

within their own communities. Thirty cities competed to be named one of ten All-America cities by the National Civic League. As a result of the President's Summit for America's Future, organizers of the All-America City program have asked cities to include at least one community youth program as part of their application.

The Mayor of Riverside, Ron Loveridge, credited three of the city's programs as being the key to the victory: the Passport to College Program, which is an innovative business, education, community, and family partnership that will make the dream of a college education possible for every Inland Empire graduate in 2004, the Youth Action Plan under which the city coordinates services for the region's youth; and the University/Eastside Community Collaborative after-school program that has enabled the city to keep at-risk youth away from the lure of gang activity.

Growing up in a neighboring city, I have seen Riverside face the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by the Inland Empire's significant population growth. Today, Riverside thrives with a population exceeding several hundred thousand residents and a diverse economic base. Representing the people of Riverside is truly a privilege. On behalf of all of the residents of the 43rd congressional district, I congratulate Riverside on being named an All-America City and wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO REV. BERNARD
GUEKGUEZIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Bernard Guekguezian. Reverend Guekguezian will be honored by the members of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church at a Harvest Banquet commemorating their 100th Anniversary. First Armenian Presbyterian is the oldest Armenian Church in California.

Reverend Guekguezian has literally lived and ministered around the world. Born in Antioch, Turkey, the reverend emigrated to the Middle East in 1939. In 1952 he completed a combined course of study at the American University of Beirut and Near East School of Theology. He became a licensed pastor and served for two years in Alexandria Egypt before coming to the United States. He studied at the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena California and went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Christian Education from the New York Theological Seminary.

Reverend Guekguezian was ordained a Minister of the Word in 1959, by the Congregational Conference of Massachusetts. He went on to assume the pulpit of America's oldest Armenian Church, the Armenian Congregational Church of the Martyrs in Worcester. Reverend Guekguezian engaged in doctoral studies at Clark University and in 1966 he accepted a call to the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, New Jersey where he served for 12 years. Guekguezian has served at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno for 20 years, the longest of any pastor at the Golden States oldest Armenian religious

institution. Reverend Guekguezian's tenure has been marked by outreach to native Californians as well as to Armenian immigrants from the Middle East and the Republic of Armenia.

Reverend Guekguezian has officiated at 163 weddings, 212 baptisms, and more than 200 funerals during his time in Fresno. In addition to his pastoral duties Guekguezian has served as a Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Vice-President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, Vice-President of the Armenian Theological Students' Aid Inc., and member of the Presbytery of the San Joaquin New Church Development Committee.

Reverend Guekguezian is married to the former Knar Kazanjian of Aleppo, Syria and they have two sons, Reverend Ara Guekguezian of Las Vegas, Nevada and Asbed Guekguezian Esq., of Boston Massachusetts, as well as three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Bernard Guekguezian as honoree for the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, 100th Anniversary Harvest Banquet. Reverend Guekguezian has served the community well in his time in Fresno and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing him many years of continued success and happiness.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
LEONARDO SIMAO, FOREIGN
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MOZAMBIQUE, AND HONORING
THE WORK OF THE HONORABLE
JOAQUIM ALBERTO CHISSANO,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF MOZAMBIQUE

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, today as I welcome the Foreign Minister of Mozambique, the Honorable Leonardo Simao, I also Rise to Honor a true statesman and peacemaker—President Joaquim Alberto Chissano.

President Chissano assumed the Presidency of Mozambique in November 1, 1986, after his country has been at war—with almost no interval of peace—for more than 22 years.

Mozambique now has peace and a pluralistic democratic political system. Much of the credit for this—as well as for similar developments in other countries in the region—must go to the quiet and steady work of this Mozambican statesman. Chissano pursued peace by negotiation no matter how few the cards he held in comparison to more powerful players. HE earned respect from his people and from foreigners alike as he led his country through many difficult years.

In sum, Mozambique has suffered more than its share from war. It has given more than its share for regional peace and cooperation. They sought—and also gave—the hand of solidarity. President Chissano expressed these Mozambican values and gave them direction. Africa and the world can learn and take hope from his example.

TRIBUTE TO OUR MEN AND
WOMEN IN UNIFORM

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, the military chiefs have brought their readiness problems to Congress, and the Secretary of Defense has brought his case for a bigger budget to the President. Here in Congress, we tend to see defense from a broad overview. We hear a lot about procurement cost overruns and too little about the men and women in uniform who work long hours, and through innovation and ingenuity, save their country millions of dollars.

I visited Shaw Air Force Base in my district over the August break. After seeing some of the efficiencies that Air force personnel have put into practice at Shaw. I asked Colonel Daniel P. Leaf, Commander of the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw, to give me a letter detailing their cost avoidance initiatives. Here is how Colonel Leaf described the efficiencies and savings that his personnel at Shaw have implemented:

"In FY 97, the innovation and ingenuity of our folks led to cost avoidance and savings of over \$3 million on 99 spare TF34-34-GE-100A engines. Our Regional Repair Center supports A-10 units at Pope AFB NC, Moody AFB GA, Eglin AFB FL, and Spangdahlem AB GE. NCOs suggested a change to erosion inspection criteria on TF34s engines. Once approved, that allowed us to reuse nine compressor rotors, \$513,693 and 1,350 man-hours in FY97 alone. Other TF34 repair centers adopted this change and saved the taxpayers \$684,924 and 1,800 man-hours. Our technicians came up with another high value initiative, recommending field replacement of high-pressure turbine blades in the field instead of sending the entire assembly back to depot. This change saved \$45,300 per engine or \$814,400 and 11,520 man-hours in FY97! These additional man-hours equate to more engines, more savings, and improved readiness. These and other changes to take us over \$3,000,000 in savings represent the best of the American spirit. In FY98 we've avoided expenditures and saved a total of \$1.6 million. Adding our engine savings up since FY94 comes to over \$16 million—I am immensely proud of this team!

"We have had several other 'airman-based' success stories I would like to share with you in a little less detail. As one of a few lead wings in the Air Force, we're converting all our F-16s from bias ply to radial tires. Radial tires provide 50 percent more landings, cutting man-hours and use of support equipment. The Corrosion Control Element identified a local source of Sherwin-Williams paint saving \$3,500 annually. This paint requires less thinner, improves adhesion, and reduces hazardous organic compounds 60 percent. The troops also developed a process reducing the chromate exposure while preparing aircraft for paint reducing environmental impact and protecting our personnel. Our people took the initiative to establish a state-of-the-art cable repair operation for our F-16s and support equipment. This is only one in Air Combat Command (ACC), and has already realized over \$20,000 in savings with an annual projection of \$260,000. Our specialists researched