

who is retiring this month as Manager of the Lower Tule River and Pixley irrigation districts in Tulare County, in central California.

Mr. Robb was born in Garden City, South Dakota, on October 5, 1937. He attended junior college in Porterville, expressing an early interest in serving as manager of an irrigation district. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from California State University, Fresno, and his Master's degree in Geotechnical Engineering from U.C. Berkeley.

Early in his career, Mr. Robb held various positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, serving in their Napa and Davis state offices. There he was active in a wide range of issues, including watershed management, drainage issues, small dams and irrigation efficiency studies.

In 1976, Mr. Robb began work at the Lower Tule River Irrigation District and Pixley Irrigation District as a staff engineer. Only one year later, he ascended to his "dream job" of manager of the two districts. Mr. Robb took the position at a time when the Central Valley of California was facing one of its worst droughts in history, posing a challenge to the newly installed manager.

Throughout his career, Mr. Robb has been active in a number of associations, including the Friant Water Users Authority, Mid-valley Water Authority, Association of California Water Agencies-Joint Powers Insurance Authority, and Central Valley Project Water Association.

On the Tule River, Mr. Robb has overseen day-to-day operations for the Tule River Association, and helped lead the successful effort to establish a small hydroelectric power plant at Success Dam.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Roger Robb for his contributions to his field and to the Central Valley community. We send our sincere congratulations and wish him well on the occasion of his retirement.

A SALUTE TO FLORETTA CHISOM
ON HER RETIREMENT, OAKLAND,
CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to salute Floretta Chisom on her retirement from her position as the Director of the City of Oakland's Department of Aging, Health and Human Services.

Ms. Chisom's professional career, spanning more than a quarter century, began as the Director of the East Oakland Parent Participation Nursery School. She also served as Director of the District Parent Program for the San Francisco Unified School District and the Parent Education Program for the San Francisco Community College District, Assistant Director of the Life Enrichment Agency, and as Executive Director of Oakland's Community Action Agency.

Ms. Chisom also served for fifteen years as the Director of Oakland Head Start, helping the program to grow from serving fewer than

200 children to more than 1,500 children. While at the Oakland Head Start, Ms. Chisom was responsible for a number of innovative and pilot programs, including Home Base (where teachers visit families and provide instruction to parents in the home), services to homeless families with children of Head Start age, and a program to provide Head Start through family day care homes.

Since 1992, Ms. Chisom served as the Director of the City of Oakland's Office of Health and Human Services. In that role, she served as the Executive Director of the City's Community Action Agency as well as staffing a number of other city boards and commissions. She began Oakland's involvement with the California Healthy Cities program, assisted the City to develop a Child Care Plan, a Homeless Plan, and promoted expansion of programs to address homelessness, hunger, illiteracy and poverty.

In response to the termination of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), and the creation of CalWORKSs, Ms. Chisom established the City of Oakland's Welfare Reform Coordinating Committee and served as Chair of the Committee. During this time, she was appointed as the Welfare Reform Manager for the City and, along with the Community Action Agency, coordinated the development of the City of Oakland's Welfare to Work Training Program.

In addition to her career in the public sector, Ms. Chisom is also active in many volunteer organizations including previously serving as a Board Member of the Breast Cancer Fund and her recent appointment to the California Breast Cancer Research Council.

I proudly join friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting Ms. Chisom on her twenty-five years of dedicated public service, leadership and innovation to the people and City of Oakland and extend my best wishes to her on her upcoming retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNIE HENDRIX

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Veterans Day, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the extraordinary accomplishments of Johnnie Hendrix. Mr. Hendrix, a recipient of the Silver Star, deserves recognition for his valiant bravery on behalf of the American people while a member of our Armed Forces. I am proud to represent Mr. Hendrix in Congress.

Johnnie Hendrix, now 81, served in the 8th Infantry Division's 13th Regiment during World War II. While participating in an action against the German military in the Ruhr Valley, his commander was critically wounded. With concern for his commander and his fellow soldiers, Mr. Hendrix took up command of his company to lead the battle. Under his direction, a combination of tanks and infantry successfully broke the German defenses and the group captured more than 1,000 Axis prisoners.

Mr. Johnnie Hendrix is an outstanding and inspirational individual. His bravery and cour-

age during this operation and throughout his service to our country is admirable and should be commended.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE AND EDUARDO
MARTINEZ

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the vision and commitment of brothers Jesse and Eduardo Martinez, founders of Picosito.com, who have created a bilingual Internet website tailored to the U.S. Hispanic/Latino community. These first generation Mexican-American brothers established their parent company, VivaMedia Incorporated, in 1998 with the focus on educating, promoting and cultivating the online Hispanic/Latino community—regardless of income level or education.

Picosito.com provides free access to engaging, dynamic and culturally driven content including free email, news, entertainment, health, business and communications resources tailored to the needs of the growing online Hispanic/Latino community.

The stories featured on Picosito.com are exclusively written or selected because they address issues that affect the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population. The company is dedicated to identifying stories that will inform, educate and inspire Hispanics to make a difference in their lives and their communities.

Quizito, Person of the Day, and the Daily Fact are some of the unique features that allow users to test their knowledge and gain insightful information about their history, heritage and the vibrant culture of "la gente bonita."

Jesse and Eduardo Martinez are the first in their family to graduate from college, Jesse with a mechanical engineering degree from Texas A & M University and Eduardo with an electrical engineering degree from Stanford University. They credit their parents, Alfred and Socorro, who never graduated from high school, with instilling in them the courage, strength and determination to achieve academic success. Now they want to give back to their community and believe Picosito.com is the appropriate vehicle for this journey.

Picosito.com's first step at bringing technology into the Hispanic community is being demonstrated by the "Gift of Information" program, which involves donating computers to organizations that need computers and offer training in the usage of computers and the Internet throughout Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

Joining the entire Picosito.com team at the House of Blues in Los Angeles to help launch the "Gift of Information" program are Edward James Olmos and many personal and corporate friends from throughout the United States and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Please join me in honoring Jesse Martinez and Eduardo Martinez as they pursue their dream—which is now reality: providing the resources to empower Hispanics to