

ever serve in the U.S. Military. He also was a member of the Armenian Assembly of America. He joined the United States Army in 1939 and was called to active duty as a first lieutenant in 1940 and served with distinction in World War II. He continued to serve for three decades, as a battalion commander in combat in the Korean War as well as a military adviser in the Vietnam campaign.

He was in General Eisenhower's secretariat in the Pentagon between 1945 and 1948 and an adviser to the Imperial Iranian Army in Tehran. He was captured by the Germans in Tunisia and spent 27 months in prisoner of war camps in Italy, Germany, and Poland. He retired with the rank of colonel in 1967.

Colonel Juskalian received the Army's second highest award, known as "the Legion of Merit," for non-combat service. He also received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal and the Parachutist Badge, and the combat Infantry Badge with a Star awarded for World War II and the Korean War.

Madam Speaker, I salute Colonel Juskalian for his patriotism and service to our Nation and express deepest sympathy to his wife Lucine and family on his passing.

HONORING MR. J. CLYDE HOOKER,
JR.

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a leader in the Martinsville, Virginia, community, Mr. J. Clyde Hooker, Jr., who died on Monday, July 12.

Born December 20, 1920, J. Clyde Hooker, Jr. was the son of J. Clyde Hooker, Sr. and Mabel Bassett Hooker. He graduated as valedictorian from Virginia Military Institute in 1942, and soon after, joined the allied troops in Europe during World War II. He served until 1946 when he was discharged with the rank of Captain. During his service in the Third Army, he was decorated with the Bronze Star and three campaign stars.

Upon returning from abroad, Mr. Hooker began working at his father's furniture business starting out in the factory before entering sales. In 1960, he was elected president of Hooker Furniture and during the ensuing 40 years, took the business to new heights. His ability to recognize changing trends and implement new manufacturing methods enabled the company to grow from 375 employees to over 2,000 and to increase sales from \$4.4 million to \$250 million. His peers recognized him as a giant in the furniture industry, inducting him into the American Furniture Hall of Fame in 1997. Yet, Mr. Hooker will be remembered throughout the Martinsville community for far more than just his contributions to the furniture industry.

Mr. Hooker was active as a philanthropist throughout Martinsville, helping support programs that benefitted a wide range of interests. He provided for children through his support of the local YMCA and Boy Scout troops, for the arts through his donations to the Piedmont Arts Association, for animals through his contributions to the local SPCA, and for the less fortunate through his gifts to the

Martinsville-Henry County United Way. Mr. Hooker, however, gave far more than monetary contributions. He dedicated his time to these organizations and provided them with advice and support. As one local leader stated, "He made everybody feel like they were the most important person in the world."

Most notable, however, was his dedication to his employees. His workers admired him and he treated them as equals, often visiting with them on the floor of the manufacturing plant. Additionally, he and his mother set up the Hooker Educational Foundation to provide scholarships to children and spouses of Hooker Furniture employees.

Mr. Hooker's passing, our community lost a leader and dear friend who can never be replaced. His memory will live on in all of the lives he touched. Mr. Hooker is survived by his devoted wife, Katherine; his daughter Katherine, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. On behalf of Virginia's 5th District, I honor the passing of one of our finest business visionaries and magnanimous philanthropists, and ask that his legacy be remembered for years to come.

HONORING BISHOP WALTER L.
HAWKINS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Grammy Award-winning gospel singer and musical trailblazer, Bishop Walter L. Hawkins. With his passing on July 11, 2010, at the age of 61, we look to Bishop Hawkins' personal legacy of spiritual service, the joy he inspired, and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

A Bay Area native, Walter Hawkins began an unanticipated career in gospel music when, at the age of 19, he sang with the Berkeley-based Ephesians Church of God in Christ's youth choir. The choir, directed by older brother Edwin Hawkins, recorded an album to sell locally as a fundraising effort. It exceeded expectations when the track, "Oh Happy Day," sold over a million copies as an instant pop hit. The Hawkins' enjoyed success as they toured nationally and internationally with the legendary Edwin Hawkins Singers. And in the early 1970s, Walter Hawkins decided to forge another path by entering the ministry.

In 1973, Bishop Hawkins founded the Love Center Church in Oakland where he directed the Love Center Choir. The choir's live album, "Going Up Yonder," became one of the decade's highest selling gospel albums and stayed on Billboard's Gospel Top 40 Chart for three consecutive years. The church's "Love Alive" series of recordings sold over a million copies from the 1970s through the 1990s, with "Love Alive IV" spending an astounding 39 weeks at the top of Billboard's Gospel Chart.

Throughout his prolific career of composition, collaboration, directing, producing, recording and performance, Bishop Hawkins earned myriad accolades, including a Grammy Award, eight Grammy nominations, three Dove Awards and Gospel Music's Lifetime Heritage Award. Even with Bishop Hawkins' musical success, he remained committed to his spirit-filled ministry throughout the Bay Area and the nation.

In Oakland, Bishop Hawkins' ministry enriched and touched the lives of many residents throughout the 9th Congressional District. The musical component of his teachings inspired both spiritual and artistic communities alike with its profound messages of love and hope. Bishop Hawkins was a spiritual leader, an American icon, a gospel music innovator—and he was also a close friend. It was a great joy for me when Bishop Hawkins accepted my invitation a few years ago to perform at the prayer breakfast during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. We all sat transfixed as Bishop Hawkins moved us by performing old gospel classics. It is a memory that I will forever cherish.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Bishop Walter L. Hawkins. We celebrate his amazing life as we mourn his passing. He was a friend and a great man who will be remembered as one of the most beloved figures in contemporary gospel music. Although we will miss Bishop Hawkins tremendously, his musical genius, his ministry and his abounding spirit will live on with his legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with Bishop Hawkins' brother Edwin, his children, grandchildren, and an extended group of loved ones. It is my hope that they find comfort in their deep and abiding faith during this time of loss. Bishop Hawkins will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF YERECIC
LABEL OF NEW KENSINGTON,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yerecic Label, a New Kensington, Pennsylvania company who has been honored with the Employer Support Freedom Award from the Secretary of Defense.

Initiated in 1996, the Employer Support Freedom Award was created by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an organization within the Department of Defense. The ESGR's mission is to "develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members." As a part of fulfilling that mission, the ESGR awards 15 employers nationally who go above and beyond in offering support to employees that are members of the National Guard or the Reserves.

Out of 2,500 nominations from Guard and Reserve members and their families, Yerecic Label was chosen as one of our country's top employers who take the extra initiative to support our men and women in uniform. Starting as a small labeling company out of a garage in western Pennsylvania in 1969, Yerecic has grown to accommodate the needs of customers throughout the eastern half of the United States. Along with their continued successful business practices, Yerecic has stood by and offered assistance to its employees who are on call and ready to defend our country.