Nor did it keep him from competing in the Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from Los Angeles to Honolulu three times.

But it’s on Ventura County’s land that Jack’s impact will be felt for generations to come. Rancho Guadalacasa, the Mexican land grant Jack’s family purchased in 1880, sits adjacent to what is now California State University Channel Islands. A private man, Jack tried to make a $5 million anonymous donation to establish a library at the university in 1999—one of the largest in Ventura County history. He was refused to go public only after trustees argued that his donation would spur others. It did. The university named the library after him.

Jack also was an original initiator and supporter of Casa Pacifica, a home for neglected, abused and emotionally disturbed children; founder of the Conejo Savings and Loan Association; chairman of the Ventura County Harbor Commission; chairman of the Camarillo State Hospital Board of Trustees (where the university is now sited); and member of the boards for Pepperdine University and the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, among others.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences among others.

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Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to Patricia, his wife of more than 60 years; to Janice and me in offering our condolences to others.

That is why I am joining with Congressman Brad Sherman in introducing the bipartisan Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act of 2009, which seeks to link any action—including production, brokerage, insurance, and tanker delivery services—that contributes to Iran’s ability to import gasoline or refine petroleum domestically. Only from a position of strength can we expect diplomacy to succeed. A restriction of gasoline deliveries to Iran offers the best chance to stop Iran’s uranium enrichment program using the soft power of the United States and our allies.

BIPARTISAN IRAN DIPLOMATIC ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, the U.N. Security Council has voted five times highlighting the violations of Iran, a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, for its uranium enrichment activities.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as of January 31, 2009, Iran has produced more than 1,000 kilograms of low-enriched uranium hexafluoride, which is 30 percent higher than previous IAEA estimates.

If we are serious about stopping the emergence of a nuclear Iran, our window for effective diplomacy is starting to close.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is a strong proponent of “enhanced diplomacy.” History teaches that negotiations in the absence of effective sanctions are likely to fail. Negotiations following effective sanctions are likely to succeed.

When it comes to Iran, we already know the most effective sanction: a gasoline restriction.

A close look at Iran’s economy reveals a significant weakness. This top OPEC nation lacks the required refining capacity to meet domestic demand for fuel and must import some 40 percent of its gasoline.

That’s right: Iran depends on foreign gasoline.

Nearly all of Iran’s imported gasoline is provided by just five European companies—the Swiss firm Vitol, the Swiss/Dutch firm Trafifluga, the French firm Total, the Swiss firm Glencore, and British Petroleum. The majority of tankers carrying gasoline to Iran are insured by Lloyds of London. An interruption in the supply of gasoline to Iran would considerably impact the Iranian economy and significantly bolster diplomatic initiatives.

Just last year, then-Senator Obama suggested “banning the export of refined petroleum to Iran.” In an August 2009 letter, Obama’s restriction “starts changing their cost benefit analysis” and “starts putting the squeeze on them.”

That’s right: Iran depends on foreign gasoline.

Today, there are an estimated 7,000 Holocaust survivors still living in the Chicago area, and as many as 1,000–2,000 of them currently live in Skokie. Most are now in their 70s, 80s, or 90s. Like the town of Skokie itself, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center would not have been possible without their active involvement and input. Its permanent exhibits show hundreds of artifacts, many which have been collected in recent years from local residents. The museum also present thousands of video interviews with survivors, conducted and donated by Steven Spielberg and his Shoah Foundation.

Madam Speaker, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center may be one of the best Holocaust museums to be built in collaboration with survivors. The new 65,000-square foot museum will have the capacity to serve over 250,000 annual visitors, and will teach countless people, young and old, the importance of actively fighting hatred and prejudice. In a world where genocide continues, despite decades of calling “never again,” these are priceless lessons.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, April 19th, over 10,000 people gathered in Skokie, Illinois, joining special guests President Bill Clinton, Elie Wiesel, and Governor Pat Quinn to celebrate the grand opening of the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. President Obama personally offered his congratulations on a recorded video. I had the great opportunity to participate in the opening of this beautiful new museum, which will share the history of the Holocaust and teach the importance of combating hatred, indifference, and genocide to current and future generations across the Midwest.

