

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LINDA AND JOHNNY
MILLER AND HANDS ACROSS
THE VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional residents of my congressional district. Thanks to the humanitarian efforts of Linda and Johnny Miller, hundreds of children, parents and seniors in our Napa Valley will not go to bed hungry tonight.

On Saturday, September 23rd, Linda and Johnny Miller will once again host the 7th Annual Hands Across the Valley benefit to raise funds for local food programs. The Millers have made countless contributions to our community. Most recently, they helped raise funds for the care of a little boy who was critically injured in our recent earthquake. But perhaps their greatest contribution that has touched the most lives in our Napa Valley is their tireless efforts regarding this monumental Hands Across the Valley event.

Linda and Johnny Miller have been a driving force behind the success of this benefit since its earliest days. As event pioneers, they joined Eleanor and Francis Ford Coppola as well as 49er Legend Steve Young to celebrate the first Hands Across the Valley event in 1994 at a wonderful restaurant in my district called Bistrot Don Giovanni. Five hundred guests participated in that inaugural event to reduce hunger in our county.

Thanks to the Millers, this event has grown every year. Because of their leadership and their many friends, Hands Across the Valley has donated more than \$600,000 to feed Napa's hungry families. This year's event will be bigger and more successful than ever, with nearly 2,000 guests and volunteers working together to ensure none of our neighbors are without food.

Mr. Speaker, the Millers have put their heart and soul into this worthwhile cause because they understand its importance. Despite the media perception of Napa as a community for the wealthy, more than 7% of the county's population is below the poverty level and more than 21% are near the poverty level. A recent survey by the University of California and the Redwood Empire Food Bank found that 43% of individuals seeking food assistance each month at Napa food pantries and soup kitchens are children. The average household seeking assistance has four people. More than 30% do not have a stove or oven and 28% do not have a refrigerator.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the service these two extraordinary individuals have given to our community. I commend all of those involved in this annual benefit and wish them great success

on Saturday. We are all better off because of their efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GOYA
FOODS' DONATION TO THE
SMITHSONIAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Goya Foods, Inc., and its CEO Joseph A. Unanue, for contributing the company's historical archive to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. The Goya Collection will further the public's education in important and unique ways, illustrating not only Goya's history, but also representing the histories of the thousands of enterprises started by new immigrants and their contributions to America.

The Goya Collection tells the story of how this company, which was founded in 1936 by Spanish immigrants Prudencio Unanue and his wife, Carolina Casal de Unanue, has come to occupy its present position as the largest Hispanic-owned food company in the U.S.

The Goya Collection, including scores of photographs, calendars, sales promotional materials, cookbooks, recipes, product labels, scrapbooks and news clippings, is now housed at the National Museum of American History's Archives Center and its Division of Cultural History.

This collection, the first from a Hispanic-owned business, is a significant addition to the Smithsonian Institution's holdings. It affords researchers and the public the opportunity to learn not only about the growth of a Latino enterprise, but to see how Latino culture has enriched American history. The Goya Collection tells more than the story of one company—it also chronicles an important Chapter in the living history of the Hispanic community in the United States.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in acknowledging Goya Foods' wonderful donation to the Smithsonian.

HONORING JUDGE CLAYTON E.
PREISEL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime community leader, Judge Clayton E. Preisel. On November 30, community leaders will join family and friends to celebrate the career of Judge Preisel as he marks his retirement after more than 30 years of

service in the field of law, and to the citizens of Michigan.

After receiving his Bachelor's Degree in 1951, Clayton Preisel began an 18-year career as a teacher and school administrator. During this time, he also received a Master's Degree. In 1964, he entered Detroit College of Law. After being awarded a Juris Doctorate in 1968, he began practicing law in 1969. Clayton established himself as a highly successful and competent attorney, and he continued to practice law privately for 23 years. His tenure as a private attorney ended in 1982, when he was appointed to serve as Probate Court Judge for Lapeer County.

In addition to his work in the Probate Court, Judge Preisel has been an influential member of the community. From 1969 to 1982, he served on the Imlay City School Board, and has been a member in good standing of the Lapeer County Bar Association. He has also been involved with groups such as 4-H, United Way, Lions Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Community Foundation, and many other groups dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and families.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Preisel has always tried to treat every person who appeared before him with the utmost dignity and respect. Because of the sometimes sensitive nature of his caseload, he was also dedicated to handling each issue gently and with compassion. I believe what always made Clayton such a special judge and person was the time he spent in the community, meeting with people of all economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. I number Judge Preisel among my cherished personal friends, and I am a better person for having known him. Furthermore, he is responsible for making our community a much better place. For these reasons I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Judge Preisel on his retirement.

ONE YEAR AFTER TAIWAN'S DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE OF SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just one year ago today—early on the morning of September 21, 1999—a powerful earthquake rocked Taiwan, leaving over 2,453 people dead, 701 seriously injured, and 52 missing. Immediately after the quake, the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan quickly mobilized and organized relief and rescue efforts. Assistance and donations poured in from across Taiwan and from around the world. Some 21 countries sent more than 700 experts and specialists from many fields to assist in the effort. This was an important show of

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

support and solidarity by the international community for Taiwan.

Now, a year after the tragic quake, it is possible to assess the massive assistance which the Taiwan government has taken to help those affected by the disaster. It has provided \$87 million to assist families with members who died in the quake or are still missing. Monetary compensation for families with total or partially destroyed homes has amounted to \$520 million. Through private sector funding, the government has established shelters for over 5,200 families. Some \$430 million has been allocated for quake victims for rent subsidies, and an additional \$3.3 billion has been provided for rebuilding loans for quake victims and their families. In quake-affected areas, the government has made major efforts to repair damaged roads and bridges.

