

that support healthy and active children's activities.

Gifford's Ice Cream shops also play a key role in supporting other local businesses. Gifford's buys all of its milk and cream from Maine dairy farmers who pledge not to use artificial growth hormones. They also use locally grown products, like Maine wild blueberries and Maine made maple syrup, in many of their great flavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gifford's Ice Cream of Maine on their recent awards and nearly 30 years of successful business.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE NEW NATIONAL STREET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE AND THE INDUCTION OF FIFTEEN LEGENDS OF STREET BALL TO THE NATIONAL STREET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launching of the new National Street Basketball Professional League and to also honor my friends and our nation's legends of Street Ball. National Street Basketball Association is a non-profit sports league organization headquartered in New York City. The corporation was established to promote amateur and professional street basketball and provide the highest competition platform of specialized league teams globally.

National Street Basketball Association offers professional basketball athletes (21 & older) who meet NSBA criteria with try-out opportunities to represent one of the statewide professional league member team divisions and compete on a national platform. In addition, the company provides amateur basketball services for youth, such as camps, clinics, tournaments and Life-Skill workshops. The company also devises custom training post and pre-season workouts to prepare athletes for their next level whether professional, college, varsity or AAU basketball.

National Street Basketball Association coordinates with elected officials, district leaders, local community and outreach organizations that support youth in sports. The company also sanctions local, regional and national "Street-ball" tournament organizations worldwide. Beginning the summer of 2009, the NSBA will host "Pro-Ball Classic", an unlimited men's basketball tournament nationwide through which they will select, try-out and establish the first six (6) member teams to represent their city and compete in their professional league. Each tournament city is divided in three (3) divisions, East Coast, West Coast and the Midwest with plans of adding a Men's International Division by 2010 when the league tips off.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I want to salute the 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees to the National Street Basketball Association, our Playground Legends of Street Ball: Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Ernie Brown, Freddy Crawford, Miles Dorch, Howie Evans, Artie

Georges, Leroy Hendricks, Bobby Hunter, Zack Husser, John Isaacs, Floyd Lane, Johnny Matthis, Bob McCullough, Tony Rosa, and Reggie Threat Sr. Congratulations to my all of my friends and role models that grace the courts of our playgrounds and basketball Courts throughout Harlem, New York City, the Nation, the world and in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

For two consecutive weekends in October 2009, the National Street Basketball Association will launch its first nationwide annual fundraiser initiative, "Hoops For Hope." This unique instructional basketball skills clinic will provide for young male and female athletes with the basic fundamentals of basketball, refine those skills already learned, Life-Skill workshops on Drug Prevention, Peer Pressure, Conflict & Resolution and allow for drills and play situations. This initiative will not only educate but rally the support of these youth athletes and further assist the American Cancer Society's efforts to help those suffering from this disease, become fearless and overcome it.

This spectacular event plans to feature guest speakers from the medical field, professional athletes from the NSBA, and district and community leaders in support of raising awareness of Cancer, encourage screening for early detection and promote basketball as an alternative to destructive leisure time activities and way to stay physically fit for life. In addition, the American Cancer Society Teen Challenge will conduct Health Workshops on Tobacco Control and Teen Smoking.

Let me congratulate and recognize Kim Champion, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Street Basketball Association. Kim is a former veteran Sports Executive, President of Creating Athletes For America Inc. with over 20 years of sports marketing and management expertise. She is also the founder of Women of Excellence Awards, Playground Hall of Fame, and the "Pro-Ball" National Basketball Classic tournaments.

Finally, let me also congratulate and recognize Jose Morales, Executive Vice President of the National Street Basketball Association. Jose, a legendary basketball executive in his years of basketball has headed up some of the biggest Street ball leagues on the East Coast, such as Triple Threat/Ron Artest Youth League and the FLAMES and Queensbridge Unlimited Pro-Leagues. He also helped promote and showcase some of NBA's top athletes in the league today including: Ron Artest, Rafer Alston, Lamar Odum, Eric Barkley and other all stars of the hardwood.

INTRODUCING THE CONGRESS 2014 COMMISSION ACT OF 2009

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Congress 2014 Commission Act of 2009. This bill establishes a commission to study and make recommendations on the size of the House of Representatives, the method by which representatives are chosen, and opportunities for greater citizen participation in our democratic process.

The fact of the matter is that the United States is the second least representative de-

mocracy in the world. The House of Representatives has not changed size in 99 years. During those 99 years the United States has added four additional states. During those 99 years the population of the United States has tripled. And yet, during those 99 years, the House has only rarely even considered increasing its size.

