

Our men and women in uniform and their families owe him a special debt of gratitude for his hard work in improving their quality of life over the course of his career. As the director of the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, and as superintendent for Department of Defense overseas schools in Panama and Cuba, he raised the quality of these school systems to sterling heights. In doing so, he earned the respect and confidence of all those he served.

I know that his recent efforts as the director of support and deputy executive director of congressionally mandated Commission for Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance contributed significantly to the enactment of legislation this year that greatly improves the benefits for servicemembers and veterans.

He did very important work as the Federal Advisory Committee Act official for the President's panel on the disposition of Vieques. This sensitive position required the utmost in personal and professional integrity which he embodied throughout.

In these executive level positions, Mr. Nevarez displayed impeccable character and leadership worthy of the Senior Executive Service rank he holds. He epitomizes the value of including everyone in the government of our country and the values of fair play that are a tradition in our culture.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the best as he moves into another phase of his life, and I am sure that he will be as successful as he has been in Government.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day. In the past decade, Taiwan has achieved remarkable economic and political growth. Taiwan enjoys one of the highest standards of living in Asia, and its people enjoy all the political freedoms of a full democracy.

I am pleased to learn that the Taiwan Government has been doing its best to assist all those that have been affected by the September 21 earthquake. Because of Taiwan's progressive leadership I feel certain the recovery from the earthquake will be swift.

My thoughts and prayers are with the good people in Taiwan during this difficult period in their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY
RUSSO

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who exemplifies the essence of public service.

Anthony Russo has made significant contributions as a leader in Union, New Jersey for many years. After receiving his law degree from Rutgers University and becoming a member of the Union County Bar Association, Mr. Russo was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He served as a Union Township Committee member for 27 years, Mayor for nine terms, and New Jersey Senator from 1978 to 1981. Mr. Russo is the current Union County Adjuster—a position he has held since 1972.

Mr. Russo is a pillar of society who has illustrated genuine dedication to cancer-fighting organizations and with Union Township's youth. He was an original organizer of the Boys Club of Union, now known as the Boys and Girls Club of Union, and served in several leadership positions within the group for many years. In addition, Mr. Russo has volunteered his fund raising efforts on behalf of cancer research for the Union County Chapter of The American Cancer Society as well as the March of Dimes, Boy Scouts, Mental Health and the American Red Cross.

Mr. Russo's dedication has earned a great deal of acknowledgment by numerous political, civic, and community organizations. Indeed, he is a hard worker whose selfless efforts continue to be an inspiration to his community. Please join me in thanking him for bringing real leadership to Union, New Jersey and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING RAYTHEON SYSTEMS
COMPANY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary company in my district—Raytheon Systems Company.

Since 1956, when Raytheon Systems Company located in Santa Barbara, the impact of the Company's vision and commitment to our community has been known. The employees of Raytheon for the last four decades have been consistently working to make Santa Barbara a better place by their involvement in their children's PTAs, scout troops, and churches. Raytheon has also been very involved with local youth through their sponsorship of career fairs, mentoring and shadow programs. Raytheon and its employees are most recognized for their support of local public education by the donation of countless computers and copiers through the Adopt-a-School program and the Computers for Families Project. Their contributions to schools and to our children have been recognized by the Santa Barbara Industry Education Council and many other organizations committed to education.

Equally important has been the personal involvement of the top management of Raytheon in United Way annual campaigns. Over the last 23 years, hundreds of Raytheon executives and employees have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to United Way fundraising, allocations review and Day of Car-

ing activities. The Company and employees have also contributed millions of dollars to the Health and Human Services network in South Santa Barbara County that provides a helping hand up to more than 60,000 local residents annually.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join the United Way in recognizing Raytheon Systems Company. The Company and its employees have made immeasurable contributions to the City of Santa Barbara. I believe that the spirit of generosity and leadership shown by Raytheon Systems Company is an example for the Nation.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY
RECOGNIZES JIM GRATTON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jim Gratton, who has served the labor movement in a variety of capacities for 44 years. Mr. Gratton has led local union members as business manager of Local Union 400 and as president of Monmouth/Ocean Building Trades.

In 1974, Mr. Gratton negotiated a maintenance agreement for the building trades at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. Prior to this agreement there was no union involvement in any maintenance or shut down work. Mr. Gratton also went to work negotiating the development of a second nuclear plant at the Oyster Creek site, and the project's labor agreement went on to set the standard for such agreements across the country.

Under Mr. Gratton's leadership Local 400 grew in the 1970s and 1980s. He worked to establish a residential program that enabled the local unions to have greater control of its jurisdiction. His administration promoted both an annuity fund to secure better retirement packages and a Trades Assistance Program to aid union members suffering from drug and alcohol abuse.

Recognizing the need for qualified linemen, Mr. Gratton convinced Northeast Apprentice Training program to use Local 400's property as the site for their school. Line apprentices still learn their basic skills at this facility. He also promoted the Monmouth and Ocean Development Council and received their "Man of the Year Award" in 1992. He is the 1998 recipient of the Alliance for Action's Silver Gull Award.

In 1998 Jim retired from his IBEW positions and from the presidency of the Monmouth and Ocean Building Trades. During his three decades of leadership his union organizations grew in both size and stature. He serves as a model for labor leaders in our state. Currently Jim remains active in rebuilding and revitalizing Asbury Park, the Charter city of his Local 400.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Gratton's community service. I extend to him my gratitude, and the best of luck in any future endeavors.