

important contributions to the South Bay community. They have touched the lives of many. I congratulate them on receiving this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, because of a transit problem, I unfortunately missed rollcall votes 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 29, Government Waste Corrections Act (H.R. 1827)—“yea”; rollcall No. 30, To Redesignate the Facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Greenville, SC, as the Keith D. Oglesby Station (H.R. 2952)—“yea”; rollcall No. 31, To Designate the U.S. Postal Office Located at 557 East Bay Street in Charleston, SC, as the Maybelle H. Howe Post Office (H.R. 3018)—“yea”; rollcall No. 32, Congratulating Lithuania on the 10th Anniversary of its Independence, S. Con. Res. 91—“yea”; rollcall No. 33, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, H. J. Res. 86—“yea.”

CONGRATULATING THE CHURCH
OF THE ANNUNCIATION

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Church of the Annunciation in Paramus, New Jersey, on the dedication of its restored and renovated church building. This newly completed work not only provides more space for worship and community activity, but reflects the measure of faith it brings to the community and the growth of the church congregation.

The \$2.2 million project will provide more than 8,000 square feet, reconfigured to meet the Second Vatican Council's direction for greater participation of the congregation in services. Modern lighting and sound systems have been added while maintaining the church's classic gothic design. Meeting space for parish organizations and community services has been expanded and the entire complex has been adopted for the physically challenged.

A church is, of course, far more than bricks and mortar. It is a place of prayer, worship and solace for all. As Pastor Michael Sheehan has said, the renovation project is a proclamation of the congregation's faith in the future that the Lord will continue to be with His people in Paramus.

A key element of the spirit surrounding the Church of the Annunciation has been the tradition of Christian charity. Members of this compassionate congregation have worked selflessly to help the less fortunate in the community, providing aid and assistance whenever and wherever it has been needed. They have truly embraced the Gospel according to St. Matthew: “I was hungry and you gave me

meat. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you took me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came unto me.”

The Church of the Annunciation traces its history to 1951, when Newark Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh ordered the construction of a new church to accommodate the rapidly growing Catholic population in Bergen County. Archbishop Walsh chose the site of the former House of Divine Providence, a Catholic charity hospital for the terminally ill that had remained vacant since it was gutted by fire in 1925. The Rev. William J. Buckley was assigned as the first pastor and held the first Mass in the Midland Avenue firehouse on September 14, 1952. The new church was dedicated the following March on the day before Palm Sunday. The first year of full operation saw 78 baptisms, four weddings and three funerals.

Rapid growth followed over the next several years, including construction of a rectory and the establishment of a church school for kindergarten–eighth grade. While the school closed in 1983 due to falling enrollment, overall growth has continued and the church today is the spiritual home of more than 1,200 families.

The Church of the Annunciation has been served by many distinguished clergy, but some have a special place in the memory of parishioners. Archbishop Walsh entrusted the Rev. William J. Buckley, an experienced priest of 29 years, with the important job of founding the church, overseeing the establishment of the new parish and serving as the first pastor. A practical man as well as a spiritual leader, the Rev. Buckley's first purchase was a 4-by-7-inch leather-bound accounts book in which to record the church's finances. In 1967, the Vietnam War touched the lives of the parish all too closely when the Rev. Charles Watters was killed in action. Pastor from 1956 to 1963, Father Watters was serving as an Army chaplain with the 173rd Airborne Brigade when his unit engaged a heavily armed enemy battalion. During the battle, Father Watters rushed to the front lines to aid wounded soldiers and give last rites to the dying. He repeatedly ran through intense enemy fire to rescue the wounded or give aid, and was eventually struck and killed. Father Watters received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism. The traditions and standards set by Father Buckley and Father Watters are ably carried on today by Father Sheehan.

The Church of the Annunciation has been a center of community life for generations, a gathering place for weddings, funerals and other passages of life not just for today's generation but their parents and grandparents as well. It continues to play a major role in the lives of its congregation and will do so for many years to come. In these times of moral upheaval and increasing violence among our youth—as evidenced by tragic shootings in schools across the nation—we especially value the dedication and commitment of our churches to the guidance of our young people. This is in the best tradition of building upon the strong foundations of our American democracy.

As the Church approaches the 50-year mark, the promise of its future seems bright.

The faithfulness of its clergy, the devotion of its congregation and its dedication to Christian values are evidence of its enduring place in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Church of the Annunciation on nearly half a century of serving the spiritual needs of its congregation, and wishing this church and its parishioners the best for the future. God bless and Godspeed.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES SCHULZ

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to the celebrated cartoonist Charles Schulz. His legacy will be remembered around the world for years to come. For 50 years, Mr. Schulz gave us the lovable characters that we could identify with, the Peanuts Gang.

I would also like to inform my colleagues of Schulz's generous contributions to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation in Bedford, Virginia. The Foundation is a group of veterans and volunteers designated by the U.S. Congress to build and maintain a memorial to Allied Forces who invaded the Normandy coast of France on June 6, 1944. The Foundation is charged with designing, building and operating a national memorial that will provide a place of reverence and solemnity honoring those who sacrificed so much on D-Day. The Foundation is committed to educating citizens of the world, especially young people, about the scope of the invasion; the role of individual American service men and women; the sacrifices made by the families and communities on the home front; and the critical importance and significance of D-Day.

Since its creation, Charles Schulz provided great support to the Foundation and the advancement of its goals. All donations in Charles Schulz's name should be directed, per Mr. Schultz's request, to The Campaign to Build The National D-Day Memorial and Education Center.

Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this man's support for such a worthy cause.

COMMUNIST CHINA'S THREAT
AGAINST TAIWAN

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, communist China recently issued a so-called “white paper” threatening to attack the Republic of China on Taiwan, almost immediately after a high level Clinton Administration delegation led by Strobe Talbott visited Beijing. Reportedly, Talbott told the Chinese dictators that President Clinton wanted “a constructive