The United States prides itself on the success of our democratic experiment, and as the world's first democratic Nation we claim the title of "Leader of the Free World." Unfortunately, when it comes to democratic representation, we are not the leader. Indeed, we are second to last amongst the major democracies. Only India, with a population of almost 1.2 billion people, has a less representative government. Britain, France, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Japan, Australia, Nigeria, Brazil—all these countries have more representative legislatures than the United States.

I am proud to represent almost 700,000 residents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District. I am pleased to devote my time and efforts working here in Washington on their behalf, and I do enjoy the opportunities that I have to connect directly with my constituents back home. But my counterparts in the countries I just mentioned represent far less people than I do, ensuring that their constituents not only have easier access to their representatives but also the ability to develop stronger personal relationships.

Madam Speaker, 99 years is too long to go without making necessary improvements to our democratic process. Enlarging the House of Representatives is an essential step in that direction. An increase in the size of the House will have a profound impact on our political system. The benefits include greater access and personal interaction for our constituents, reduced campaign spending, smaller Congressional districts, and, most importantly, better representation for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN RUNYON

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jean Runyon, someone who helped shape the Sacramento community for more than 50 years. Jean was a dear friend and tremendous advocate of Sacramento. I know that countless people join me as I say goodbye to a truly wonderful person. I ask that my colleagues join with me in remembering a remarkable woman.

Jean was born March 6, 1927, in Concordia Kansas. She was the only child of Rowena Thornberg Hamilton, an actress, and Brutus Kerr Hamilton, a 1920 U.S. decathlon champion and Olympic silver medalist. Her father moved the family to California where he worked for the University of California Berkeley for 32 years as both a track and field coach and athletic director. Her father gave her the limitless energy she was always known for and was the one closest to her heart.

Jean studied drama at the UC Berkeley and wanted to be an actress, but instead of pursuing a career in acting she married S. Mercer

Runyon Jr., her college sweetheart, and moved to Sacramento in 1947. They would have two wonderful children, Stephen Runyon and Elizabeth Mulligan. Jean's first attempt at public relations came when Sacramento newspaper executive Eleanor McClatchy asked her to help the Music Circus Theater get publicity. Jean was acting in the Music Circus performances at the time and blended her knowledge of acting and natural skill at publicity with great success.

She was a woman who knew many firsts. After starting her own PR firm in 1960 she was named Man of the Year by the Sacramento Public Relations Round Table in 1962. In 1978 she was the first woman appointed to the Sutter Community Hospitals board of trustees. Jean also became Sacramento's first female Rotarian. In 1988 she was named Sacramentan of the Year by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Jean raised millions of dollars over the years for many worthy causes such as the American Heart Association, Make-a-Wish, the Cerebral Palsy Association, the American Lung Association, the Special Olympics and the arts community that she so dearly loved. She was one of the kindest people Sacramento ever knew, but at the same time was driven in her pursuit whether for donations to charity or a client's success. While she had a personality that won business clients over, she also never lost her whimsical side. She was famous for her zany rooftop performances as a witch on Halloween—she rained candy on kids from above—Jean Runyon was affectionately called the "Good Witch of River City".

Her first husband, Mercer Runyon, died in 1970. That same year, her father passed away and she also underwent major surgery for breast cancer. She persevered through her tragedies with the can-do spirit that we all loved. In 1980 she married Philip Tow, a prominent air-pollution control engineer who unfortunately died in 1986. Jean later married again to Eugene Graham, who passed away in 1991. Her last husband, Jack Murphy, a retired insurance executive passed away in 2003. For all the challenges that Jean was presented with, it was clear that personal tragedies could not keep her down. She moved forward, never wavered and persevered with a positive outlook on life.

The successful Sacramento PR firm that Jean began in 1960 was joined by Estelle Saltzman and Jane Einhorn and was called Runyon, Saltzman and Einhorn. Their presence in Sacramento was enormous. Some of their major clients included The Sacramento Bee, California Department of Health Services, California Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair, Sacramento Cable and the Sacramento Kings. One of Jean's favorite PR campaigns was for the Sacramento County Measles inoculation campaign when the vaccine first became available. She felt some of her best work was for campaigns on teen pregnancy, AIDS, anti-smoking and prenatal care.

Jean is survived by her two children, son Stephen Runyon of Courtland and daughter Elizabeth Mulligan of Hood, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. We will all miss Jean Runyon terribly and in so many ways, but we do have countless memories of her to cherish.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLOWER MOUND AND THE FLOWER MOUND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the partnership between the City of Flower Mound and the Flower Mound Chamber of Commerce, and to honor the businesses that reside there.

