

and it is a proud monument to the greatness that we can accomplish when we harness our collective energy and resources to better our future.

HONORING LES AND CHERI CASEY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Les and Cheri Casey, owners of Mid Valley Foods, Incorporated, for being selected as the 2012 Central California Small Business Person of the Year from the United States Small Business Administration's Fresno District Office.

Annually, SBA honors Central California entrepreneurs for their contributions to the economy. Small businesses have proven, year after year, to be the greatest sources of innovation, jobs and growth for California's economy.

The Small Business Person of the Year Award recognizes a business owner who exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and honors his or her individual contributions to the community. Mid Valley Foods was selected after a competition held among businesses located within the 15 Central California counties served by the Fresno SBA. The Alliance Small Business Development Center of Modesto nominated Mid Valley Foods for the award.

Mid Valley Foods (formerly E&E Meats) was started in 1979 by Earl Casey. The company wholesales various processed and packaged meat products to grocery stores, restaurants and delis. In 2000, Les and Cheri Casey purchased the business from Les's father. They incorporated, modernized, and began to expand sales and distribution at a Riverbank facility. By 2005, it became apparent to the Caseys that the business had grown to the limits of the old and antiquated facility.

The Caseys knew that not only would they need additional operational space in order for the company to be successful, but they would also need to develop new innovative techniques to improve their overall operational efficiency.

In 2010, with the assistance of an SBA 7a guaranteed loan and the City of Oakdale, the company was able to construct a 24,000 square foot building. The new building includes warehouse space, cold storage and offices. The new location for the wholesale foods distributor will allow for triple the distribution and has already grown to expand their company from 10 employees to a current work force of 27.

Today, Mid Valley Foods serves over 300 customers from multi-million dollar accounts to local small businesses; and with less than a year in their new facility, the Caseys have already discussed the growing need for an expansion of refrigeration and freezer storage space.

Small Business Person of the Year nominations are judged on seven basic criteria: staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-oriented projects.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Les and Cheri Casey, owners of Mid Valley Foods, Inc. for this prestigious recognition and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF RON
NEWTON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Chief Ron Newton for his 50 years of tremendous service to the people of Manchester, Maine.

Every day, the men and women of our community fire departments place themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of their neighbors. At the age of 17, Ron Newton made the decision to take his place in this proud tradition. After five decades of service, his dedication to the community and his desire to help people has never faltered.

Deputy Chief Newton has been a fixture at the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department for the majority of its existence. He has contributed countless hours responding to fire calls, engaging in fire trainings, and holding safety meetings. As a longstanding Deputy Chief, the department has looked to him time and again for his experience and leadership. There is no question that Ron is a pillar in the Manchester community and a role model for others to follow.

On June 14, 2012, the town of Manchester will honor Deputy Chief Newton during a town meeting for his years of service. I am pleased to lend my own congratulations and best wishes on this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in honoring Deputy Chief Newton on the amazing milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANITA
HELLAM

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Anita Hellam on her 10th anniversary with the Stanislaus County Habitat for Humanity and her dedication to the residents of Stanislaus County.

Ms. Hellam began her housing career as an advocate for safe and affordable housing for Latino field and cannery works in Stanislaus County. Due to her efforts, twenty-seven units of affordable housing were developed and she worked to develop the Workforce Development Program to transition low skilled workers into higher paying jobs in the construction trade. Ms. Hellam worked with ten public and private institutions/agencies to take the program from concept to a sustainable program which has become a part of Modesto Junior College's technical education program. Due to the work done by Ms. Hellam, hundreds of English language learners have been able to increase their skill sets, while finding higher paying jobs in a dynamic industry.

Ms. Hellam was a founding board member and organizer of the Stanislaus County Continuum of Care. She worked closely, as a volunteer grant writer, with the Housing Authority writing the application that wrapped around all of the individual submissions to HUD. Ms. Hellam worked on the original two HUD applications which resulted in nearly \$2 million to Stanislaus County for housing and services to hundreds of citizens at risk of homelessness.

Ms. Hellam served as a Program Manager with the Stanislaus County Affordable Housing agency providing transition housing for mentally ill individuals. In less than two years, she was able to secure approximately \$1.5 million to acquire and rehabilitate a fifty unit apartment complex and a twenty unit scattered site development, which is supported with services by Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. These units will remain affordable through 2040.

Before accepting the position with Habitat for Humanity, Ms. Hellam worked with Renewed Pathways which provides transitional housing to emancipated youth. She continues to volunteer with the organization and offers free grant writing and consulting services to ensure the continuation of the program for the youth in Stanislaus County.

Since taking on the role of Executive Director with Habitat for Humanity, Ms. Hellam has brought in almost \$15 million to create affordable homeownership opportunities for the poor and working class citizens of Stanislaus County. Specifically this created seventy zero interest new home loans and more than 50 new homes were built. Under her direction, the agency contracted with the local college on three separate occasions to revitalize some of the most economically distressed neighborhoods using funding from the HUD HSIAC program. Ms. Hellam worked closely with HUD to gain certification for Housing Counseling Services, becoming the first Habitat for Humanity in the seven Western states to gain this designation. They have assisted more than one thousand individuals with a range of pre and post purchase needs.

Under Ms. Hellam's leadership, the Stanislaus County Habitat for Humanity has inaugurated two retail stores called ReStore, which created approximately fifteen new jobs and provides accessibility to low priced merchandise to the community for home maintenance and repair. The program has given donors a green means of ridding themselves of unwanted or unneeded materials that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill. Ms. Hellam also created the Windows of Hope program, which is designed to help low-income homeowners through Stanislaus County replace broken and non-energy efficient windows with efficient windows. More than two thousand windows are distributed annually. Ms. Hellam has increased the agency's profile in the community and the sustainability by increasing the bottom line of the organization by approximately \$7 million despite the sharp increase in services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me, and the Stanislaus County Habitat for Humanity, in honoring a truly wonderful member of our community, Anita Hellam.