

and the professions, to promote the interests of business and professional women, to bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the country, and to extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along the lines of industrial, scientific and vocational activities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the 80th anniversary of the Greater Hazleton Business and Professional Women's Club, and I wish its members all the best as they continue to serve the women of the region and the entire community.

IN TRIBUTE TO JIM B. NIELSEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jim B. Nielsen, a man who made deep and lasting contributions to Watsonville through his achievements in industry and civic service. Before Jim's death at the age of 90, he enjoyed a successful and storied career in the produce industry beginning in 1929, raised a family, and contributed decades of civic service to the Watsonville community.

Jim's experience raising crops began at age 8 on a Pajaro Valley Farm, where he helped his family cultivate crops using horse drawn implements. He operated his own produce company for 60 years, earning a reputation for fair dealing and conservation. He served as President of the California Warehouse association, and his flair for leadership carried into other areas of his life.

His achievements as a leader within the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, with whom he served for 65 years, won him election to the position of Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight, one of the most honored posts within the national, 1.5 million-member fraternal organization.

Beyond the Elks, Jim served the Watsonville community as a Santa Cruz County Grand Jury member, by working on the California Draft Board, as director of the Watsonville Red Cross Chapter, as a volunteer fireman, and as a member of the board of directors of the Valley National Bank.

Jim was an avid sportsman and an outdoor enthusiast. He managed and played on the Watsonville Falcons and later played semi-pro football with the Watsonville team. He and his wife Marilyn spent much of their time riding jeeps, hiking, enjoying the mountain country, and managing their horses at their Heaven Hill Ranch in San Benito County.

Jim's family grew to include his wife Marilyn, a son and daughter, two stepsons, one stepdaughter, three grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

Jim can best be remembered as a pillar of the community and as a template for a life

well-lived. His decades of hard work in the produce industry and his steadfast commitment to civic service stand as positive examples to his community. His devotion to many interests, including sports and the outdoors, lasted throughout his life, giving him truly golden "golden years". His leadership and his kindness will be missed by all who knew him.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
CHRISTINE PIKE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, throughout my military career I have had the honor of associating with more than a few gallant men and women who served our country in times of conflict abroad. However, heroes and patriots may be found here on our home front as well. These are folks who quietly live their lives helping others, and who, through their leadership, commitment, and most of all their example, support and defend our American way of life. Christine Pike will always be a true American home-front hero.

Mrs. Pike, a native of New Britain, Connecticut, lived for many years in Wethersfield, Connecticut, where she became active in the League of Women Voters. Throughout her life, she loved aviation. She was passionate about aviation history, its pioneers, and those who courageously defend our country from in the sky. Christine was, in fact, an aviation pioneer in her own right. At a time when there were few women in the field, she became a pilot. She flew Taylorcraft and J-3 Cubs in the 1940s and in 1946 she joined the ranks of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

In 1962, Mrs. Pike moved to Reno, Nevada, where she became a successful business leader. She launched her own company, Pike Advertising, and counted many of the area's major hotels and casinos among her clients. However, her favorite clients were in the field of aviation, the Reno Air Races and Bill Stead's Smirnoff Bearcat for whom she handled both public relations and advertising.

Christine moved to San Diego, California, in 1968, and wore many hats during her nearly thirty years there. She had a tremendous respect for law enforcement officials and spent much of her time pursuing related fields. She served as a municipal court clerk. She worked in the field of private investigation. Additionally, she was, for many years, a welfare fraud investigator for the County of San Diego.

Also in San Diego, Mrs. Pike worked as a travel consultant with a company known as The Travel Center. During this time she put together a number of high profile tours, occasionally accompanying her clients to make sure there were no bumps in the road. Among her accomplishments in this field was a nostalgic tour she organized for the members of Consairways, a commercial airline that flew C-87 Liberators and other transports in support of the Army during World War Two.

One day, early in my first bid for a seat in the House of Representatives, Mrs. Pike walked into my campaign office. Things were never quite the same after that. She had an incredible facility for organization and for establishing critical relationships with key people in the community. As my volunteer scheduler, she worked tirelessly making sure I was always in the right place at the right time. For all intents and purposes, Christine halted her business activities so that she could devote her attention, full-time, to my campaign. She continued in this way throughout my first term in office and my second successful campaign in what was at that time the newly formed 51st Congressional District. Throughout this time, Christine was always ready and willing to take on any task or assignment. Every job, no matter how large or small, was handled with consummate professionalism and meticulous attention to detail. Her services were so valuable that many times she was asked to take a permanent position on my staff. But, she would always laugh and tell me that she preferred simply being a volunteer.

In the early 1990s, Mrs. Pike left San Diego and moved to Tennessee. There she continued her active support of Republican causes. She continued to work as a travel consultant and she began to cultivate her long-standing interest in the activities of the Union Army during the Civil War. After a few years though, poor health caused her to return to Reno. We maintained contact after Christine moved to Reno. Sadly, after a long and courageous fight, Mrs. Pike passed away there last December.

Trying to summarize Christine Pike's life in these few sentences would be an injustice to her, because she accomplished so much more than I have recounted here. She was passionate about honesty and justice. She had no time for fabricators and prevaricators, but she was sensitive to the needs of those who were lost or less fortunate. Always a private person, Christine seldom talked about the many lives she touched. During one of her many "power walks" in the Point Loma area of San Diego, Mrs. Pike befriended a homeless woman, found shelter for her, and faithfully brought her food, blankets and clothing on holidays. In another instance, Mrs. Pike worked to bolster the career of a struggling trumpet player. She tirelessly worked to create relationships that would help small businesses in my Congressional District. Additionally, she worked quietly and behind the scenes to help many of those in law enforcement. For these reasons, and many more, I have established the Christine Pike Volunteer of the Year Award for campaign volunteers in my District.

In closing I would simply like to say that Christine Pike was truly an American patriot. Mrs. Pike's multitude of friends will truly miss her. However, her spirit, her example, and her many selfless acts on behalf of others will live on in the memories of all who knew her, and now, in the RECORD of this hallowed hall.