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COMMEMORATING THE OPENING
OF THE KEY WEST MUSEUM OF
ART AND HISTORY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very important event. On August 28, 1999, Key West's historic 108-year-old Custom House opened its doors as the Key West Museum of Art and History, restored and operated by the Key West Art and Historical Society. One of Florida's architectural treasures, the Customs House will now serve as both a showcase for regional, national, and international fine art collections, and a repository of artifacts relating to the history and culture of the Florida Keys.

Originally completed in 1891 on the historic port waterfront of the island city, the Custom House was used as a center-piece of federal authority. Occupied at various times by the collector of customs, federal court, and postal and lighthouse services, the building has a long history of supporting the city's maritime-based economy. While Key West was the largest city and port in Florida, the Customs House became the center for taxation regulation and immigration.

It is crucial to note the importance of the Customs House at the national level, as well as at the state and local level. Beginning in 1898, during the Spanish-American War, this historic building housed civil service and naval activities. At one time, 104 naval vessels worked out of the port dominated by the Customs House. This occupation continued until 1976 when the Navy had to close its Key West sea base. Based on its extensive history, the Customs House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and it is truly one of the most important architectural treasures in the state of Florida today.

Now, after a restoration effort which took nine years and cost approximately \$8 million, Key West's historic building is home to the Key West Museum of Art and History. Original woodwork, plaster, flooring, stone, brickwork, and fixtures have been preserved or carefully reproduced to make the revitalized Custom House both architecturally faithful. With this restoration process came the challenge of locating historically accurate materials and craftsmen with knowledge of century-old building techniques. This formidable challenge could not have been met without the aid of the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, various state agencies, individuals, foundations and corporations. Indeed, the entire Florida community and nation at large owe a debt of gratitude to all who gave the monetary support to this undertaking.

The Key West Art and Historical Society endows the new museum with excellent educational programs, services, and exhibitions,

for children and adults alike. Housing a state of the art interactive public archive and research facility, the Key West Art and Historical Society develops programs in conjunction with the Monroe County Public Schools' curriculum, providing educational opportunities to over 8,000 Monroe County students, as well as thousands of other visiting school children and tourists.

For the "Community Opening" of the Key West Art and History Museum, the historical exhibition Remember the Maine returned to Key West and was installed in the USS Maine Room on the second floor of the museum. This is a fitting and historic placement for this exhibit, because of the building's prominent naval history. The first traveling art exhibit is scheduled to open on September 22, thus achieving the Society's goals of national recognition and acclaim.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the hard work and dedication that has gone into the Key West Museum of Art and History. As the Museum officially opens its doors to the public, the Customs House is once again the site of a historical moment for the State of Florida, as well as the nation at large. On this joyous occasion, I would like to congratulate all those who have contributed to this important endeavor, and extend my best wishes for all success in the future.

THE RETIREMENT OF REAR ADMIRAL
DONALD E. HICKMAN SUPPLY
CORPS, U.S. NAVY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost respect that we honor the career of Rear Admiral Donald E. Hickman as a distinguished officer and gentleman of the U.S. Navy. Because of his constant devotion to his countrymen, we salute him.

Admiral Hickman embodies many of the values cherished by the Navy—integrity, honor, and tradition. He instills these values into all the sailors around him. His reputation as a reliable and upstanding officer made him a pillar of the Naval and civilian community alike. Rear Admiral Hickman's accomplishments demonstrate his strength of character and adherence to the Navy ethos.

Joining the Navy in 1962, then Ensign Hickman was quick to learn the charge and purpose needed to become a successful officer. As a lieutenant and then lieutenant commander on the U.S.S. *Independence*, he served as supply support officer with great distinction. Later in 1980, he was promoted to commander aboard the U.S.S. *Forrestal* as supply officer and then promoted to captain in 1984 while at the Aviation Supply Office in Philadelphia. Promotion to rear admiral (lower half) came in 1991 as he was elevated to Executive Director of Supply Operations at the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). His advancement to rear admiral (upper half) came in 1995 as Director of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

As he ascended to the top brass of the Navy, Rear Admiral Hickman garnered many

commendations that further substantiated his stellar career. They include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, two Legion of Merit Awards and four medals for Meritorious Service.

Rear Admiral Hickman provided our Navy with more than supplies and ordnance. He provided leadership and counsel to those who had the pleasure of being his acquaintance. It is with great regret that we see such a friend and patriot leave the military at a time when leadership is so important. Best of luck to you, Admiral Hickman, in your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAULINE BARCLAY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pauline "Polly" Barclay, who is retiring after a distinguished 44-year career as an elementary school teacher in the Pacoima-Lake View Terrace area. Mrs. Barclay's commitment to education and her rapport with students of all races and backgrounds is legendary throughout the Northeast San Fernando Valley. She nurtured a love of learning in hundreds of children through the years and she is—to her colleagues and students—an outstanding example of the best our public schools have to offer.

Mrs. Barclay came to Pacoima in 1956, when she took a job at Vaughn Street School. She spent 4 years at Vaughn, and then a decade at Fillmore Street School, also located in Pacoima. Her next position was at Fenton Avenue School in the adjoining community of Lake View Terrace. She spend 23 years at Fenton Avenue, and then an additional 5 years at Fenton Avenue Charter School. This past year Mrs. Barclay taught at Coldwater Canyon Elementary School in North Hollywood.

Mrs. Barclay has often observed that "teachers must provide our children with a strong sense of values and respect for others, while providing them with the education and skills necessary to succeed." As her many honors and awards attest, Mrs. Barclay put this philosophy into practice in the classroom. In 1975, she was recognized by the Los Angeles Unified School District's Office of Urban Affairs School-Community Relations for outstanding contributions in improving relations between schools and the community. Ten years later, she was named Pioneer of the Year by the Pacoima Community Coordinating Council.

Mrs. Barclay has traveled extensively, and has made a point of sharing her experiences with fascinated students over the years. The many countries she has visited include Botswana, Yemen, Iran, Egypt, Cuba and Venezuela. I strongly suspect that Mrs. Barclay will be adding to this list during her retirement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Pauline Barclay, whose devotion to her students and her passion for life inspire us all. I wish all the best to her and her husband, Dave, children, Steve and Danielle, daughter-in-law, Darna, and grandchildren, Candace, Chloe and Sean.