

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RICHARD
D. ROMERO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I announce the passing of Inland Empire businessman, philanthropist, and community leader Richard Romero, at the age of 64.

Richard demonstrated vision and entrepreneurial spirit in the Inland Empire for over 30 years, opening his first dealership, Pomona Valley Datsun, in 1970. Today his business interests include 8 automobile franchises, a wholesale auto auction and a real estate company.

Throughout the years, Richard had a large presence in the Inland Empire, both as a businessman and community leader. He believed that what makes this country great is our individual commitments to philanthropies.

Richard and his wife of 38 years, Val, sponsored and supported many service organizations and programs for children including: an annual Christmas Choral Competition which awards monetary grants to 5 area high schools, a Christmas Program which provides gifts for over 300 foster children, Assistance League of Pomona Valley, Kiwanis, Ontario Chamber of Commerce and National Charity League.

Richard was born in rural Socorro, New Mexico, September 4, 1935, son of Clara and James Romero. He began working at age 9 washing cars and working in a service station. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and for 6 years served our country in the Army Reserve Tank Corps. He then worked as assistant auditor for the state of New Mexico.

He moved to Los Angeles to work as an auditor for 20th Century Fox, at which time he also began his career in the retail auto business when he bought a small gas station from which he began refurbishing and selling used cars.

Richard was Chairman of the Board of Empire Nissan, Romero Motors Corporation, Jeep/Chrysler/Plymouth of Ontario, Toyota of Glendale and J. McCullough Corporation. He had served as a board member of the California Motor Car Dealers Association and the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Acquirecorp's Norwalk Auto Auction, Oremor Management & Investment Company and Oremor Development L.L.C.

Richard received several awards within the industry, including Chrysler Corporation's "Five Star Award for Excellence" and Nissan's President Inner Circle Award. In 1987, he was honored as the only Californian to receive the Import Car Dealer of Distinction Award. He was also the winner of the Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award and named Mr. Hispanic Business Man of the Year, 1985.

In addition to being listed in "Who's Who in California", he was also named 1987 Humanitarian of the Year by the Alliance of Latino Business Association. He served with the Deukmejian administration as a California Transportation Commissioner. He also served

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on the Board of Governors of Opportunity Funding Corporation, a nonprofit, Washington, D.C. based organization, which helps minority members start and/or expand small businesses. Additionally, he worked closely with King Juan Carlos of Spain when he served on the Board of Governors for Expo '92 in Seville.

Richard was the founder and former chairman of the board of directors of Empire Bank and also served for over 20 years on the Board of Trustees for the University of La Verne, which chose him for their 1998 President's Award. Additionally, he served on the Board of Governors for the Rose Institute of Claremont McKenna College. The Romeros had the honor of meeting and hosting several dignitaries and celebrities in their home including Chief of Staff Howard Baker under President Ronald Reagan, Former Governor Pete Wilson, Lord Roger Keyes, Sir Julien and Lady Ridsdale, and heavy weight champion George Foreman. He had also met and conferred with Presidents Reagan, Bush, Ford and Carter.

Richard is survived by his wife Val; son R.J.; two daughters Valerie and Christina; and four grandchildren with one on the way.

Richard will be missed by family and friends alike. He touched us all with his kind deeds and leadership in our community.

U.S. SHOULD SHOW SOLIDARITY
WITH IRANIAN RESISTANCE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Mohammad Khatami, the president of Iran, is scheduled to speak at the United Nations' Millennium Summit in New York today. More than 10,000 Iranian-Americans protested yesterday in front of the United Nations saying that Khatami does not represent the Iranian people, and should not be speaking at this summit.

Unfortunately I was not able to join U.S. Senator ROBERT TORRICELLI, and my colleagues in the House, CAROLYN MALONEY, GARY ACKERMAN, and GREGORY MEEKS at this impressive rally. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my strong support for the 10,000 Iranian-Americans who were in front of the UN yesterday rallying for freedom and democracy in Iran. The crowd was chanting yesterday that the true representative of the Iranian people is the National Council of Resistance of Iran, and its president-elect, Maryam Rajavi. I couldn't agree more.

The United States should not be supporting Khatami. He is not the reformer the press has made him out to be. The fact is, under Khatami, Iran's human rights record has gotten worse. Under Khatami, Iran continues to be an aggressive supporter of international terrorism. The fact is, the Khatami presidency has brought more misery and despair to the Iranian people.

I would like to send this message to all the world leaders attending, the summit: support the Resistance's call for democracy in Iran and ban tyrants like Khatami from the UN.

September 6, 2000

TRIBUTE TO MARY MIYASHITA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Miyashita, who will be recognized as the Special Honoree for Lifetime Achievement at a reception held by Asian Week on August 13, 2000. This event will honor the Asian and Pacific Islander American Delegates to the Democratic National Convention 2000.

Mary and I have been friends for 25 years and I am delighted to join her many admirers in honoring her lifetime of selfless and energetic service to the Asian-American community and to the Democratic party. I know of no one who has been more generous with her time, energy, money and even her home, than Mary has been in the pursuit of justice and equal opportunity for every individual.

Mary has served on a plethora of civic organizations. She has been a board member of the ACLU, the League of Women Voters, Women for Peace, the PTA and the Whittier Area Fair Housing Committee. She was a founding member of the Advisory Board of Meals on Wheels and of the Woman and Children's Crisis Shelter.

The Democratic Party has no more stalwart member than Mary Miyashita. Since Adlai Stevenson's 1948 gubernatorial campaign, no major election has passed without Mary's active participation. She is a true believer in representative democracy, working tirelessly on behalf of numerous local, state and federal candidates and helping tip the electoral scales on more than one occasion.

Mary has been either a delegate or an alternate to every Democratic National Convention since 1972. She served on the Los Angeles County Democratic Party's Central Committee for 20 years. Among the many awards showered upon her by grateful party organizations are Key Woman of the Democratic Woman's Forum, Democratic Woman of the Year in 1975 and "Superstar of '78." Mary is definitely a Superstar every year as far as I'm concerned.

In 1976, Mary helped found the first Asian Pacific Caucus, which has grown into a prestigious and highly effective advocacy organization. Her service to the Asian-American community is virtually without peer. She has been my confidant and advisor on issues of importance to her for decades.

In short, Mary is one of my favorite people and I am delighted to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her—for her outstanding achievements, for her dedicated work, and for her charm and her delightful personality. I am very proud to have Mary as my friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall votes 443-