

My husband, Ed, and I are fortunate to have Rusty and his very special wife, Pam, as dear friends. I am proud to join the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in thanking Rusty Hammer for his great leadership and many contributions to the Los Angeles region and the business community. Ed and I send our best wishes and sincere gratitude to Rusty, Pam and his wonderful family.

RECOGNIZING TINA BATT FOR HER
WORK WITH THE MUIR HERITAGE
LAND TRUST

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Tina Batt, the Founding Executive Director of the Muir Heritage Land Trust, as she leaves her post after eighteen years of dedicated service.

Under Ms. Batt's leadership, the Martinez Regional Land Trust grew to become the Muir Heritage Land Trust, a powerful force for conservation in Contra Costa County. She has been directly responsible for preserving over 2000 acres of open space in and around the City of Martinez, California. Her passion for the environment and dedication to preserving our heritage has translated into a highly successful fundraising effort that has over the years totaled over five million dollars.

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has also expanded its public agency partners to include the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the California Coastal Conservancy, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Departments of Fish and Game and Water Resources, the City of Martinez, Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, East Bay Regional Park District, the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Critical support from well-established public and private foundations has increased dramatically due to Tina's efforts. The list of supporters now includes the Bechtel Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, Firedoll Foundation, David B. Gold Foundation, Martinez Community Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, the B.T. Rocca, Jr., Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, the Charles Schwab Corporation Foundation, L.J. & Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, Strong Foundation for Environmental Values, Trust for Public Land, the Morrison Foerster Foundation, and the Valley Foundation. She also fostered steadfast corporate support from Union Bank of California, Conoco Phillips, Mechanics Bank, Shell Oil Products, Tesero Corporation, Chevron, Parsons Corporation, Shapell Homes, Telfer Oil, Dow Chemical Company, John Muir Health, Overaa Construction, Plumbers & Steamfitters Union Local 159, Contra Costa Times, Diablo Magazine, East Bay Business Times, and Galilee Enterprise.

With all of this valued support, Tina Batt has led the Muir Heritage Land Trust through a phenomenal period of expansion. The Trust has preserved easements, facilitated acquisi-

tion of treasured open space, and ensured the permanent protection of an important segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which runs the length of the Franklin Ridge from Martinez to Hercules and Crockett.

Mr. Speaker, because of Ms. Tina Batt's many contributions to acquisition and preservation of open space in Contra Costa County, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize her tireless efforts, and ask all Members of the House to join me in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING TAYLOR CHAN
ON HER RECEIPT OF A JEFFERSON
AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Taylor Chan on her recent receipt of the Jefferson Award and to thank her for her ongoing community service to seniors in San Francisco. The Jefferson Award is given by the American Institute for Public Service, founded by Jacqueline Kennedy, Senators Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard. The award is considered the Nobel Prize for public and community service. I congratulate her on receiving this award, and am proud that she resides in my congressional district.

Taylor Chan is unique among Jefferson Award winners in that she is a mere 13 years of age. For the last six years, since Taylor was the weak tender age of 8, she has been playing piano and violin for seniors at the Adult Day Health Center in San Francisco. Recognizing that many seniors have neither the financial resources nor the mobility to attend the opera or the symphony, Taylor and her older sister Tracy have been performing one-hour concerts to provide the seniors at the Adult Day Health Center with the gift of music. The seniors and the staff at the Health Center have roundly praised not only Taylor's generosity but her prodigious skill. While Taylor may still be in her formative years, she already has nine years of experience playing the piano and nearly six years playing the violin. I assert with great confidence that Miss Chan will accomplish a great many things more in the future as both a musician and a human being.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Taylor for her contribution to the senior community in San Francisco and congratulating her on this award. I am truly delighted and find inspiration in Taylor's accomplishments at such a young age.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SENIOR
CENTER OF BOULDER CITY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Senior Center of Boulder City which will celebrate the Grand Opening of their new location on June 3, 2006.

Originally founded in 1975, the Senior Center of Boulder City enhances the quality of life

and promotes wellness by providing social, educational, and health services to seniors in the community. Due to budget cutbacks that forced the elimination of city-funded senior programs, volunteers formed the Senior Center of Boulder City, Inc. in 1983, a private non-profit (501C3) corporation to maintain the services of the senior center. Since that time, the Senior Center has been maintained by volunteers who desired to give services to seniors when there was no other city funded programs available. Founding Director Bert D. Hildebrand, and the first Executive Director, Marilyn Moore were both instrumental in obtaining the Center's current site. The Senior Center is presently located in a historic building built in 1932 in the heart of historic Old Town and remains a center of civic and cultural life.

Thirty years after first opening their doors, they have outgrown their current site and plan to relocate to the building, once occupied by the library, at 813 Arizona Street, which is of equal historic value. This new building will approximately double their square footage and help them to better serve their six-hundred plus members as well as other members of the community with their rich variety of programs, activities, and services.

The Center has a very active Board of Directors led by President Don Meeks along with Vice-President Betty Smith, Secretary Sharon Lazar, Treasurer Larry Morris, and other members Jack Cummings, Starlene Jarvis, June Lobell, Robert Mayfield, Paul T. Ryan, Tom Shverha, Paul Stouterborough, and Bette Porter and Ede Zinn who are two long-time members and past Board members that serve as Emeritus Members of the Board. I would also like to recognize past President Karl Peddy who has recently past away and Alice Hagan for her devotion to the Senior Center since 1975.

Executive Director Anita Gant, who is celebrating her one year anniversary with the Senior Center, has been a tremendous asset to the center. She and her staff of nine consisting of Program Director Norma King, kitchen staffs consisting of Jane Shafer, Debbie Kittleson, and Steve Reteria, four part-time drivers Gene Crawford, Eric Kramer, Robert Zubrod, and Ted Zubrod, and a custodian Warren Britton, who all work very hard to ensure the seniors of Boulder City are very well cared for. They are looking forward to another plus twenty years of service to the community in their new facility.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Senior Center of Boulder City on the floor of the House. I commend them for their contributions to Boulder City and thank them for her continued service to the seniors of Southern Nevada.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE JUDGE
ALBERT A. PEÑA JR.

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the late Judge Albert A. Peña Jr., who passed away July 4 of this year. He was a public servant who dedicated his professional and personal life to empowering the Mexican-American community and