

must be adequate and appropriate training for individuals seeking to enter this important industry. Today, there is a program in place to meet that need. The National Center for Construction Education and Research administers a nationally recognized construction training program that allows individuals to advance at their own speed and competency to develop solid lifetime career opportunities. The merit shop believes work opportunities should be based on merit and recognizes the National Center for Construction Education and Research training programs as critical for today's workers.

No two individuals work at the same pace. That's why the merit shop is the perfect place to teach and develop careers for the construction workers of America. The merit shop, through organizations such as Associated Builders and Contractors, is committed to perfecting training programs that are both efficient and effective, in order to meet the need for a highly skilled construction work force.

An additional bonus of the merit shop apprenticeship programs is that they are excellent places for welfare recipients to gain on the job training and work experience through entry level jobs, which are the first step to obtaining the skills necessary to secure a career in the lucrative and rewarding field of construction. And merit shop contractors provide on the job work experience along with classroom training at the local level through nationally standardized and portable curricula.

On October 16, 1997, the industry reached out to 175,000 students, teachers, counselors, and parents at some 3,500 high schools and universities through a nationwide video teleconference sponsored by the National Center for Construction Education and Research on opportunities for entering the construction industry.

As the demand for highly trained and experienced construction workers increases, merit shops have consistently stepped in to fill that need. They will continue to offer Americans the training they need to fulfill the needs of the construction industry, and supply the increasing demands of economic growth in America. I applaud their efforts, and commend them for the excellent services they provide to the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE THOUSAND OAKS SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

##### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary sister city effort between Thousand Oaks, CA and the City of Spitak in Armenia. In December 1988, Spitak was devastated by an earthquake which killed half its population. Thousand Oaks residents, led by Dr. Michael Hagopian, a prominent Armenian-American, coordinated a disaster relief effort by appealing to the community for donations and supplies.

The efforts were met with overwhelming community response which led to the formation of the Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee, a permanent link between the cities of Spitak and Thousand Oaks. Mayor Robert Lewis of Thousand Oaks and Mayor Arsen

Ohanian of Spitak formally established sister city ties in 1992.

That same year, then-Mayor Alex Fiore of Thousand Oaks helped launch a fund raising drive to rehabilitate an apartment building in Spitak which housed 20 displaced families. Thousand Oaks residents and businesses provided \$30,000 in this effort.

Since 1994 the Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee has sponsored Armenian-American cultural programs and educational and humanitarian efforts, including the Dr. Michael Hagopian Scholarship Fund. The committee has funded a community center and hostel while providing donations to orphans and families in Spitak.

The Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee has also sponsored exchange visits for students and representatives, including Mayor Suren Avetisyan and Sister City coordinator Edward Sarkisyan. Several committee members travel regularly between Thousand Oaks and Spitak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, in particular, several dedicated Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee founders and supporters, who have made great contributions to the sister city effort, including Mrs. Lauren Balekian, Mrs. Katie Bedrosian, Mrs. Annabelle Lee Darakjian, Mr. Raymond A. Garcia, Mr. Don Goodrow, Dr. Michael Hagopian, Mr. Sark Keochekian, Mrs. Judy Lazar, Mr. Michael Markey, Mr. Vasken Melkonian, Dr. Andrew Mikaelian, Ms. Caroline R. Milton, Mrs. Frances Prince, and Mrs. Nora Sahagian.

From the devastation of the 1988 earthquake was born a strong relationship between two geographically distant peoples. The efforts of residents of the Thousand Oaks community, on behalf of those in Spitak, has created an everlasting bond between Americans and the people of Armenia and Artsakh.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALBERT P. MAURO

##### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great man from Kansas City, Albert P. Mauro, as the first recipient of the American Citizen Award presented by the Southtown Council which for 15 years has brought together area businesses, associations, institutions, and neighborhoods to educate and strengthen our community. Mr. Mauro has served our community for over 40 years. In 1954 he was an assistant to City Manager L.P. Cookingham. He went on to lead the fight to end segregation at General Hospital. He was the public policy architect behind the vision for combining all the entities on hospital hill and more importantly the collaborative funding sources—that is, city, State, county, Federal, and so forth. No other complex has had such a diverse and complex fund mechanism. Through his work, the economic development of our area thrived. His leadership contributed tirelessly to the campaigns for the Boys and Girls Club, the Genesis School, and in securing the construction of the Deramus Education Pavilion at the Kansas City Zoo. Although he has retired as vice president and corporate secretary of Kansas City Southern Industries, he continues to chair

the downtown council and serves on numerous boards and civic associations.

Mr. Mauro's combination of compassion and ingenuity have produced a brighter future for Kansas City. I join with the Southtown Council in recognizing Mr. Mauro for his leadership, integrity, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Mauro on his well-deserved receipt of the First Southtown Council American Citizen Award.

#### IN MEMORY OF KEVIN DUANE NEWSOME

##### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer words of gratitude and recognition for the wonderful life that Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome lead in his Houston community.

I was saddened at hearing of the passing of Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome: son, husband, father, colleague, and friend to those who knew him.

A child is a mother's and father's best hopes and dreams personified. A husband is a wife's best friend, companion, and advisor. A brother is a counselor, aide, and active participant in the lives of his siblings. A certified public accountant a counselor and aid to others. A businessman is a pillar for our community.

Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome was a father in the true sense of the word, man of the finest and most honored titles that anyone can hold in a life time.

His sons Kevin Jr. and Jarrad had there father for only a brief time, but they knew that he loved them through his commitment to them and their mother, Deborah.

There is a lot that I could say, but a day or a week, not even a month would allow me enough time to express all that Kevin Duane Newsome was to his mother, his wife, to his sons, to his sister, to his friends, to Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church, or to Houston business community.

Kevin Duane Newsome was a native son of Houston, TX. For those who knew him best, Kevin was a role model. It is easy for all to see the importance of role models for children, but as adults we soon forget the importance of having our own role models who can provide visible signs of triumphant over the complexities that life has to offer. Kevin taught us that truth matters, that honesty matters, and that fairness matters. Kevin Duane Newsome kept his focus on people and it showed in his relationship with his family and friends.

Kevin grew up in and attended Houston Independent School District schools. He obtained a bachelor in business administration in 1979 and a masters of business administration in 1984 from the University of Houston. Kevin's professional career included audit positions with Authur Anderson Co. and the city of Houston. In 1984, he joined Texaco, Inc., as an internal auditor. Most recently he was promoted to manager of quality human resources.

As the words of the Lord are recorded in St. John chapter 10, verse 27 to verse 30, He said:

My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. And I give unto them