

of Family and Children on Friday, August 27, 1999. Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young, along with her friends and family, will celebrate her retirement at a reception on September 18, 1999, at St. Timothy's Community Church Fellowship Hall in Gary, Indiana.

Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young has dedicated a substantial portion of her life to the betterment of the people and families of Northwest Indiana. Her distinguished career with the Lake County Division of Family and Children has had a positive impact on our community. For more than forty years, she has served as an important figure within the Division of Family and Children. She has held several positions throughout her tenure, but none as important as Division Manager with the Child Welfare Unit, the position from which she retired in August of this year.

A 1945 graduate of Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young enrolled as a student at Woodrow Wilson Junior College, which she attended for two years. In 1950, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from De Paul University. Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young continued her education by taking graduate courses at Indiana University Northwest with an emphasis in social work. Additionally, she has attended several social work seminars in Chicago as well as at the University of Georgia.

In 1958, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young began her career in social work as a caseworker at what was formerly called the Lake County Department of Public Welfare, which is today known as the Lake County Division of Family and Children. She has held several positions while employed with the Lake County Division of Family and Children, including: Caseworker with the Aid to Dependent Children Unit in Hammond, Indiana; Supervisor with the Child Welfare Unit in Hammond, Indiana; Assistant Division Head with the Child Welfare Unit in Hammond, Indiana; Assistant Division Head with the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Unit in Gary, Indiana; Assistant Division Director with the Child Welfare Unit in Gary, Indiana; and Division Manager with the Child Welfare Unit in Gary, Indiana.

After forty years of dedicated service, Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young is retiring as Division Manager with the Child Welfare Unit of the Lake County Division of Family and Children. During her tenure with the Lake County Division of Family and Children, she instituted and organized a foster parent recognition dinner, served on the Corrective Action Committee which initiated new policies and procedures within the Lake County Division of Family and Children, and chaired the foster parent training committee. Additionally, she is an active member of St. Timothy's Community Church.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young. Her large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. Her exceptional work with the Lake County Division of Family and Children will be greatly missed. I sincerely wish Mrs. Vera Lillard-Young a long, happy, and productive retirement.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BILL MEDEIROS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a beloved and fondly remembered man. Bill Medeiros, a native of San Benito County, was a longtime rancher and cattleman who embraced the rural lifestyle of the county and helped to shape its image during his life-long residence. Mr. Medeiros passed away in August at the age of 76.

Bill Medeiros was noted for his active interest in the history and traditions of our community. Born and raised in the rural community of San Benito County, he served as the director of the San Benito Saddle Horse Show for 46 years, always embracing and upholding the county's historical traditions. His devotion to maintaining the rural roots of the county was a life-long pursuit of Bill's that was only interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II as a pilot in the 389th Bomber Group.

After his heroic tour of duty, including many hazardous missions over Europe, Bill Medeiros returned to his cherished county and his rural lifestyle as a cattleman and rancher. Bill was a member of the San Benito County Cattleman's Association for which he was also elected president.

In the San Benito County, an original cowboy and local hero is lost. My thoughts remain with his family.

HONORING FATHER DAJAD DAVIDIAN

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the most honorable and well-respected individuals in the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, Father Dajad Davidian. This past Sunday, September 12, marks the thirty-first anniversary of Father Davidian's arrival to the St. James Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown, Massachusetts. Sadly, however, it also marked his retirement, and the end of a remarkable career of a man who unselfishly dedicated his life to serving his parishioners and his community.

The son of Rose Davidian, an Armenian Genocide survivor, Father Davidian has been a courageous voice in the Armenian-American community for many decades. For the last thirty years, he has provided his parishioners with strong leadership that has resulted in the church playing an active role in various projects to aid the people of Armenia. During his tenure, the people of St. James have regularly held food drives and other activities that have raised money for the Armenian Relief Fund.

Father Davidian is a man of great tolerance, respect and integrity. His strong conviction to love his fellow man is a model that all should follow. It is a principle that Father Davidian

taught wherever he went. Recently, he spoke to students at Watertown High School. The theme was "Respect for Differences Day" and Father Davidian, reflecting on his personal experiences with discrimination, set the tone by telling students to "judge the individual, not the group".

Father Davidian has dedicated his life to helping others discover goodness and the spirit of generosity. He is a man of vision and a man of compassion. The impact of his work has traveled well beyond Watertown and is felt by countless people around the world. His work was truly a labor of love.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous gratitude that I stand before Congress today to honor such a man, and I want to sincerely thank Father Davidian for all his service to the community and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

THE POCKET PARKS PROGRAM IN PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the City of Paramount, California, and its Pocket Parks Program for winning the U.S. Conference of Mayors' City Livability Awards competition. The program led 17 semifinalists nationwide to win this very prestigious honor, which was presented by Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The Pocket Parks Program is yet another innovative approach that Paramount has taken to improve the quality of life for its residents. In 1996, the City began the program as a way to make unsightly vacant lots into safe, attractive public spaces for residents. These lots are privately owned and located on major boulevards. Not only were the vacant lots eyesores, they posed potential public safety problems.

The City entered into a partnership with the private owners of the lots and assumed responsibility for landscaping the lots. As a result of the Pocket Parks Program, Paramount has increased its park space by two acres at a fraction of what it would have cost to acquire the land for open space. Today, more children in Paramount have safe, well-kept places to play. Residents have more park spaces within walking distance. And Paramount's appearance more closely matches the reality that it is a great place in which to work and live.

The award won by the Pocket Parks Program is simply the latest example of Paramount's innovative, successful efforts to revitalize itself. By forging a partnership with the private sector in the Pocket Parks Program, Paramount showed its willingness to find innovative solutions that do not rely entirely on government. Because of the optimism and hard work of its residents, Paramount has turned itself around in the past two decades. The City Livability Award is well-deserved recognition of Paramount's latest success. I praise the people of Paramount and their progressive City Council and city management.

Trees and parks help make a city. Keep going, Paramount.