

Ernesto Espaldon, established himself as a true Filipino and American patriot. Joining the Sulu Guerrilla Organization as a freedom fighter, the 16-year-old soldier quickly proved his abilities as a soldier and leader. On January 12, 1945, Ernesto and two fellow soldiers fended off a contingent of Imperial Japanese soldiers attempting to take the village of Banaran, Tawi-Tawi. For their heroism, the grateful people of Banaran erected a monument memorializing the battle and the three soldiers.

Spoken in his own words, Dr. Espaldon was a humanitarian who firmly believed that "God gives us gifts that we might share them, not hold them for our own." For 36 years, Dr. Espaldon fulfilled those very words, having made biennial medical relief missions to islands throughout Micronesia. He founded the Guam Balikbayan Medical Mission and pioneered teams of local and national experts on journeys to isolated provinces in the Philippines. Committed to meeting the medical needs of others, in particular children and young adults, his efforts were entirely voluntary. These medical missions set an example of community service for others.

He served six terms in the Guam Legislature. Dr. Espaldon was a dedicated public servant of the people of Guam. His political career was one marked by courage. He sponsored and steered to passage the island's first smoking ban legislation and he did so under the threat of losing his bid for re-election. He was a man who worked hard for the good of the people and the island of Guam.

Having served with Dr. Espaldon in the Guam Legislature, I recall that he was a model citizen-senator. His service was marked by dedication and advocacy for health issues. His devotion to his family and to the people of Guam is an inspiration to our island. His keen attention to detail and thoroughness was a reflection of his medical training. I will always remember Ernie for his spirit, his community involvement, his humanitarianism and his compassion to the condition of those less fortunate.

I am deeply saddened by this loss and know that many people on Guam, in the Philippines, and throughout the Pacific are mourning as well. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leticia Virata Espaldon, M.D., and their six children: Arlene, Vivian, James Albert, Diane Marie, Karl Patrick, and Ernesto Jr. Although he will be missed by his family and friends throughout the Pacific, his legacy of service will live on in our community.

HONORING THE 9/11 FLIGHT CREW MEMBERS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor the flight crew members that lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

During the horrific attacks that took place on that fateful date, thousands of innocent people lost their lives at the hands of these terrorists. Among them, 25 flight attendants, 5 captains and 4 first officers were lost on American Airlines flights 11 and 77 and United Airlines

flights 93 and 175. Everyone of them acted heroically in the face of the terrorist attacks, the magnitude of which is unparalleled in American history.

In addition, on December 22, 2001, the flight crew members of American Airlines flight 63 responded with courage, determination, and skill, saving the lives of 185 passengers, 12 crew members, and countless people on the ground, by helping to restrain Richard Reid, who was attempting to detonate a bomb in his shoe.

This Monday, September 11, 2006, on the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, the 9/11 Flight Crew Memorial Foundation will hold a candle light vigil and dedication of a new memorial to honor these American heroes in Grapevine, TX.

It is my honor for this memorial to be located in my district. It will serve not only as an inspiration to every American because of the courage and fortitude the flight crew members showed in the face of danger on 9/11, but also as a stark reminder of the continuing danger that we all face and the vigilance we must maintain.

RECOGNITION OF PETE HOSKINS,  
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE  
PHILADELPHIA ZOO

**HON. CHAKA FATAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander L. (Pete) Hoskins, who has diligently served as President and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo for the past 12 years. Pete is the Zoo's 12th president and the fourth-longest serving leader since it opened in 1874. America's first zoo and one of the region's foremost conservation organizations, the Philadelphia Zoo is home to more than 1,500 animals, many of which are rare and endangered. The Zoo, fulfilling its mission of conservation, science, education and recreation, supports and engages in conservation efforts to protect endangered species around the world.

