

Dennis M. Barry's career with the county encompasses 20 years with the Planning Department, later established as the Community Development Department, 10 years as Community Development Director, and 4 months as Interim Director of the Department of Conservation and Development.

In his role as Contra Costa County General Plan Review Program Manager in 1987, Barry led the General Plan Congress, which produced the first comprehensive update to the General Plan in over 25 years. As Director of Community Development, Barry spearheaded the Urban Limit Line through the County process including public hearings and adoption by voters. Throughout his career, Dennis M. Barry has been dedicated as a consummate planner and innovative leader.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dennis M. Barry received several awards for his service to the residents of Contra Costa County. These awards include the following: the Contra Costa County Employee of the Year in 1991, CSAC Challenge Award for the County Growth Management Program 1990, and for the Countywide General Plan in 1991; and CSAC Circle of Service Award.

Dennis M. Barry's outstanding service to Contra Costa County also included several policy changes that significantly impacted land use, housing projects and public safety. He assisted in drafting and placing Measure C on the ballot in 1990, which established the Contra Costa County 65/35 Land Preservation Plan. He drafted and brought Ordinance 96-50, Land Use Permits for Development Projects involving Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Wastes, for hearings. Barry was involved in the formation of the Dougherty Valley General Plan Amendment and Specific Plan, which requires 25 percent of the units to be occupied by low and moderate income families.

As Dennis M. Barry retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of life for the residents of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of planning. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING PAULA BARALDI

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Paula Baraldi and to congratulate her upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Baraldi will be honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mrs. Baraldi was born and raised in Madera, California to Enrico and Armanda De Cesario. She has one younger brother, Robert. She graduated from Madera High School in 1946 and immediately began working for a public accountant. In 1951, she married Ralph Baraldi and moved to Huron, California. In 1954, they moved back to Madera. At this time, she, her husband and Louie Mariani started a redi-mix concrete plant. Her brother Robert had also opened his own business, De

Cesari Stationery. Robert was called to service in Vietnam, so they sold the redi-mix business and acquired the stationery store. Mrs. Baraldi owned and operated De Cesari Stationery for many years. She believes her success has been due to her family, friends, great customers and strong work ethic.

Mrs. Baraldi has concentrated many of her efforts in community service to ensure that Madera would continue to grow as a friendly city and a solid place to raise a family. She served as director and treasurer for the board of directors of the Madera Chamber of Commerce. She participated in the Retail Merchants and Governmental Affairs Committee. She was heavily involved in the women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s. She has also been involved with the Soroptimist Club of Madera, Madera Historical Society, American Cancer Society, National Association of Republican Women, Association of Stationers, San Joaquin Paleontology Association and a member of Saint Joachim's Church.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Paula Baraldi upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Baraldi many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MURPHY,  
RECIPIENT OF THE ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARD

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael Murphy, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the goals and criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, *The Heart of the Matter*, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

Michael Murphy was chosen along with three other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the award for his dedication to the goals and criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Michael (Mike) Murphy; father of Patrick (SHP 2007), has been teaching at St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart for 16 years as a middle school teacher. Mr. Murphy was also ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 2006. As classroom teacher and deacon, Mr. Murphy has provided spiritual guidance for his students while encouraging them to examine their spiritual lives. He challenges his students to be aware of social justice issues and to engage in service learning. Through discipline, humor and hard work, Mr. Murphy makes a difference in the lives of his students. He

stepped in as interim principal for St. Joseph's for the 2007-08 school year and he accepted the role graciously and proved an effective leader for a community in need. Under his strong leadership, the St. Joseph's community reestablished many of its outreach efforts, developed a master plan for new construction and began the first year of a five-year strategic plan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Michael Murphy as he is recognized by the St. Madeleine Sophie Award. Through his many contributions to his family and friends, and especially the Sacred Heart community, he has more than earned the St. Madeleine Sophie Award through his special leadership and commitment to excellence. He has established a lasting legacy at Sacred Heart Schools in the life of every student who comes through its distinguished halls. Our community and our country have been strengthened by Michael Murphy and it is a privilege to honor him and his work.

HONORING REVEREND CHARLES  
BELCHER

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Reverend Charles Belcher. His vibrant spirit, insatiable commitment to service, and his unwavering compassion for the human family will be sorely missed by all those who had the honor of knowing him and coming in contact with his ministry. We lost this exceptional community leader and dedicated man of God on August 9, 2008.

Reverend Charles Belcher was born on January 17, 1939, in Schaal, Arkansas, to his loving mother, Lottie Belcher, and her husband, the late Reverend Jim Belcher. At the young age of 5, Charles' family moved to California. Although this was in some way the adopted home of his family, the contributions Reverend Belcher and his parents made to the Greater Bay Area are humbling in their sincerity and magnitude.

Education and personal growth were always extremely important values to Reverend Belcher, which he fostered throughout his life and promoted among the many young people that looked up to him. Charles Belcher graduated with honors from El Cerrito High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Utah State University and later received a master's degree in divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He would go on to earn a prestigious PhD from Ashland Theological Seminary. Reverend Belcher married Ms. Ethel Scott with whom he had a daughter, Kimberly, and a son, Charles II. At age 57, he married Ms. Doris Denson, and his loving family grew with the addition of Doris' children Bonita, Tony, Dana, and Sheila.

Reverend Belcher was widely known as a spiritual leader with great integrity and honor. In the Bay Area he served at numerous churches, including the St. Peter CME Church in El Cerrito, the Bee Bee Memorial CME Cathedral in Oakland, and most recently the Resurrection AME Church of Richmond.

