

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are forgotten far too often. My colleagues and I are committed to protecting veterans' programs and ensuring that our nation honors its commitment to our men and women in the military. To do anything less would be to abandon the very principles that veterans fought so hard to preserve.

We are committed to securing our veterans' future and are working now to provide funding to honor our promise to them. Last week the House of Representatives approved the Veterans Administration/Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which contained a \$1.7 billion increase for veterans health care, totaling \$196 billion.

Yesterday, Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, which expands veterans eligibility for care and dramatically improves the care provided to veterans in their homes. The expanded care includes geriatric evaluations, nursing home care, adult day health care, and other types of home health care. The act also requires the Veterans Administration to operate and maintain a national program of extended services.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act coupled with the funds provided in our annual veterans appropriations legislation, affirms our nation's appreciation for our aging veterans and our commitment to provide them with the health care they will need in the coming years. I thank my colleagues for supporting veterans by voting in favor of this crucial legislation.

MR. RAY ARVIZU, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE U.S. HCC

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ray Arvizu's recent election to Chair the Board of Directors for the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). I am confident that the experience, knowledge and passion Mr. Arvizu brings with him will ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of the USHCC.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Arvizu has pledged his time and talents to promote and elevate marketing to Hispanics. In recent years, Mr. Arvizu has guided his company, Arvizu Promotions and Marketing Events, in Phoenix, Arizona, onto the short list of Arizona's most successful ad agencies. From the beginning, hard work and dedication to be the best have been Mr. Arvizu's hallmark.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Arvizu has been active within the Hispanic and local communities throughout his career. He currently serves on several distinguished boards, including: the Boys and Girls

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Club of Metropolitan Phoenix, Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the Grand Canyon Minority Council. He is also the Co-Chair of the National Community of Latino Leadership Forum and prior to his election to Chair the USHCC, Mr. Arvizu served as the Vice-Chair of the Chamber.

As the former Vice-Chair of the Chamber and successful businessman, Mr. Arvizu has demonstrated the foresight and creative energy which make him an asset in all his endeavors. Without a doubt, these traits will serve him well as he continues to fulfill the USHCC mission: To advocate, promote and facilitate the success of Hispanic businesses.

I wish him the best of luck as he leads the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce into the new millennium.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF ARMENIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (NCOA) for their performances around the world and genuine cultural representation of their country.

The NCOA consists of 25 of the most accomplished instrumentalists in the young republic under the baton of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian. They have been honored with great success in the past, such as representing Armenia in 1997 at the Cultural Capital of Europe Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece. And in December 1998, the orchestra released a compact disk through PolyGram/Germany presenting a synthesis of ancient and contemporary works of Armenian composers. At home, the NCOA performs every third week at the Komitas Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan. In addition, the orchestra performs around the globe and has toured Europe, South America, and the United States.

Conductor Gharabekian was born in the Old World in 1955 and moved to the United States as a youth. He received his Master's Degree in Music Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and engaged in postgraduate studies at Mainz University in Germany. Maestro Gharabekian's numerous honors include the Lucien Wulsin Performance Award for the best concert aired on National Public Radio; the American Society of Composers' Award for adventuresome programming; the Harvard Music Association's "Best Performance Award," and the Boston Globe's "Best of the Year" designation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the achievements of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, for being one of the leading instrumental groups of the Republic of Armenia and sharing such beautiful cultural music across the world. It is Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian's exceptional leadership and devotion that has warranted this recognition, and has led to the success of the orchestra. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Chamber Orchestra of

Armenia and Conductor Gharabekian many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 429. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

HONORING COAST GUARD VOLUNTEER JIM CLOUD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the citizens of Crescent City in honoring Jim Cloud, who for 6 years served without pay as Crescent City Harbor's sole marine safety examiner for the U.S. Coast Guard.

During the August district work period, Jim was honored by his volunteer peers and the Coast Guard for his dedication to marine safety. Indeed, Jim was known for taking his job seriously and, as the Coast Guard said during the ceremony honoring him, Jim "contributed to the overall safety of more than 425 fishermen and 170 fishing vessels."

Crescent City Harbor is home to more than 25 percent of the fishing vessel fleet between the Oregon border and San Francisco Bay. The coastal waters fished by these vessels are treacherous and the weather ever-changing. As such, the role of the marine safety examiner is critical to ensuring that commercial vessels are seaworthy and prepared for any emergency.

For Jim, the work was a labor of love. Coming from a long family history of seamen, Jim joined the Brookings Coast Guard Auxiliary in the mid-1980's. During his tenure, he assisted the Coast Guard in search and rescues and teaching boating and safety classes.

But, in particular, his service as a marine safety examiner will always be remembered and appreciated. In conferring its Award of Operational Merit, the Coast Guard acknowledged that Jim's efforts "helped reduce the number of fishermen deaths, injuries, as well as property loss and environmental damage."

To which Jim replied "I feel good about doing my little part. It was a good deal for the harbor and a good deal for me."

Thank you, Jim, for a job well done.

TRAGEDY IN TAIWAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in great sadness to recognize the enormous

tragedy that has stricken the citizens of Taiwan. I extend condolences to the Ambassador and the numerous families that have been devastated by this earthquake. The people of this country have been great allies to the United States and their ongoing struggle for independence parallels the many perils experienced by my people here in this country.

