

HONORING ROBERT AYERS GOULD,
SR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement after twelve years of service on the City Council of Athens, Texas, where he has overseen many projects benefiting his community.

After graduating from Athens High School in 1957, Bob joined the United States Navy where he served aboard the USS *Coral Sea*. Following an Honorable Discharge, he returned to Athens where he opened the Gould Insurance Agency in 1962, which he has owned and operated for over forty years.

Among his many civic activities, Bob has been the Director and Vice-President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Co-Founder of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Charter Director for the Henderson County YMCA. He has also received many awards from his community including the Roadhand Award from the Texas Highway Commission and the Athens Citizen of the Year Award in 1984.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Bob is a husband to Mrs. Peggy Lorene Lubben Gould, and father of four children: Robert Jr., Joseph, Patricia, and Mary.

I want to recognize Bob for his service and commitment to his community. Due to Bob's leadership in the city and throughout the business community, Athens remains a strong, supportive, and vibrant community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Texas, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. on his retirement from the City Council and thank him for a job well done.

HONORING PHILADELPHIA'S
PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, an extraordinary win-win development has recently expanded and enriched the cultural scene in the City of Philadelphia. And it is thrilling for countless youngsters across our region.

Philadelphia has always been remarkable for its museum experiences, from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute, the Academy of Natural Sciences, to museums that interpret the history and origins of our nation and liberty, museums that extol the experiences of African Americans, Jewish Americans, Polish Americans and many, many more.

But there is nothing quite like the Please Touch Museum for hands-on, visceral (and subtly educational) appeal to our youngest and most curious citizens. Please Touch has been the must-stop for youngsters and young-at-heart adults since it opened in 1976 not far from Philadelphia's museum-choked Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Its name was Rule One. Everything was up-close and available.

No longer did parents have to tell their kids, "Don't touch that!" Please Touch moved and expanded several times, but inevitably, its popularity outpaced every new location.

Meanwhile stately Memorial Hall, grand icon and last vestige of the world-shattering 1876 Centennial Exhibition, stood almost unused and slowly deteriorating in Fairmount Park, a few miles to the west.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Nancy Kolb, the search for a new home for Please Touch began in earnest a decade ago. When a riverfront plan failed to materialize, the search turned to Memorial Hall. A landmark agreement among the City of Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Commission and Please Touch resulted in an 80-year lease signed in 2005, and the project was underway.

On October 18, 2008, the "new" Memorial Hall, fresh from an \$88 million renovation, opened its doors as home for the dramatically expanded, 38,000 square foot Please Touch Museum. At the same time, Please Touch won coveted accreditation by the American Association of Museums, one of just 775 institutions out of the nation's 17,500 museums to be currently accredited.

Please Touch now joins the nearby Philadelphia Zoo and other attractions—as well as Fairmount Park itself—in the exciting Centennial District of West Philadelphia. The October 18 official opening drew a record attendance, and the crowds keep on coming—to ride the century-old restored carousel or the monorail, to "drive" a kid-size SEPTA bus, to "shop" in a scaled down ShopRite grocery store (complete with checkout counters), to float water duckies, to visit Fairytale Garden and Alice's wonderland adventures . . .

And always, always to "Please Touch."

TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO
VALLEY COLLEGE TRUSTEES
CHUCK BEEMAN AND ALLEN
GRESHAM

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like today to pay special tribute to San Bernardino Community College District Trustees Chuck Beeman and Allen Gresham, who over the past several decades have overseen the rapid growth and maturing of the major community colleges in my district in California.

A respected attorney in San Bernardino County, Allen Gresham was first elected as college trustee in 1971 and is now the third-longest-serving in California. Chuck Beeman, a retired pharmacist and owner of Beeman's Pharmacy, was appointed to the board in 1983. The two men are leaving the board this year after a combined 62 years of public service.

While they have been on the board, the district's two campuses have grown significantly—now serving more than 18,000 students with nearly 500 full- and part-time faculty members. Since Allen Gresham joined the board, more than 150,000 students have received degrees and certificates. The two campuses—San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College—have two of the most diverse student bodies in California.

As the student body has grown, Mr. Gresham and Mr. Beeman have led the board of trustees in meeting their needs through a continuing building program that has expanded and significantly modernized both campuses. With the help of Federal Emergency Management Agency earthquake mitigation funding, Valley College has completely remade its central facilities, building a new library, Health and Human Sciences Building, administration building and a 37,000-square-foot Campus Center. A new art building with a modern gallery—named in honor of Clara and Allen Gresham for their devotion to art—opened last year.

At Crafton Hills College, ground was recently broken for a new library and learning resource center, as well as a new swimming center. The district has also built a new central headquarters at the former Norton Air Force Base and upgraded facilities for its public-access television and radio station, KVCR—which provides the only broadcast local news for San Bernardino County. In addition, the college district has opened a nationally-recognized academy at the former air base to give firefighters hands-on training in dealing with jet fuel and aircraft fires.

Madam Speaker, wary California taxpayers have turned back construction bond measures for many cities and school districts in recent years. But thanks in large part to the leadership of Allen Gresham and Chuck Beeman, San Bernardino County taxpayers gave solid approval to a \$190 million bond in 2002 and a \$500 million bond just this year to continue the expansion of these fine college campuses.

In addition to academic excellence, the college district has won intercollegiate athletics championships in many sports. These accomplishments have especially delighted Chuck Beeman, who came within a fraction of a second of qualifying for the 1956 U.S. Olympic team and taught track at Valley College for many years. The college's track was named in Mr. Beeman's honor last year.

Madam Speaker, Allen Gresham and Chuck Beeman can look back with pride as they come to the end of their time on the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees. Please join me in saluting them for their decades of service to education and our community and wishing them well in their future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican leadership's policy on earmarks, I am requesting funding for Special Operations Forces Advanced Mission Planning Tools in fiscal year 2009, in H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008, Continuing Resolution, from account 31 0603003A Aviation Advanced Technology. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc., 4 Research Park Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304-5685. The funding would be used for the continued development of enterprise-enabled, integrated aviation tools and provide this ability to all Army aviation systems. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.