

Beaming coach Morris McWilliams noted the kids' varied backgrounds—and how they pulled together to pull off a third-place finish.

"I hope that through all this, we can come together to understand that anything is possible," McWilliams said.

RECOGNIZING TULARE COUNTY  
AND THE CITY OF VISALIA,  
CALIFORNIA ON THEIR 150TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 2002*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and salute the City of Visalia and the County of Tulare, California as they celebrate their 150th anniversary on September 7.

Tulare County and Visalia will celebrate the area's rich history and its current status as one of the nation's top two agricultural-producing counties, with crops valued at \$3.5 billion in 2001. While it was the California gold rush that brought the first permanent settlers to the area that is now Visalia in 1852, it has been agriculture that has sustained the city and Tulare County for 150 years. Today, Tulare County is America's leading dairy county, and is among the nation's leaders in dozens of other crops, including beef, tree fruit, vegetables, nuts, and olives.

Tulare County is also home to some of the nation's most breathtaking scenery, including the highest mountain peaks in the Sierra Nevada range, rising more than 14,000 feet, the majestic Giant Sequoias, and the rich San Joaquin Valley floor. Visitors to Tulare County are often left with the indelible image of the mountains rising above the lush, green valley.

The City of Visalia holds special memories for my family; my wife, Sharon Hamilton Thomas, was born and raised in Tulare County. She graduated from Redwood High School and attended the College of the Sequoias in Visalia. Sharon's parents, Mike and Georgia Hamilton, were active members of the community.

While Visalia's economy has its foundation in agriculture, and is the county's trade center for the products grown there, Visalia has, in recent years, broadened its economic base to include other enterprises, including food processing, printing, and manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, I join the elected leaders, past and present, of Visalia and Tulare County, and the nearly 400,000 people who live there now, in congratulating the past 150 years, and wishing it well on the next 150.

HONORING SISTER HANNA  
CHRISTEN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Hanna Christen on the occasion of being honored by the Alurmi of the Armenian Evangelical High School in Anjar, Lebanon, at a ceremony taking place in

Southern California on August 24, 2002. Sister Hanna served 30 years at the High School as a long time missionary from the Hillsbund Missionary of Bad-Homburg in Frankfurt, Germany.

Sister Hanna Christen was born in the city of Rothenburg on the Tauber near Nuremberg, Germany. She was raised in a Christian home with her father as a preacher. Upon completion of her studies, her parents suggested she enter a Protestant monastery. She then became a nun and started providing her services to an orphanage. She continually felt a call from God for her to travel to another country and serve. She went to serve in the Boys' section of the Boarding School of the Armenian Evangelical High School of Anjar, Lebanon. She served as a missionary to these students who are now well established in communities throughout the United States. Since 1980, she has served in nursing homes in Beruit, Germany and now serves in Yerevan, Armenia.

Today, Sister Hanna is a certified general and geriatric nurse at the Nursing Home No. 1 of Yerevan, where she takes care of the residents' hygienic, emotional and spiritual needs. The 125 elderly residents of the home are grateful for the loving care and compassion of this German woman, who speaks fluent Armenian.

Sister Hanna is considered the "Mother Theresa" for Armenians, and she considers Armenia her "Hayrenik" (fatherland). She has adopted Armenia to be her homeland and continues to serve as a volunteer missionary for the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) gaining the respect and admiration of people for her humanitarian services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Sister Hanna Christen for her dedication as a volunteer missionary and for touching the lives of so many. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Sister Hanna Christen many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF GENERAL MICHAEL  
J. WILLIAMS

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 2002*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize General Michael J. Williams, United States Marine Corps on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. General Williams has served our great Nation for a total of 42 years.

General Williams enlisted in the Navy in 1960, and served as a boatswain. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1967, and subsequently completed Naval Flight Training and was designated a Naval Aviator.

General Williams' operational tours include various squadron assignments in the United States, Republic of Vietnam, and Okinawa; Presidential Helicopter Pilot with Marine Helicopter Squadron One; executive officer Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 16; commanding officer of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301; 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Inspector; executive and commanding officer of

Marine Air Group 26, serving as commanding officer during Desert Shield and Desert Storm; assistant Division G-3 for 3d Marine Division and Commanding General of 2d Force Service Support Group and Commander Joint Task Force 160, responsible for providing humanitarian relief for Haitian and Cuban immigrants in Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba.

His staff assignments include: company officer and executive assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy; Marine Corps Program Development Officer and branch head in Requirements and Programs Division, Headquarters Marine Corps; Vice Director for Operational Plans and Interoperability, J-7, Joint Staff; Director of the Marine Corps Staff, Headquarters Marine Corps; Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command and Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs and Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps.

General Williams is concluding his illustrious career having served as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. In this capacity, he has been the principal advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps on all decisions of major consequence. His extensive and diverse background in operational and joint planning, professional military education and training, and budgetary and programmatic policy issues have been given wide credibility by decision makers in the Department of the Navy, the Joint Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the United States Congress.

General Williams has made a lasting contribution to the capabilities of today's Marine Corps and the future shape of tomorrow's Corps. We are grateful for General Williams' dedication, sense of duty, advice and counsel, and exceptional work ethic. The Marine Corps will miss him, but General Williams leaves a large legacy for others to follow and emulate. I wish him and his lovely wife, Barbara, his son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Kimberly, all the best as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

HONORING THE CALVARY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH OF HARRIS-  
BURG, PENNSYLVANIA ON THE  
OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 2002*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am most honored today to recognize and commemorate the Calvary United Methodist Church of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on their Golden Anniversary.

On October 25, 1953, the Reverend O.B. Poulson, the appointed acting pastor, held the first service in the basement of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Harrisburg with just 65 people in attendance. Just over two years later on November 6, 1955, consecration services were held for the first Calvary Church chapel. However, the rapidly growing congregation quickly outgrew their beautiful new fellowship hall and so, on June 17, 1962 following a year of construction, a congregation of 1,154 members worshipped in a new sanctuary.