

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
MR. JACK G. STONE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jack G. Stone of Hanford, California who recently passed away at 93 years of age. Over the course of his life, Mr. Stone proved to be tirelessly devoted to confronting the challenges and issues affecting the agriculture and water community in the Central Valley. His contributions to the community and to California agriculture will be remembered.

Jack was born to L.M. "Stoney" and Elaine Stone on November 11, 1917 in Corcoran, California. During his youth, the Stones moved from Corcoran to Hanford, California, where Jack first became aware of the precarious balance between land, water and farming in Western Kings County and Tulare Lake. He continued to learn about the challenges facing the area while attending Hanford High School and subsequently went on to study engineering at the University of California, Davis.

Upon his graduation from UC Davis, Jack enlisted in the United States Army to serve the country during the second World War. He became a captain and went on to successfully command an Army Engineer Corps in the European Theater. When the war ended, Jack returned home and married his elementary school sweetheart, Hilda Orchard. The pair settled on a farm in Five Points, California where Jack founded J.G. Stone Land Co., and started a family soon thereafter.

Over the years, Jack became well known as a reckoning force in the agricultural community and gained the deep respect of his peers. In the early 1970s, Jack was elected to the Westlands Water District Board of Directors, where he served for an astounding 21 years. The Board of Directors confronted many challenges, and Jack was there to stand against the federal acreage limits for irrigation in the early 1980s, to help increase the land limits from 160 acres per farm to 960 acres, and to help guide the district through the turbulent time of the Kesterson Refuge. Through all those years, Jack remained steadfast in his desire to better the agricultural community.

It goes without saying that Mr. Stone was a one-of-a-kind man. Agriculture was a true passion for Jack and he was an enthusiastic supporter of its preservation throughout Fresno and Kings County. In addition to his work in the community, over the years Jack amassed more than 10,000 acres of land, which he continued to farm until as recently as this spring. His son, Bill Stone, carries on his father's mission at J.G. Stone Land Co., ensuring that Jack's legacy will not be soon forgotten. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and respect that I ask my colleagues to rise with me in paying tribute to Mr. Jack G. Stone: a true gentleman and visionary for the agrarian way of life.

CONGRATULATING GENOMATICA  
ON WINNING EPA'S PRESI-  
DENTIAL GREEN CHEMISTRY  
CHALLENGE AWARD

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Genomatica for being selected as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2011 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award winners. As America and the world faces the difficult challenges of addressing problems with our environment, it is reassuring that there are companies such as Genomatica taking the initiative and working towards a cleaner environment.

Green chemistry is a philosophy of chemical research and engineering that encourages the design of products and processes that minimize the use and generation of hazardous substances. This technology includes improvements to the environment such as cleaner processes by using safer raw materials. Green chemistry technologies also reduce cost and in most cases are less expensive when compared to conventional chemical products.

For the past 16 years, the EPA has commemorated innovative, clean technologies by presenting its Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards. Together, the program's 82 award winners annually:

Eliminate on average 199 million pounds of hazardous chemicals and solvents—enough to fill a freight train nearly 11 miles long;

Save over 21 billion gallons of water—enough to meet the annual needs of over 820,000 people;

Eliminate more than 57 million pounds of carbon dioxide—equal to taking 6,000 automobiles off the road.

Collectively, the winners, as well as the nominated technologies, annually reduce the use or generation of more than 1 billion pounds of hazardous materials.

Genomatica received the Greener Synthetic Pathways Award for its production of High-Volume Chemicals from Renewable Feedstock's at Lower Cost. The company's 1,4-Butanediol (BDO) is one of those green chemicals. BDO is a high-volume chemical building block that is used to make many common polymers, such as spandex. Genomatica has developed a microbe that makes BDO by fermenting sugars. When this is produced at a commercial scale, Genomatica's Bio-BDO will be less expensive, require around 60 percent less energy, and produce less than 70 percent less carbon dioxide emissions than BDO made from natural gas. Genomatica is now partnering with major companies to bring Bio-BDO to the market.

Let history show that this year will be the year Congress makes progress on Green Chemistry and cleaning up the environment. All Americans want to come together to keep the environment safer and cleaner for both the present and the future. With influential companies like Genomatica leading the way, our nation is on its way to a greener tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, I attended the service and funeral of a family member and missed rollcall vote 682. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 682, a bill to cut spending and maintain existing commitments.

HUMBLE OIL FOUNDER WAS  
'STERLING' CITIZEN

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we often speak of great American like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. In Texas, there are State heroes like Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and William Barrett Travis. Similar to these great men, I would like to recognize one of Houston's most influential leaders and citizens, Ross Sterling.

On a farm in Anahuac located in southeast Texas, Ross Sterling was born on February 11, 1875. After completing a fourth grade level education, he began working as a clerk at age 12. The experience led him at the age of 21 to launch his own merchandising business. Just seven years later, Sterling opened a feed store in Sour Lake, Texas. Despite his fourth grade education, Sterling could have taught a course about the hardworking man-Work Ethic 101. In 1910, Sterling's big break came when he purchased two oil wells; leading to the charter of The Humble Oil and Refining Company, which later became Exxon.

Now the rest is as they say—Texas history. Sterling went on to open many banks, one of which was the Humble State Bank. He also was a newspaper publisher after buying the Houston Post, and owned KPRC radio station. In addition to these many endeavors, he owned several properties in the Houston area and was involved with the Houston Port Commission.

Sterling entered Texas politics in the late 1920's when then-Governor Dan Moody appointed him as Chairman of the Texas State Highway Commission. Under his leadership, the State of Texas developed its first paved highway system. Sterling became known as "the man who brought Texas out of the mud" as a result of the project.

In 1930, Sterling defeated primary opponent Ma Ferguson, former governor of Texas, in a runoff and became the Democratic gubernatorial candidate. He easily defeated Republican William Talbot to become Governor of Texas.

The story could end there, but Texas politics is about as rough and tumble as the state we live in, and just about as diverse. Controversy plagued his first year in office, mostly concerning cotton prices and oil restrictions in East Texas counties. The East Texas oil fields were booming which led to a depression in the oil industry. To decrease production, Governor Sterling declared a drilling moratorium in four East Texas counties, ordering the National