-Shirts Specialists signed their first union contract. She became the first female owned and operated contractor in the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council. Specializing in serving the unions' niche and related companies and organizations, Awards & T-Shirts has continued to expand and enhance its high-quality American and union made products, outstanding service, and creative image designs over the past thirty years.

Awards & T-Shirts' impressive record of delivering proven results has elevated their company to become a national leader in the promotional marketing industry that is highly sought after for conferences, special events, golf tournaments, and workforce motivational programs.

The amazing thirty years of success of Awards & T-Shirts Specialists can be directly attributed to Debbi and her boundless energy and captivating personality. She leads by example, inspiring dedication and determination in her staff.