

Medal for his heroic achievements during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Bronze Star, the Department of Defense's fourth highest award given, is awarded to individuals for bravery, heroism, and meritorious service.

Commander Asjes earned the Bronze Star as a military personnel assigned individually for his expertise in coordinating air combat operations, organizing ground units and executing tactical air operations. Commander Asjes served in Iraq from October 13, 2007 to April 2, 2008. He has honorably served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years.

Commander Asjes' sacrifices, heroism and hard work illustrate the compassion and professionalism of America's troops. I commend Navy Commander David Asjes' courageousness and service to our great nation and consider it an honor to represent Commander Asjes and his family in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best in his future service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO PROTECTION &
ADVOCACY INC.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Protection & Advocacy Inc. for their 30 years of advocacy in California on behalf of the disabled. Following the 1975 reports of abuse and neglect at a State institute called Willowbrook, Congress mandated and began to fund Protection and Advocacy systems across the Nation. In 1978, Protection & Advocacy Inc. was created as a nonprofit to advance human and legal rights of those with disabilities. The spirit and dedication of Protection & Advocacy Inc. still lives in their daily work. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of California's finest citizens.

For the past 30 years, Protection & Advocacy Inc. has advocated for Californians with disabilities that had been traditionally underserved. Since their first office opened in 1978 in my hometown of Sacramento, Protection & Advocacy Inc. has grown into 26 satellite offices throughout California. With more than 200 staff members, Protection & Advocacy Inc. provides services and information at community events, trainings and conferences. In order to properly represent the diverse community they serve, the staff members speak 15 different languages and more than half of their staff lives with disabilities themselves. Today, Protection & Advocacy Inc. is the largest disability advocacy agency in the Nation. It will soon be renamed Disability Rights California in order to more accurately reflect their mission.

As a response to congressional findings of abuse and neglect of individuals in residential care facilities, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act was enacted in 1986. This allowed Protection & Advocacy Inc. the opportunity to provide legal representation to persons with psychiatric disabilities and conduct investigations of abuse and neglect.

Protection & Advocacy Inc. strives to create an inclusive society. In 1993 they became a

cross disability advocacy agency when Congress extended their role to protect and advocate for those who were not eligible for services under other programs. Their work now also focuses on improving daily life for people living with disabilities. This includes strengthening access to justice, correcting wrongs, enforcing rights, training individuals on self-advocacy and legal protections, public education, and building collaboration across advocacy groups.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Protection & Advocacy Inc's distinguished commitment to the well-being of the disabled community. Over the last 30 years, they have expanded their mission with the changing times and have been true champions of those living with disabilities. As the Protection & Advocacy Inc.'s staff, supporters, and constituents gather together to celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work on behalf of Californians with disabilities.

HONORING BLANCA ALVARADO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise with Congressman MIKE HONDA to honor Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado on her 28 years of elected service and wish her the best upon her retirement.

Supervisor Alvarado was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in March 1996 to complete my unexpired term upon my election to Congress. My colleague, MIKE HONDA had the pleasure of serving with Supervisor Alvarado during his term in office.

As the County Supervisor for the Second District, Blanca represented over 350,000 residents living in San Jose. Her district has one of the Nation's highest concentrations of racial diversity and poverty where the lack of opportunity is prevalent for many individuals and families.

During her time in office, Ms. Alvarado served on several committees as an engaged member of the board. As chair of the Children and Families' Committee, her efforts led to programs that focused on the comprehensive care of children and their families and reduced teen pregnancy. As chair of the Public Safety and Justice Committee, Supervisor Alvarado tackled issues of youth incarceration and provided productive alternatives to troubled youth other than incarceration. Her work established neighborhood programs to support anti-gang initiatives and she tirelessly pursued reforms that emphasized prevention and hope for the young residents of San Jose's poorest neighborhoods.

Additionally, Blanca served as an advocate for programs for incarcerated women and gave crucial support for programs and services for female inmates in county jail. Her work was so significant that the County Domestic Violence Council Conference presented her with its 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Always mindful of her cultural roots and the importance of ethnicity and race in America, Alvarado was the principal visionary behind the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

Blanca Alvarado has appointed more Latinas to commissions and committees than anyone else throughout her 28 years of service. This year, Ms. Alvarado launched the Latina Leadership Project in an effort to ensure that Latina leaders continue to have opportunities in Santa Clara County to serve their communities and inspire each other in their dreams of civic service.

It has been an honor for us to know Blanca Alvarado and on behalf of the many residents of the county of Santa Clara who have benefited from her leadership; we thank her and wish her the best upon her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ROBERT AMSDEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly propose to recognize Robert Amsden of Liberty, Missouri. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Amsden for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE ORFORDVILLE
JOURNAL AND FOOTVILLE NEWS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Orfordville Journal and Footville News, which ceased publication on August 15, 2008, after nearly a century of chronicling the lives of families in the Orfordville area of Rock County, Wisconsin. Its dedicated owners and publishers, the Stewart family, kept the small weekly newspaper alive for 92 years. Upon its closing, the Journal-News was the second oldest business in Orfordville.

The first issue of the Orfordville Journal debuted on December 17, 1908, but it was not until 1916 that the Stewart family became its owners, when Ward A. Stewart purchased the struggling newspaper at age 22. Later that year, a young woman named Rose came to work for the Journal. Rose and Ward soon married on a Wednesday night in Orfordville, but only after the printing of that week's paper was complete.

This and countless other Stewart family anecdotes illustrate a behind-the-scenes picture of the Journal-News as a quintessential family business rooted in the community that