

Born and raised in Chula Vista, Mark has been making a living selling his western art for 20 years. Described as his generation's Olaf Wieghorst, San Diego's most recognized western artist, Mark is represented in art galleries all over California, Arizona, New Mexico and Indiana.

A few years ago, Mark presented the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, General Charles Krulak, with a bronze sculpture he created of Lt. Gen. Chesty Puller, a hero and legend to all Marines. General Krulak was deeply impressed with Mark's work and clearly moved. Just as impressed was President Bush when, earlier this year, Mark and I went to the White House to give the President a bronze he created titled "Texas Skip."

As plans for the new fire station were finalized, it was determined that the facility must include some type of public art. Mark was a natural choice, and he has not disappointed. His first life-size sculpture, weighing 700 pounds and depicting a veteran firefighter with his hand on the shoulder of a kneeling rookie, required 15-hour work days for three months. The piece will stand on a pedestal in front of the firehouse with water falling from the fireman's hose.

In 1985, President Reagan told recipients of the National Medal of Arts that, "Where there's liberty, art succeeds." This couldn't be more true. Generations of San Diegans will have the opportunity to admire Mark's work and reflect both upon the sacrifices and the privilege of living in our great nation. Thank you Mark for using your talents to remind us about what is important.

IN HONOR OF MARIA TORRES-GIL

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maria Torres-Gil on the occasion of her 80th birthday. She is a life-long resident of Monterey County and has dedicated herself to working in and giving back to her community.

Maria Torres-Gil was born in Los Angeles; the daughter of two Mexican emigrants who had come to California in the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution. Like many other Americans during the Great Depression, Maria's family worked as itinerant farmers throughout the San Joaquin Valley before settling in Castroville in the early 1930s. She married Rafael Torres-Gil in 1947, but when he passed away at a young age, she had to raise their nine children on her own. Although she was only able to attend school through the sixth grade, all of her children went on to college and successful careers.

Despite these hardships, Maria remained active in her community. She organized the first advisory committee for the Monterey County Housing authority, developed a school bus program for the children living in housing projects who lacked transportation to school, and also served as a vocal advocate for families in the housing project. In addition to working on local issues, Maria volunteered to serve as a translator for the Monterey County Department of Social Services. She was hired as an eligibility worker and served with the Department for many years. After retiring she

was a featured columnist for the Salinas based Californian newspaper, in which she focused on parenting issues and community service.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Maria Torres-Gil's achievements and accomplishments. She has demonstrated outstanding dedication to her community and family. Maria has made a lasting impact on our community and the people with whom she worked. I join the County of Monterey, and friends and family in honoring this truly commendable woman and all of her lifelong achievements.

### TRIBUTE TO MR. IRA CLARK: A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's most remarkable public servants, Mr. Ira Clark, former President of our County Public Health Trust and Chief Executive Officer of Miami-Jackson Health System. His friends and supporters will honor him this Friday, September 12, 2003 at a special benefit dinner at the Hotel Intercontinental in Miami.

This event will recognize Mr. Clark for 16 years of exceptional service to the residents of our community, particularly the countless indigents and immigrants. Having dedicated the longevity of his stewardship over our county Jackson Memorial Hospital, he has been relentless in his development of innovative healthcare service programs that now respond to the crying needs of our community. His was indeed a mission of genuine love and utmost commitment that maximized thorough understanding and common-sense compassion for many destitute families who lack the basic financial wherewithal to have a loved one access quality medical care and treatment in a modern urban hospital setting.

Under his leadership many lives have been saved and many more families have been rendered whole because of his dedication to providing accessibility to affordable quality healthcare services. One of the most impressive achievements under his watch was the acquisition of a predictable source of recurrent funding when the residents of Miami-Dade County voted in 1991 to have an extra half-penny sales tax to fund Jackson Memorial Hospital. An essential component of this securely funded system was his ability to create a partnership with the University of Miami School of Medicine, which now provides the expertise of this medical center to spread worldwide in specialties like trauma care, organ transplant, spinal cord injury, pediatrics, high-risk obstetrics and a host of quality healthcare innovations.

Other highlights of his tenure contributed to the decompression of the county hospital facility through the creation of the Jackson North Maternity Center, the Taylor Breast Health Center, the Diagnostic Treatment Center, the state of the art Ryder Trauma Center and the recent opening of Jackson South Community Hospital to benefit the residents living in the South Dade area. The event this Friday will raise funds to help build a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Facility at this premiere hospital.

These facilities are eloquent testimonies to Mr. Clark's mission to provide a single high standard of medical care to all people. This sterling commitment has raised the bar of quality healthcare for the vibrant community of Miami-Dade County, which uniquely symbolizes a virtual mosaic of immigrants representing virtually every country of the world.

It is his vision that spearheaded the introduction of the Jackson Health System corporate identity in the Spring of 2000, which led to the creation of a network of some 12 primary care centers across the county. The role he played in developing our excellent healthcare system evokes a unique passion that led to our community's ability to receive the recognition of its strength amidst its diversity, and help the less fortunate in their quest for quality medical care and treatment.

Indeed, it is an honor to have the privilege of the friendship of Mr. Ira Clark, a caring public servant par excellence. The tribute he will receive on Friday is genuinely deserved. I salute him on behalf of a grateful community that he truly loved and cared for so deeply.

### THE TIES THAT BIND

### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit for the RECORD a speech delivered by Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and a distinguished resident of Greenwich, Connecticut. Ambassador Reed's remarks were made at a ceremony at the Greenwich Town Hall commemorating Bastille Day on July 14, 2003.

### THE TIES THAT BIND

Citizens of the Town of Greenwich and the French Community of our Town are thankful to be commemorating a date that is both significant and symbolic in the shaping of our two countries.

Allow me to paraphrase a few words spoken by President George W. Bush on May 30, 2003, during an interview with a French journalist. France and the United States share the same objectives on all vital subjects. Regarding security in our democracies, peace in the world and international commerce, we are largely in agreement. President Bush was echoing those famous words from President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "no two nations are more closely bound by the ties of history and mutual friendship than the people of France and that of the United States of America."

On July 4, 2003 citizens of France deposited a red rose on each of the 60,511 graves in honor of the American soldiers buried in eleven cemeteries, who died in France during World War I and II for the preservation of French freedom.

We celebrate the sovereignty and dignity of our two nations with our respective national anthems.

### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,