I have visited Taiwan on numerous occasions and have always been warmly received by both its government officials and private citizens, and believe that it is only right that I continue to carry the torch of friendship during their time of need. While the United States is currently recuperating from the aftermath of its own natural disaster, it is important that we share in Taiwan's grief. I have personally been in contact with the Ambassador and have pledged my full support toward helping them recover from this tragedy. I ask my colleagues in the House to follow my act of solidarity and pledge their support to our comrades in Taiwan.

THE HERMELIN BRAIN TUMOR CENTER—NEW HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this year in the United States some 20,000 new cases of primary brain tumors will be diagnosed, and more than 100,000 cases of cancer migrating to the brain from a different site will be found. Traditional treatment regimens of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation have not stopped the natural progression of the disease in far too many cases, and new therapies are desperately needed.

Finding new treatments often means years of laboratory investigation, followed by both clinical trials and the examination of results, before such therapies can be deemed successful and made available to patients. Speeding up this process is of vital importance to innumerable cancer patients. With this in mind, friends and family of David B. Hermelin have pledged \$10 million to launch a brain tumor research center at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, David Hermelin is the United States Ambassador to Norway, and earlier this year he was successfully treated for a brain tumor. Currently, he is undergoing therapy at the Henry Ford Hospital. The funds donated in his name will launch the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center, housed within the Department of Neurosurgery. The center will be directed by Mark L. Rosenblum, M.D., Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, and by Tom Mikkelsen, M.D., of the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery.

"The center at Henry Ford Hospital is now positioned to make a significant impact on this disease," said Dr. Rosenblum. "With state-of-the-art technology for diagnosis and surgery, with continual ability to provide the most advanced surgery and treatments available, and with new discoveries from our research team, we are confident we will be able to change

life-threatening brain tumors into a chronic, controllable disease like diabetes."

The Hermelin Brain Tumor Center will support three main areas of novel investigation to help control brain tumors: (1) antiinvasion therapy (which stops a tumor from invading healthy brain tissues), (2) gene therapy (which uses scientifically engineered viruses which recognize and kill cancer cells), and (3) antiangiogenesis (which stops a tumor from building its network of blood vessels, effectively starving it). In addition, the Center will sponsor annual brain tumor workshops focusing on each of these three areas of research. Brain tumor scientists from around the world will be invited to share their knowledge and compete for a research grant, thus providing new ways to share novel findings and to use these findings to fund research that will bring new treatments to patients in the most rapid possible manner.

Mr. Speaker, David Hermelin is an outstanding citizen of our Nation, and as United States Ambassador to Norway, he has made an important contribution to strengthening traditional good relations between our country and Norway. In addition, he is a leading philanthropist who has spearheaded major fundraising efforts which have garnered millions of dollars for academic, medical, civic, religious and charitable organizations. The Hermelin Brain Tumor Center is a fitting and unique recognition of his generous contributions. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Ambassador David Hermelin and recognizing the importance of the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on September 21, 1999.

If I had been present for rollcall No. 427, I would have voted "yes" if I had been present for rollcall No. 428, I would have voted "yes" if I had been present for rollcall No. 429, I would have voted "yes"

RECOGNIZING ED HARRIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the hard work and tireless dedication of Principal Ed Harris to Edwardsville High School. He was recently named Illinois Principal of the Year by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. School District Superintendent, Ed Hightower, praised the principal's work. "[Harris] has made positive changes at the High School and has proven quality leadership in this position"

Ed Harris will continue his outstanding work this year at Edwardsville High School. His

goals for the year will include maintaining the safety of students and staff, and ensuring that the administrators are visible and available to students.

A principal like Mr. Harris shows us what a difference individual attention and caring can do for our schools and our children. I would like to thank him for his great contribution to the school and the community.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB REED

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to recognize Bob Reed, who over the past 25 years has become a local institution as the "chairman of the bar" at one of the most pleasant eating establishments on Capitol Hill, the Monocle.

Nearly a generation of Members of Congress and others who toil on the Hill have found refuge in Bob's company. He is that rarest of personalities in this town: strictly non-partisan and unopinionated, a sympathetic ear for anyone, regardless of their politics or philosophy. For 25 years, he has always met his guests on a positive note—even during those times when there wasn't much to be positive about.

Bob was raised in West Virginia and enlisted in the Navy during World War II. He has resided in Washington since 1951. Since joining the Monocle in September 1974, he has been a friend to me and many other Members of Congress from both parties.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you and my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bob Reed on his career milestone, and thank him for providing a quiet harbor from turbulent political seas.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF ROSA VERRETT WILSON

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Ms. Rosa Verrett Wilson from Southwest Administration of the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Wilson worked for the Southwest Administration for 18 years before her retirement on June 30, 1999. During her long tenure with Southwest Administration, she never received a complaint about her work. Prior to her work with Southwest, Ms. Wilson spent 15 years working with Blue Cross of Southern California and 12 years in fashion in Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Wilson's good works are an inspiration to us all. For 24 years, Rosa Wilson has been a member of Mount Moriah Church. She met her husband, Brother Jordan H. Wilson, at Mount Moriah and has served on many church auxiliaries and committees. She has been a Sunday School teacher for the Nursery and