I am proud to have known Pete, not only as head of the Zoo, but also during his tenure at the Fairmount Park Commission and the City of Philadelphia. Pete has been serving the citizens of Greater Philadelphia for over 30 years. His vision and cultural destination advocacy reaches beyond the Zoo. He championed a plan to promote a network of family-friendly attractions in Fairmount Park, revitalizing the Park and positioning it as a family destination with the Zoo as anchor. The relocated Please Touch Museum will be a key step in making the "Centennial District" a reality. I am pleased that Pete, former chair of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, will continue to work on behalf of the arts and culture community in the Philadelphia region.

During his tenure at the Zoo, Pete led an unprecedented, \$100 million capital investment, including the Zoo's spectacular, \$20 million Bank of America Big Cat Falls exhibit that recently opened. The list of new facilities and other Hoskins-led initiatives includes: New Animal Health Center, PECO Primate Reserve, Reptile House Renovation, Dodge Rare Animal Conservation Center, Lorikeet Landing, Monkey Junction, and Channel 6 Zooballoon.

Pete also has laid the foundation to raise capital for three more master plan projects, including a series of new bird exhibits, a new elephant habitat, and a new children's zoo. In 1997, he guided the Zoo's Board and staff through the development of "Vision 2020" and the Zoo's master plan as the Zoo renewed and strengthened its mission to educate visitors and inspire them to take action in their own lives to protect animals and their natural habitats. All of the Zoo's new exhibits now include key conservation messages and opportunities to engage in conservation outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Pete Hoskins. His knowledge, dedication and vision for Philadelphia are truly an asset. I would like to thank him for his Zoo leadership and sincerely look forward to working with him for the betterment of Philadelphia into the future.

IN MEMORY OF IMOGENE HARRIS

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Mrs. Imogene Harris, an important community leader in Tennessee, a tireless political activist and my dear friend. Imogene died Saturday in an automobile accident.

Imogene had been active in the Gibson County Democratic Party and the Tennessee Democratic Party for nearly 50 years, during which she was an important part of hundreds of local, state and national campaigns. I was fortunate to have Imogene working in my congressional office. She also worked closely with my predecessor, the late Congressman Ed Jones, former Governor Ned McWherter and Vice President Al Gore, and served as a delegate to four Democratic National Conventions.

She was just as involved locally. A board member at the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and former chair of the Milan Housing Authority, Imogene was also to be sworn in next week as a Gibson County Commissioner.

The driving force behind her work was an attempt to help those around her and make our community stronger. Imogene was known in Tennessee for her take-charge attitude. She knew her opinions, shared them often and acted on them enthusiastically.

Imogene and her late husband, Tom "Skinny" Harris, have two daughters, Jan Anderson of Milan and Pam McAlpin of Trezevant, and four grandchildren, Jake and Clay Anderson, and Jason and Adam McAlpin.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened that you and most of our colleagues in the House of Representatives never got to meet my friend, Imogene Harris. The way she lived her life, the passion with which she acted on her beliefs, and the dedication with which she worked to improve our world, make her the perfect example of effective leadership. She will be sorely missed.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAYOR  
RITA AFLLEJE TAINATONGO

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Mayor Rita Afilleje Tainatongo who passed away on August 13, 2006. Mayor Tainatongo was a caring and devoted public servant who was dedicated to her family and loved by her village of Malesso and all the people of Guam.

Rita was born on January 7, 1949 to Antonio Taitano Afilleje and Rosa Tedpahago-Champaco in the village of Malesso. She was raised in a loving and caring home that included her parents, her brother John, and two sisters, Rosita and Regina. Rita credits Felipe Duenas and Josefina Acfalle Candaso as important role models during her formative teen years who helped her develop the character and poise that she was known for as a young adult.

Rita attended Mount Carmel School, in Agat, and graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in 1967. Her public service career began in 1985 when she was appointed as a Municipal Clerk in the Malesso's Mayor's Office. She later became the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor. Her reputation as a "can-do" person and her experience led to her own successful run for the Mayor's Office in 2000. She was reelected to a second term in 2004.

During her two terms she re-invigorated the sister village relationship between the Coast Guard and Malesso, improved services for senior citizens and successfully organized the Malesso Fiestan Tasi annual celebrations.

