

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE OF THE
HONORABLE JOHN MORENO**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, as a former Member of the California Legislature, it is with particular sadness that I offer this Memorial Tribute to a pioneering colleague, the Honorable John Moreno, late a retired Member of the Assembly, 51st District from 1962–1964.

Assemblyman John Moreno was one of the first Latinos elected to the California Legislature in the 20th Century. A native son of Los Angeles, California, he won election in 1962 from what was then the 51st Assembly District, encompassing parts of East Los Angeles, Santa Fe Springs, Pico Rivera and Montebello. These same communities that I now proudly represent in my 34th Congressional District, were very honorably and well represented by my distinguished predecessor during a time of historic growth and achievement in the State of California.

One of Assemblyman Moreno's major accomplishments in office was winning passage of a bond issue to build Rio Hondo Community College in the 1960's after three earlier bond measures had failed. He also helped the college district avert bankruptcy through legislation that allowed it to prolong a tax override and complete construction of the campus in 1966.

Assemblyman Moreno demonstrated leadership on a host of important legislation including civil rights, aid to the aged and support for farm workers. He served on the state Compensatory Education Commission and co-authored a bill that funded special programs for disadvantaged students, including youths from migrant families and those who were learning English.

John Moreno began his political career as a member of the first City Council of the City of Santa Fe Springs, California. He was a driving force behind city incorporation in 1957 and later served as Mayor. Before entering the Assembly, he taught elementary and high school for 11 years in Pico Rivera, Whittier and Los Angeles. He served in the Navy during the closing months of World War II, then attended the University of Southern California, earning a Bachelors degree in 1951. After leaving the Legislature, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he taught school and opened a home improvement business. He later moved to New York City and ran his business there until retirement in 1992.

The Honorable John Moreno was one of just a few remarkable minority candidates to break through the heavy obstacles of institutional racism during an era when legislative districts were routinely gerrymandered to prevent Mexican-Americans and other minorities from holding elective office. He and his few Latino colleagues paved the way for future generations of Latino elected leaders, including myself, where today the Latino Legislative Caucus in the California Legislature numbers 7 state Senators and sixteen Members of the Assembly, including the past two consecutive Speakers of the Assembly.

John Moreno passed away August 19, 1999 at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He was

72 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Judith Anderson, four daughters and two sons from a previous marriage, and two sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I join with his many friends and admirers, former constituents and the cities and communities of his Southeast Los Angeles County district in mourning his loss and paying tribute to his many outstanding accomplishments and dedicated service to others.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOREST CITY
PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Forest City Park Civic Association of Cleveland, Ohio on its 60th charter anniversary. The Civic Association marked its anniversary with a celebration on August 10, 1999.

The Civic Association dates back to May 11, 1939 when it was first chartered by the state of Ohio as a non-profit, non-political organization. It was the first group in southeast Cleveland to set up a vigorous Neighborhood Improvement Program which served to catalyze similar programs in other communities.

The Forest City Park Civic Association has also pioneered many other activities during its 60 years of existence. They have been involved in a Green Up campaign to plant trees and shrubs throughout the community along with civic participation in pollution control and abatement. Other activities of the Civic Association entail garden tours, picnics and street parties for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the members of the Forest City Park Civic Association on their anniversary and salute them for sixty years of civic service and continuing their dedication to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ST. HELENA HOS-
PITAL'S FIRST OPEN HEART
SURGERY**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Helena Hospital as it celebrates its 25th anniversary of the first open heart surgery in the hospital's Cardiac Center. Located in my hometown of St. Helena in the Napa Valley, St. Helena Hospital is one of the country's premier medical facilities. But I don't say that just because this is the hospital where my mother, my father, one of my sons and I were born and where my wife, Janet, worked as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit.

The St. Helena Hospital has an outstanding cardiac care facility. It began in May of 1974, when Wilfred Tam, M.D. performed the North Bay's first open-heart surgery at St. Helena Hospital. This made St. Helena Hospital one of the first community hospitals to perform the

procedure. The surgery was just one in a series of firsts in the region for the hospital's Cardiac Center, which opened in 1972. Today, St. Helena Hospital's Cardiac surgery team has more than 68 years of combined surgical experience and has performed more than 15,000 open-heart surgeries.

Recognized as a pioneer and a leader in cardiac care, St. Helena Hospital has continued its tradition of high-tech innovation. In 1997, it was the nation's first hospital to purchase the Medtronic Octopus, a device that immobilizes the beating heart during minimally invasive bypass surgery.

Installed in 1993, St. Helena Hospital's digital by-plane cardiovascular catheterization suite was the first of its kind in the United States. Work is scheduled to begin this year to upgrade the hospital's other suite with new, state-of-the-art equipment.

To celebrate its quarter-century of excellence in cardiac care, St. Helena Hospital is hosting a community celebration on September 26, 1999 honoring the physicians and staff who make the Cardiac Center a leader in heart health, and also honoring the "Mended Hearts" for whom they have cared over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge and honor the St. Helena Hospital Cardiac Center for its outstanding Cardiac Center and for its tremendous twenty-five year commitment to providing the very best in quality health care.

DRUG INTERDICTION OR DRUG
SMUGGLING?**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to you the attached article from earlier this summer written by Mr. Frank Calzon, entitled "Behind Castro: Money laundering, drug smuggling." Mr. Calzon is the executive director of the Center for a Free Cuba in Washington, D.C. and is a tireless fighter for democratic causes. I encourage my colleagues to learn from his insightful article.

BEHIND CASTRO: MONEY LAUNDERING, DRUG
SMUGGLING

State Department and Coast Guard officials last week flew to Havana seeking "to improve U.S.-Cuban cooperation on drug interdiction."

If the Clinton administration would look to history, it would have known that it was a vain mission and would set about probing instead the relationship between Colombia's drug trade and the guerrilla movements over which Fidel Castro exercises inordinate influence.

Havana complains that it lacks resources to combat drug trafficking. But, even if one accepts this at face value, it is unclear how the United States should respond. Should we provide resources to the Cuban Ministry of the Interior—Havana's KGB-Gestapo? Do it while holding in federal custody Cuban spies charged with gathering information about military bases in Florida and linked to the shootdown of the Brothers to the Rescue pilots?

Havana has managed to purchase state-of-the-art radio-jamming equipment and foot the bill for thousands of foreigners to visit