Reverend Belcher was a man of great faith and energy. He enthusiastically embraced every opportunity to serve congregations and communities throughout our Nation, bringing with him a keen empathy for the local community. His service extended to churches throughout the country including CMEs in Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, and Cleveland. Under the leadership of Bishop Vernon Byrd, Reverend Belcher became an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Bethel AME in San Francisco in 1997. Reverend Belcher served as the organizing pastor at two churches in California, the Upper Room Christian Church in Los Angeles and the Resurrection AME Church in Richmond. Reverend Belcher dedicated every day of his adult life to his passion for God and community development. At the time of his passing, the Reverend was serving as pastor of St. John AME Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Reverend Belcher fought for justice and equality for African Americans, low-income families, and communities of color, and he worked tirelessly to make this a better world. His dedication to public service throughout the Bay Area is both diverse in its capacities and remarkable in its scope. In 2001, he was elected to the Richmond City Council where he served a 4-year term. In addition to serving the city of Richmond, Reverend Belcher worked as an administrative assistant to Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson. He was a member of the Peralta Community College District board and served on the board of the NAACP's Richmond branch.

I met Reverend Belcher while a student at Mills College in the early 1970s. I attended a class he taught and was amazed by his keen intellect, his deep insight, and his determination to teach and speak the truth.

The contributions Reverend Belcher made to his community throughout his life are innumerable. He was a true inspiration, and an exceptional role model, especially for young men and women of color striving to build up their communities, contribute to their neighborhoods, and improve their opportunities so that they may pursue productive and full lives. His legacy will surely live on through the lasting impact he made on so many lives.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Reverend Charles Belcher. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, especially his mother, Ms. Lottie M. Belcher, his wife, Ms. Doris Denson-Belcher, his children Kimberly and Charles II, his step-children Bonita, Tony, Dana, and Sheila, his grandchildren, and the many special members of his close and devoted family as well as his countless friends. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF DAN PACKER, CHIEF OF THE  
EAST PIERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Dan Packer,

chief of the East Pierce Fire Department, who recently died in the line of duty as he was helping to save lives and property from the wildfires burning in northern California. Dan was a veteran firefighter, respected leader, wildfire expert, as well as a father and a friend to many. His service to our community and his friendship will be sorely missed.

Originally from Montana, Dan was an avid rodeo bull rider and first joined the fire service in Burien, Washington, in 1981. He began serving as chief of the fire department in Bonney Lake in 1995 and was instrumental in joining several jurisdictions into an organization now known as the East Pierce Fire District. Today, East Pierce serves over 75,000 citizens across nearly 150 square miles with the support of more than 100 firefighters and staff members and 40 volunteers. Dan Packer also served as a president of the Washington Fire Chiefs.

As a part of a Washington State-based incident response team, Chief Packer was called to service to respond to wildfires that have affected more than 600 acres of Siskiyou County in northern California. In this role, he combated the Panther Fire and was preparing to assume the duties of the division supervisor for time—battling the blazes in the Klamath National Forest near the town of Happy Camp. Reports indicate that on Saturday, July 26, 2008, while scouting the fire, flames suddenly overcame Chief Packer and, tragically, he was not able to escape.

I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the East Pierce Fire Department, the many firefighters who had the honor of serving at Dan Packer's side in both California and Washington State, and particularly to his wife, four daughters, two grandchildren, and his mother in this time of terrible grief and loss.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL  
LITERACY DAY

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate International Literacy Day, a day that provides us an opportunity to assess the status of literacy and adult learning both in our country and around the world.

While much progress has been made since the first Literacy Day 42 years ago, much remains to be done. According to United Nations estimates, some 774 million adults lack minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women.

Fortunately, there are countless organizations and individuals dedicated to ensuring that every man, woman and child has an opportunity to learn basic skills. In my home state, the Ohio Literacy Network has been meeting the needs of adult learners for 21 years. Since its inception in 1987, the network has played a leading role in promoting awareness of adult literacy needs, advocating on behalf of adult learners and service providers, encouraging public-private literacy efforts and facilitating the exchange of literacy information. In short, the Ohio Literacy Network is

dedicated to building stronger communities by providing opportunities to any adult wanting to learn basic literacy skills.

I salute the Ohio Literacy Network, and similar organizations throughout the world, as they man the front lines in the battle to better the lives of individuals by improving their basic skills.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
CAPTAIN RUSSELL L. SHAFFER  
FROM THE UNITED STATES  
NAVY

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Russell L. Shaffer, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 21 years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in his service as the Department of the Navy's Director of Legislation.

After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1983, Captain Shaffer was commissioned in 1985. He earned his juris doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1987, and began his active duty service in the Navy JAG Corps Student Program.

He served on three occasions in the Naval Legal Service Command, as Commanding Officer of the Naval Legal Service Office North Central at the Washington Navy Yard, as the Executive Officer of the Europe and Southwest Asia office in Naples, Italy, and as a prosecutor, defense counsel, and claims attorney in Norfolk, Virginia.

He also served several tours in the Office of the Judge Advocate General, as an attorney in the General Litigation Division, as the Deputy Executive Assistant to the JAG and as the Executive Assistant to the JAG.

He served as the Staff Judge Advocate for Commander, Amphibious Group TWO in Norfolk, Virginia, and for the Commander, THIRD Fleet in San Diego, California. His other assignments have included tours on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, with the Commander, South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and as a Legislative Counsel in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

During his distinguished career, Captain Shaffer earned master of laws in environmental law from the George Washington University in 1996 and he has been an active member of the Ohio Bar. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, 3 awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, 5 awards, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation, 2 awards, and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Captain Shaffer that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank him and his family for his honorable service to our Nation in the United States Navy. I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished naval career.