Skokie, located in my district, is a community that knows the importance of preserving memories and teaching history. In the wake of World War II, the community offered an attractive haven to Jewish families, including Holocaust survivors searching for a new life in America. Between 1945 and 1955, an estimated 3,000 Jewish families came to Skokie, building a vibrant Jewish community.

Children who grew up in Skokie during this time recall daily life carrying an underpinning of trauma. They share stories of parents unable to sleep, panicking when their children returned home late, and refusing to take showovers. However, while they describe seeing tattooed numbers on arms as commonplace, the Holocaust wasn’t something survivors wanted to talk about. Many Skokie Jews remember not knowing which of their friends had survived gas chambers.

That changed in the mid-1970s. In 1976, neo-Nazi Frank Collin threatened to march in the town, distributing fliers proclaiming “we are coming” and telling the Chicago Sun-Times, “I hope they’re terrified.” Survivors who had worked for decades to rebuild a sense of personal security, suddenly found themselves threatened once again.
There were so many flashes going off it was blinding. It was a marvel to the world, theushering in of indoor baseball. I've got to say, there was nothing else like the Dome. I remember the players would stand in centerfield and hit balls straight up to see if they could hit the roof. And who could forget the guy singing cowboy on the scoreboard? It was the best. My kids remember going to the games, wearing Nolan Ryan's number 34, and cheering for players like Terry Puhl, Joe Niekro, Craig Reynolds, Alan Ashby, Billy Doran and yelling out Jose Cruni-u-u-u-u-u. Of course we have had many greats along the way, including Biggio, Bagwell and Berkman—the Killer B's. But one of my all-time favorite players happens to be none other than Kingwood's own, "Scrap-Iron" Phil Garner. You may not have known it, but we have been living amongst a legend right here in our own backyard. Phil Garner was known for his hard-nosed style of baseball. His defense as an infielder, playing both second and third bases in his career, earned him the nickname "Scrap-Iron." He was known for breaking up double plays, diving for balls, and always playing tough. He left it all on the field every play, every game. He didn't start his career in Texas, but like I say about all great transplants—he got here as fast as he could. And lucky for us he did. As a two-time All-American for the Tennessese Volunteers, he was drafted by Oakland in 1971. Ten years, three All-Star appearances and a .500 average in a World Series victory with the Pirates later, he landed in Houston. After filling up his cleats, he hired on as an assistant coach under then Astros Manager Art Howe. He went on to later become manager for the Detroit Tigers and Milwaukee Brewers before coming back to Houston. And like I said, lucky for us he did. As Skipper for the Astros, Garner led the team to greater success than any other manager in franchise history. Among the many successes the team had under his leadership, nothing was greater than the team's first and only World Series appearance. Even though I lost that one, too. The good news for Congress is that we had to send them some real Texas barbeque from the "Tin Roof" Bar-B-Q when the White Sox beat the Astros, I went down swinging with "Scrap-Iron." I have known Phil and his family for many years. His example and character has had a tremendous impact on my son, Kurt, as well as many other young people that have had the pleasure of knowing him. The Astros, and the entire city of Houston, are lucky to have him as one of our own.

The best thing about baseball is everyone can enjoy the game. You don't have to be the biggest or the fastest to play. And if you don't want to take out a loan to go to a major league game, there's still plenty of ball to been seen. You will be hard pressed not to find a little league, high school or college game just about any day of the week and I can assure you our local talent won't disappoint and won't break the bank. I can't wait to start baseball all over again—this time as a grandfather and take my grandchildren and granddaughters to the "National Pastime." I wish all the area youth leagues, high schools, colleges and of course, the 'Stros the best of luck this season. Now, let's play ball!