

composition of one of our most revered institutions.

CELEBRATION OF THE VALLEY  
BANK

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate as well as acknowledge the 100th birthday of The Valley Bank in Greenwood, Mississippi. Originally founded in 1898 in Rosedale, Mississippi, The Valley Bank has persevered, persisted, prevailed and prospered into a system of community banks with eleven locations across the Mississippi Delta extending into the states' capital at Jackson, one of the fastest growing cities in Mississippi.

The Valley Bank was founded by David Reinach, W.B. Roberts, Saint Kohn, Isaac Kohn, Godfrey Frank, J.L. Wilson, and G.J. McGehee, Jr. It was the vision of these seven aspiring gentlemen to create a financial institution in the Mississippi Delta. With this vision, The Valley Bank has grown to become a well known bank throughout the country. In 1997, The Valley Bank ranked 78th out of 14,850 banks in the nation on its return on assets and return on equity to stockholders. In addition to that, The Valley Bank ranked #1 out of 126 banks in Mississippi in both loan volume and dollar amount of loans made under the Farm Service Agency and in business and industry loans.

Mr. Speaker, in this day of mega-mergers where banks are being bought and sold, consolidated, and reaching across state lines, The Valley Bank remains one of the few banks that continues the tradition of personal service, customer satisfaction and community involvement. It is refreshing to know that The Valley Bank today is as old-fashioned as it was 100 years ago when it first opened its doors for business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of The Valley Bank. May it prosper for an additional 100 years based on the principle of dedicated personal service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTHERN  
HIGH SCHOOL'S MOCK TRIAL  
TEAM

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the

members of Southern High School's mock trial team for their outstanding performance in the Mock Trial National Championship held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from May 8-9. They placed second in a competitive program involving 45 state teams. Not only did Southern High School take second honors, Leslie Travis, a fourth year Southern High student, was also awarded the distinction of best attorney in the competition.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam are extremely proud of Ria Baldevia, Brian Bican, Sharon Cadag, Leona Cruz, Vera Lynn Gozum, Leanna Libby, Charles McJohn, Denise Mendiola, John Moorhead, Pergrin Pervez, Teddy Salas, Michael San Nicolas, Aubrey Santos, Tricia Ann Santos, Leslie Travis, and Joshua Tyquiengco not only for their exceptional achievement, but also for their admirable performance as Guam's ambassadors in this national contest.

Mock trial is an arduous competition which calls on a team's creative intelligence, logical reasoning, and quick wit to outmatch the other competitors. Southern High School's performance illustrates what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication and teamwork. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Southern High School and the members of their mock trial team for their magnificent achievement.

IN HONOR OF THIRD FEDERAL  
SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Third Federal Savings Association, which has served as a leader in Cleveland's banking community for sixty years.

Third Federal Savings continues to build upon its legacy as a strong civic institution by spearheading the Broadway Development Initiative, a group of 100 organizations dedicated to the revitalization of Cleveland's Broadway-Slavic Village area. The initiative includes a diverse assortment of community groups from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland to government entities.

The crown jewel of the redevelopment area will be Third Federal's \$17.3 million operations center, which will be completed in November 1999. In addition, the bank has pledged to invest \$10 million in the community within the next ten years.

Third Federal will also ally with Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity in combating the problem of homelessness, donating \$10 to

the organization for every mortgage loan made by the bank. This partnership will finally make possible the development of the Worsted Woolen Mills site, the former location of a factory destroyed by fire in 1993. Prior to Third Federal's donation, Greater Cleveland Habitat had trouble finding financial backing.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Third Federal Savings Association's commitment to its surrounding community and in congratulating the bank of its 60th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
GUYANA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their efforts to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Guyana. On Tuesday, May 26, they will be hosting their third annual commemorative flag-raising for the independence of Guyana in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Jersey City. New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. was incorporated in 1988 and aims to preserve and promote Arya/Hindu culture in New Jersey.

The history of Guyana parallels that of the United States in several ways. Similar to the U.S., Christopher Columbus was the first European to see the Guyana coast in 1498. Guyana is also a land of immigrants with citizens tracing their roots to India, Portugal, China, and Africa. Guyana is the only country on the mainland of South America with English as its official language.

Guyana also shares with the United States the experience of gaining independence from the colonial interests of Europe. The Dutch, the French, and the British have each occupied Guyana at various times between 1621 and 1966. In 1992, Guyana successfully instituted free and fair elections.

In closing, I would like to thank the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their flag-raising ceremony and congratulate the Republic of Guyana for its 32nd year of independence.