Mr. Speaker, realizing that reconstruction is a long term project, Taiwan's new President, Chen Shui-bian, established a cabinet-level special commission on June 1 of this year to oversee reconstruction efforts in home design, engineering, infrastructure, and sanitation. The commission will also oversee public welfare and counseling of survivors. Members of this commission will be drawn from different government agencies and ministries. The goal of the commission is to coordinate all relief operations and to form a comprehensive plan to enable quake victims and their families to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark this anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to the victims of this horrible tragedy. I also invite my colleagues to join me in commending the government of the Republic of China in Taiwan and its leaders for their extensive efforts in providing immediate and long-term assistance to the victims affected by last year's tragic earthquake in Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT DE LA O

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of an outstanding citizen of Minnesota's Fourth District, Gilbert de la O. Mr. de la O is being honored on September 22 for his contributions to our community, as the recipient of the first National Alumnus of the Year Award from the United Neighborhood Center of America (UNCA).

UNCA is a voluntary, nonprofit, national organization with neighborhood-based member agencies throughout the United States. The program works in partnership with neighborhood centers to find solutions to social problems that prevent productive community life.

Mr. de la O, once considered a juvenile delinquent, credits his turn-around in part to the caring workers at the West Side Neighborhood House community center. For the past 30 years he has remained involved with this organization by working in the child care center and taking part in activities geared toward young people in the community—young people Mr. de la O can relate to, having once walked in their shoes.

Beyond his work at the center, Mr. de la O is active in many other capacities in our community. Whether it's teaching diversity training to the Saint Paul Police Department, serving on the Saint Paul School Board, or working with groups such as the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts or the Saint Paul Public Library, he always seems to have the best interest of the community at heart.

Gilbert de la O is truly an example of what can be accomplished when we look beyond ourselves and strive to benefit others. So many in Saint Paul have been touched by his work and I am pleased that he is being recognized with such a prestigious national honor. I thank him for his dedication and wish him the very best of luck in his future endeavors.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND RICHVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Richville, Michigan and St. Michael's Lutheran Church in that community.

In the beginning, the town and the church grew from the same source, springing forth as a haven for poor young men and women denied the chance to marry in their native Germany because they lacked property.

This sad situation in Germany in 1850 prompted Pastor Wilhelm Loehe to propose a fourth colony in mid-Michigan to be called Frankenhielf, which later became Richville, to allow Lutheran men to acquire land and money to marry, raise families and practice their faith. Richville was the last of four Michigan Franconian colonies established by Loehe. Postal authorities later renamed the town to avoid confusion with Frankentrost, Frankenlust and Frankenmuth.

Unfortunately, many of the first German Lutheran settlers who made that pilgrimage of faith to Richville left shortly after arriving. However, two families persevered and in the fall of 1851 three more families joined them, along with Pastor John Diendorfer. On the second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 1851, Pastor Diendorfer preached to the first congregation gathered at St. Michael's.

In time, the colony and the church welcomed more members. By 1875, the congregation built a second church to seat up to 500 members and later they also opened a school. Other structures followed. Since its founding, the congregation has outgrown the community, with 1,600 baptized members and 300 residents. The school now has 11 full-time teachers and 200 students.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly is a church with its foundation firmly embedded in the rock of Christian love. The guiding principles of Christianity have provided past and present members of this congregation with a spiritual sense of community that will serve future generations well, taking those who practice it a step closer to God.

HONORING ELEANOR AND FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA AND HANDS ACROSS THE VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two extraordinary residents of my congressional district whose tireless humanitarian efforts will ensure that hundreds of individuals and families in our Napa Valley will not go to bed hungry tonight.

On Saturday, September 23rd, Eleanor and Francis Ford Coppola will once again host the 7th Annual Hands Across the Valley benefit to raise funds for local food programs. The Coppolas have made countless contributions toward improving our community but none are as significant and far-reaching as their efforts regarding this monumental event.

The Coppolas' hospitality in opening up their beautiful Niebum-Coppola Estate Winery is the driving force that has made this event the success that it is. In 1995, Eleanor and Francis hosted the event at their home in Rutherford. Joined by 650 guests, the benefit gained statewide and national acclaim. Due to the event's tremendous popularity, the Coppolas agreed to host the benefit in 1996 at their then newly-acquired Niebaum-Coppola Estate Winery where 1,000 guests enjoyed Napa Valley's finest wines and foods.

Thanks in large part to the Coppolas' incredible hospitality, this year's event is expecting nearly 2,000 guests. Mr. Speaker, it is little wonder why Hands Across the Valley has now become a tradition of our Northern California community.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that the Coppolas have put their heart and soul into this worthwhile cause. Despite the media perception of Napa as a community for the wealthy, more than 7% of the county's population is below the poverty level and more than 21% is near the poverty level. A recent survey by University of California and the Redwood Empire Food Bank found that 43% of individuals seeking food assistance each month at Napa food pantries and soup kitchens are children. The average household seeking assistance has four people. More than 30% do not have a stove or oven and 28% do not have a refrigerator.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the service these two distinguished individuals have given to our community. Thanks to the Coppolas and many of their friends, Hands Across the Valley has raised over \$600,000 to feed Napa's hungry families. I commend all of those involved in this annual benefit and wish them great success on Saturday. We are all better off because of their efforts.