

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE TEXAS SHRIMP ASSOCIATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Texas Shrimp Association on the occasion of its golden anniversary. On August 6, 1950, the Texas Shrimp Association was born out of necessity; its industry was on the verge of extinction.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration was prepared to utterly reform the industry; it was given the ultimatum "clean up or be cleaned up." While fear motivated the Association at its infancy, safety, customer satisfaction and superior businesses became the focus of the Texas Shrimp Association (TSA) as it grew with the 20th Century.

During the 50-year history of the TSA, it concentrated its energies on becoming leaders in U.S. fisheries. The growth has benefitted many more people than those associated with the shrimping industry; the industry overcame enormous challenges to contribute over \$600 million annually to the Texas economy.

Life has never been easy for those who cast their nets for shrimp. Shrimping is hard, dangerous, dirty and many times lonely. The TSA has faced legal and regulatory changes that often prove to be difficult, although the waters of the Gulf of Mexico are more treacherous than the waters of Washington.

The TSA board conducts a host of efforts to ensure the continued vitality of the shrimp harvesting industry. These efforts include: monitoring legislative activity in Austin and Washington where regulations are written that govern the industry, monitoring the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service and other agencies with regulatory authority over the industry, and working with the International Trade Commission to protect the industry.

TSA also works closely with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on activities that enhance our state's fishery resources. It monitors and responds to permit applications that affect wetlands, bays and estuaries, water quality and other environmental concerns. TSA is a group of hard-working, dedicated people.

Through it all, it is primarily about education . . . the education of consumers, of lawmakers at the state and national levels, the press, environmental groups and the public at large. It is part of a market expansion and consumer education program in conjunction with the Texas A&M University system, through which it is developing strategies related to consumer preference for domestic shrimp, and promoting quality assurance programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the men and

women of the Texas Shrimp Association for the hard work it does on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BAYSIDE TIMES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Bayside Times, a weekly community newspaper in Bayside, New York in the borough of Queens, which is hosting its 65th anniversary celebration on Thursday, July 13, 2000.

The Bayside Times was launched by the Alison family early in the last century. The first issue hit the newsstands on July 2, 1935 with the front page headline "Bayside's Own Newspaper Makes Its Appearance." That first edition included stories on local marriages and birthday celebrations, the Bayside American Legion and the Bayside Pet Show. The newspaper attracted many loyal readers and established a strong identity in the area. The "Bayside Times" was actually the first community newspaper that I had ever seen.

Then on July 10, 1989, Steve Blank, who had a vision of creating a daily newspaper that published once a week, purchased the Bayside Times from David Allison Jr., a second generation owner of the publication. Steve Blank brought years of experience in the newspaper business to the Bayside Times. After graduating with a journalism degree from Boston University, he held positions at weekly newspapers in the Massachusetts area, the Daily Record in his native New Jersey and the Post Standard in Syracuse, New York. He was also a court house correspondent and an award winning investigative reporter for the Kansas City Star. In addition, he obtained experience on the business side of the industry as a media buyer for Savermart, a major chain of consumer electronics stores.

Steve Blank used his impeccable credentials to transform the Bayside Times into a model for community journalism. Under his leadership, the quality of writing and reporting of local news events became second to none. Steve Blank also afforded local businesses and merchants, the opportunities to reach their customers in an efficient and cost-effective manner. He redesigned the periodical to give it a more contemporary look and reorganized it to make it easier for readers to find information. He also boosted the newspaper's circulation, computerized its operation and increased the editorial and business staff.

From 1991 to 1998, Mr. Blank expanded his operation to include newspapers throughout the Borough of Queens. Operating under Queens Publishing Corporation, Steve Blank

presently publishes 13 newspapers in the Times/Ledger chain.

Yes, from Humble beginnings—including loading newspapers into the trunk of his car—to winning numerous local and state journalism awards, Steve Blank has built the Bayside Times into a newspaper heavyweight in the new millennium. Yet he continues to stay on the original mission that the Bayside Times set 65 years ago—to provide local news coverage in a fair, accurate and balanced manner. Whether through the breadth of its stories, the quality of its editorials, the informative advertisements, the Q-Guide or its web site—www.timesledger.com—the Bayside Times remains on the cutting edge of community journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in congratulating Steve Blank and the entire staff of the Bayside Times and the Times/Ledger newspaper chain for a terrific 65 years of service to the Bayside community. I am confident that the Bayside Times will continue to enjoy success for many more years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARCELLA R. BROWN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Marcella R. Brown, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education. She was honored on July 8, 2000 by parents, family, friends, and professionals for her outstanding contributions to the community at the Washington Avenue Community Center in the Bronx.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Mrs. Brown moved to the South Bronx in 1959 with her late husband, Nathaniel, and their eight children. She is blessed with 19 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In 1967, Mrs. Brown began as a community organizer at L.A.B.O.R. and was there for twenty years. In 1972, she earned a B.A. Degree in Urban Planning from Manhattan College and continued her pursuit of postgraduate studies and was awarded a certificate in Health & Human Services. She also graduated with honors from the first class at NYCPD Citizens' Policy Academy, an initiative designed to build positive community relations between residents and the police department.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Brown, currently, works with the Ehrlick Residential Mental Health Housing Program assisting residents in need of supportive intensive services. She began as a Residential Counselor and for the past eleven years she has served as the Entitlement Intake Specialist. In addition, she served as

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