A lifelong Democrat, Rita was a village leader for the party in the gubernatorial campaigns of 1982, 1986 and 1990. Her politics were motivated by a deep sense of purpose and a vision of what government can do to make lives better.

Throughout her public life, Rita gave back to the community through her support of the American Cancer Society and American Red Cross and other civic organizations.

The island of Guam has lost a leader, a humanitarian, and a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rita's husband, Ramon Baza Tainatongo, her children, and grandchildren. We are saddened and at the same time we are inspired by how much one person can accomplish for her community. She has touched many lives and made the island a better place to live for many people, most especially her beloved people of Malesso.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE, TEXAS  
UPON 50 YEARS OF INCORPORATION

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Southlake, Texas for its 50th Anniversary of Incorporation.

In 1956, Southlake was born on the North Texas Prairie as 1.62 square miles of land with less than 1000 inhabitants and now boasts 22 square miles with a population of more than 25,000 Texans.

During the past 50 years, businesses and families alike have migrated to Southlake to plant roots in the stable and warm community. With the growth of the city's size in land and residents, Southlake has worked hard and succeeded at maintaining a comfortable and safe hometown atmosphere.

The American family is thriving in Southlake, Texas with just over 60 percent of families having kids under the age of 18. Whether a faculty member in the accomplished local school system, or a participant in the storied high school athletic programs, these families take great pride in preparing their children for the future. Within these families are hard working employees at locally owned businesses or large corporations who strive for the betterment of the community in which they live.

I commend Southlake's city officials of past and present for their dedication during challenging periods of growth and laud their accomplishments of making Southlake a premier North Texas community for families and businesses.

I give my congratulations to the city officials and private residents of Southlake on their Golden Anniversary of Incorporation. I honor Southlake, Texas upon this milestone and look forward to the future as the city continues to be a shining example in North Texas.

It is with pride that I serve such a distinguished city in my Congressional District and give my sincere congratulations upon this Golden Anniversary.

THE REOPENING OF THE SAN  
MATEO LIBRARY—A 21ST CEN-  
TURY MARVEL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, every now and then there are events in the life of a city that

are so monumental they alter the very core of the city and its people. Today, the city of San Mateo, California, which is in my Congressional District, is proudly reopening its public library and I am certain that this new library, a true modern marvel, will change San Mateo for the better.

Today's event is the culmination of seven years of hard work, including close to 50 community meetings, years of fund raising, and two years of construction. However, I can say with complete confidence that it was all worth it.

Mr. Speaker, this new library is the monument to learning that the citizens of San Mateo desire and deserve. This 90,000 square foot modern marvel is three times larger than the old library, contains 75,000 additional books, 10 times the number of computers, and a wireless internet connection throughout the building. Despite its towering size, the building was designed in an environmentally friendly manner. In fact 98% of the original building was recycled during the demolition process. The new library utilizes natural light and the latest technologies; including automated window shades that rise and close based on room temperature to create a "green building" that is expected to save the city 40% in energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, while the library of the past was mainly used to borrow reading material, today's 21st century library is intended to be a focal hub of the community and the new San Mateo library has been expertly designed in that fashion. The library will boast a teen lounge, a multi-media collection, a story time amphitheater in the children's section with stories told in English, Spanish and Chinese languages, as well as a café operated by a local vendor. In addition because the Bay Area is the pinnacle of our nation's biotech industry the library will include a Biotechnology Learning Center, which will be staffed by its own biotech librarian and will include seminar rooms and specialized reference materials. Of course the library will also continue to provide more traditional offerings, such as adult literacy programs, research training for elementary school age students, and Internet classes for the general public.

The roots of the San Mateo library were planted in 1883 when members of the Ladies Guild of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church decided to create "a reading room or place of resort where people could pass their leisure time socializing and improving their minds by reading good books and periodicals". Today, more than one hundred years later the citizens of San Mateo have once again shown incredible foresight to create a citadel of culture and a place where its residents can ensconce themselves in an educational environment.