I am proud and grateful to be given the opportunity to represent the strong communities and businesses of north Texas. This pride, however, comes from the energy, creativity and commitment by the individuals within these neighborhoods and institutions that contribute to the growth and opportunity we are blessed to receive in calling this area home.

It's because of cities like Flower Mound and businesses like the ones present tonight that north Texas is able to claim the rare title of being one of the few areas that has retained its economic health in this rough economic climate. The forward-thinking partnership between the city of Flower Mound and the Chamber of Commerce has produced an ideal environment for business prosperity that has remained strong, that sustains the community. That is certainly something to be proud of.

Flower Mound has created, in essence, a haven for new businesses and an environment where small and large businesses alike can take root, grow, and thrive. You are a bright spot in north Texas, and a true example of excellence for the rest of the nation.

I am with great pride that I stand here tonight to join in celebrating the prosperity of Flower Mound. I wish you—the local leadership, the businesses, and the residents—all the best, and let me say that it is my very distinct honor to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### HONORING ELLIE RILLA

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellie Rilla, a woman who has helped lead the way to a new model of sustainable agriculture in Marin County.

Ellie is now taking a much needed sabbatical after 21 years as a University of California Extension Farm Advisor. In those 2 decades, Ellie was one of a handful that brought together the old-time farmers of the region with a new generation and created a unique fabric that has held the farm community together during difficult times for agriculture, and has in fact, helped many not just survive, but grow.

I am proud to say that the quality agricultural products of Marin County are today unmatched for nutritional value, taste, and sustainable production—and much of this is due to the passionate commitment, hard-headed economic realism and collaborative spirit of Ellie Rilla.

Ellie grew up in Mill Valley where it was a short jaunt to the forests and rangelands of

West Marin. She began her career as an environmental educator at Circuit Riders, a Sonoma County non-profit that was a leader in environmental restoration, and whose ranks have produced several of the North Bay's most prominent restoration specialists. Ellie still lives in Sonoma County in Sebastopol, a city well-known for its progressive politics and its fine food and wine.

In 1988 she became the UC Cooperative Extension Director in Marin and was immediately welcomed by two of West Marin's farm elders, Boyd Stewart and George Grossi. Coming in the midst of the organic revolution and the creation of California cuisine, Ellie saw the promise of local farmers on the edge of the metropolitan Bay Area producing high quality agricultural products. She became, according to Albert Strauss, the owner of Strauss Creamery, ". . . an awesome advocate of sustainable agriculture and organic and local dairy farms." While big and bland agribusiness and real estate development continued to gobble up small farms elsewhere, Ellie saw that survival lay in producing quality products, and developing in consumer's minds a pride in local, sustainable agriculture.

As organic agriculture entered the mainstream, first with California certification, then with USDA certification, Ellie advised farmers on how to meet the new standards, write business plans and market their products. She also helped farmers and ranchers tackle tough new water quality, through the development of best practices and conservation projects, which continue to evolve today.

It was apparent to Ellie that West Marin's small farms and ranches needed to diversify to survive. While dairies were preeminent, though faltering, 2 decades ago, West Marin agriculture now produces an array of products including olives and olive oil, strawberries, row crops, grapes, free range poultry and grass fed beef. Besides high quality milk, local dairies also produce a variety of cheeses, and even organic ice cream.

Ellie realized that the bucolic beauty of West Marin and farmer's adjacency to the Point Reyes National Seashore were important assets. She became an advocate for "agritourism," an industry in which farms and ranches are opened to visiting guests. "These stays give their guests a flavor of what it is like to live on a farm, to see how food is produced and gain an appreciation for natural ecosystem," wrote Rilla. "At the same time it provides farmers and ranchers with additional operating income to save their farms from development." A tireless promoter of agritourism, Rilla both wrote a book about it and helped develop a UC Cooperative Extension Agritourism Project and website.

On June 30 she will begin a very busy sabbatical with three writing projects. She will be writing an analysis of a state-wide survey into agriculture diversification and agritourism, completing a second edition of her book, Agriculture and Nature Tourism, and updating her decade-old case study of three woman-led farm families. Ellie is then expected to return to the University of California Cooperative Extension program in a year to develop state-wide resources for marketing and leadership development.

It's been my pleasure to work with Ellie and to observe the seeds that she has planted in West Marin to sprout, grow and spread, ensuring a bounty for future generations. Thank