HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, last week the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians lost a very dear friend, spiritual symbol and elder—Doris Renick.

Doris was an active and visionary leader and the Tribe's many successes can be attributed to her tenure as tribal administrator and chairperson.

In fact, while serving as chairperson and with the help of other family members, Doris was instrumental in getting the land base in Redwood Valley redesignated from a rancheria to what is now known as the Coyote Valley Reservation. This accomplishment opened the door for obtaining housing for tribal members and to have a recreation building constructed on the reservation.

But key to the community's future was finding new economic opportunities. As such, many say that Doris' most important accomplishment was the opening in 1993 of the Shodakai Coyote Valley Casino, which now provides more than 200 jobs for tribal members and neighbors.

As a Stitie senator, I had a number of occasions to work with Doris and I can attest to her enthusiasm and caring attitude. In fact, her active involvement in a number of local, State, and national organizations attest to her interest in serving all citizens and her ability in bringing people together. Doris, for example served on the Mendocino County Economic Development Commission and helped promote county-wide projects that benefited all residents, not just her Tribe.

Doris also chaired the California Council of Tribal Governments, the California Elders Program, the Consolidated Indian Health Consorium, and the California Indian Health and Disability Board. And she took particular interest in Indian education and bilingual/bicultural programs. Interestingly, her advocacy for improving the delivery of health care came not only from her training and work as a registered nurse, but also her longtime bout with severe rheumatoid arthritis. To be sure, the disability never slowed her down.

Mr. Perrucci, the members of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and residents of Mendocino County celebrate the life of Doris Renick. She will be sorely missed, though all around us there are continual reminders of her loving and caring nature.

I join the community and family and friends in mourning Doris' passing and celebrating her life and I extend my heartfelt condolences to all whose lives were touched by her.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jean and Frank Perrucci for receiving the "Lifetime Achievement Couple" award from the Bayonne Historical Society, Inc., and for their extraordinary accomplishments in community service.

The Perrucci's, who have dedicated their time and service to the City of Bayonne for more than fifty years, are the first couple to be jointly recognized by the organization. From veterans organizations, to school charities and church functions, the Perrucci's willingness to get involved and work toward the improvement of the City of Bayonne has been exceptional.

A World War II veteran of the United States Army and the Maritime Service, Mr. Perrucci has continued to play an integral role in a variety of veterans groups. Of the many organizations he is involved with, Mr. Perrucci serves as chairman of the World War II Welfare Fund and as commander of the Hudson County Catholic War Veterans. In addition, he is president of Bayonne for the Battleship of New Jersey, Inc.

Mr. Perrucci's efforts on behalf of war veterans have not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized by the Catholic War Veterans, receiving the Hudson County Home Award and Hudson County Commanders Award, and was honored again by the National Catholic War Veterans, receiving the National Award and the Lifetime Member Award.

Jean Perrucci, a lifelong resident of Bayonne, has been a community activist for more than three decades. Never turning away from a challenge or the chance to help someone in need, Mrs. Perrucci is a wonderful role model for civic and community involvement.

Mrs. Perrucci has been instrumental in so many organizations, offering her knowledge, guidance, and experience. From serving as Chair of the “I Love Bayonne” project, to collecting food for the Make A Difference Day program, to raising funds for the Bayonne Vietnam Memorial monument, Mrs. Perrucci’s work has greatly impacted the lives of the residents of Bayonne.

Mr. and Mrs. Perrucci, the parents of four children and seven grandchildren, spearheaded and founded a grassroots organization called the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne.