

In Beaumont there were originally two Head Start Centers, one at Dunbar and the other at South Park. Mavis Bryant was the director at Dunbar from 1965–1984, and Claire Collier was the director at South Park from 1966–1984. In 1984, the districts merged and the center became known as Southerland Head Start, where Claire Collier served as director until her retirement in 1994. Two principals/directors have followed Claire Collier, Charles Vanderburg served from 1994–1999, and Gloria Harrison is currently serving.

Southerland serves the community well, and there are currently 460 students enrolled in the program. Southerland's motto is "Touching Children . . . Reaching Families," and they truly live up to that motto. They reach out to children, improving their self esteem, health, and physical development. Children at Southerland learn and grow in an environment that promotes positive experiences and an understanding of the world around them.

I believe that we must provide an opportunity for every child in America to fulfill her or his potential through participation in an enriching and challenging learning environment starting at birth, and programs such as Southerland Head Start help us achieve that goal. I would like to thank Dr. Carrol Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mae E. Jones-Clark, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Gloria Harrison, Head Start Director/Principal, and all of the other people who are serving the school with unparalleled dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Southerland has served the children of Beaumont for thirty-five years, and I congratulate them as they celebrate this milestone of achievement.

LET'S CRAFT A FAIR DEAL FOR
OUR VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I testified before the VA, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee. In that testimony which follows, I emphasized our duty to provide adequate funds for the vital programs that serve our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that the administration's budget for the year 2001 recognizes that the men and women who have served in uniform deserve an adequate budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA], and I believe that the efforts of many members of the House VA Committee and the efforts of our veterans' service organizations, specifically in formulating the Independent Budget, have been instrumental in producing a much better budget proposal than last year. I want to acknowledge these efforts.

The \$1.4 billion increase in the health care budget will assure our aging and disabled veterans who need medical care—especially long-term care, emergency care and specialized services—that their needs are a high priority. However, I join my colleagues and the authors of this year's Independent Budget in objecting to the proposal that \$350 million of

new resources for medical care authorized by the recently passed Veterans Millennium Act be deposited to the Treasury. Funds collected from veterans for the provision of veterans' health care should be used to enhance the health care for veterans—not as a substitute for appropriated dollars.

I also want to emphasize my continuing concern that the VA is not adequately meeting the benefit and health care needs of veterans who served in the Gulf war and who now suffer from various diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities. It has been almost 10 years since the men and women of our armed services were sent to the gulf! The veterans of the Gulf war are sick with illnesses whose causes and cures remain a mystery. We must not relax our efforts to fund necessary and appropriate research. I join the authors of the Independent Budget in supporting an increase in funding for VA medical research, and specifically request that the medical research budget be increased by \$65 million as recommended in the Independent Budget and that at least \$30 million of that increase be directed to research involving the health of Gulf war veterans.

As our veterans population ages, the need for long-term care increases. One means of providing access to such care is through the funding of State Veterans Homes. A new home will be opening in April in my congressional district, and already there is a waiting list. I want other areas to have the same opportunity as the veterans in the San Diego region will have with the opening of this new home. Therefore, I am opposed to the proposed decrease in funding for State Homes and urge this committee to provide adequate funding for this critical program.

I am also pleased that this administration has recognized what Members of Congress have known for years. Additional personnel are needed if the VA is to promptly and accurately adjudicate claims for compensation and pension benefits. This budget will help to provide a well-trained corps of adjudicators to replace those who are nearing retirement age. I want to emphasize that the continued loss of experienced adjudicators over the past 7 years together with an increased workload in the number of issues which must be decided in each claim have led to serious problems of quality and timeliness. The increased staffing in this budget is essential to stem the tide of deterioration in claims processing.

As a former college professor, I recognize the value of a quality education for our Nation's veterans. I am disappointed that no increase for the G.I. bill is provided in the administration's budget. The G.I. bill currently provides far less than is needed to obtain an education at a public institution, and I support raising the basic education benefit. I have joined with The Partnership for Veterans' Education, a coalition representing a number of associations advocating on behalf of veterans, in calling, as a first step, for an increase in the basic monthly stipend from \$535 to \$975 a month.

Veterans comprise about one-third of our Nation's homeless population, but only 3 percent of HUD funding for the homeless is directed to specific programs for homeless veterans. I strongly urge this committee to heed the testimony of Ms. Heather French, Miss

America 2000, and allocate \$750,000 from the HUD fiscal year 2001 appropriation to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans to provide technical assistance to homeless providers. This assistance is critically needed to help veteran specific homeless programs receive a fair share of Federal funding for our Nation's homeless veterans.

I also urge the committee to fund the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program [HVRP] at its authorized level of \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001. These programs are effective in placing homeless veterans in taxpaying jobs. They work and should be funded.

The administration's budget proposal recommends paying full disability benefits to Filipino World War II veterans who reside in the United States. Currently, these brave veterans who were drafted into service by President Roosevelt receive only half the amount received by their counterparts—U.S. veterans with whom they fought side by side to defeat our mutual enemy. I support this increase as an important step toward equity for Filipino World War II veterans.

However, more is needed. Because Congress, in 1946, rescinded the health care benefits for most of these veterans, Congressman GILMAN and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1594, to provide access to VA medical facilities—both in the United States and in the Philippines—for Filipino World War II veterans. Health care is a crucial need for these men who are now in their 70s and 80s! \$30 million is all that is required to provide health care access to Filipino veterans, with the same priority status as veterans currently using the VA. I request that this amount be added to the fiscal year 2001 budget.

As we honor our veterans during their lives, so must we honor their remembrance in death. The administration's increase in funding for the National Cemetery System will improve the appearance of our cemeteries by a long-overdue and much needed renovation of grounds, gravesites, and grave-markers. I urge this committee to fund the National Cemetery Administration and the State Cemetery Grants at the levels recommended by the House Veterans Affairs' Committee.

Again, may I say that the proposal before you represents a fine starting point. I hope that my suggestions will be useful as the members of this committee work toward a budget that gives our Nation's veterans a fair deal.

TRIBUTE TO GRAND MASTER
JHOON GOO RHEE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize a great American on the occasion of his recent selection by the National Immigrant Forum, in conjunction with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as one of 200 most famous American immigrants of all time: Grand Master Jhoon Goo Rhee.

Master Rhee, who shares the honor with such American icons as Albert Einstein,

Hyman Rickover and Knute Rockne, is the sole immigrant of Korean ancestry to make the list. Well known as one of the world's foremost authorities on the martial arts and recognized as the father of Tae Kwon Do in the United States, Grand Master Rhee has established himself as more than just a famous instructor. But his road to success and achieving the American dream wasn't easy, nor would he have wanted it that way.

When Jhoon Rhee came to the United States in 1956, he spoke little English and had less money—\$46 to be exact. Still, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos determined to create a better life for himself. Although at first it took him a half-hour to read one page of text, he became increasingly proficient in English through discipline and perseverance, traits that for decades he has so eloquently translated from the martial arts for people from all walks of life.

Those traits also are the core of his action philosophy, a philosophy grounded in the principles of the martial arts, but applicable to everyone. It calls for people to build confidence through knowledge in the mind, honesty in the heart and strength in the body, and then to lead by example.

Leading by example is exactly what Master Rhee does. Despite his 68 years, each day as part of his daily stretching and meditation regimen, he does 1,000 push-ups and 1,000 sit-ups. Not even the fittest 20 year-old can match those feats. But the discipline, determination and perseverance involved are life lessons that far transcend martial arts and athleticism. He has enabled people everywhere to realize their potential and apply themselves successfully to whatever it is they set themselves to do. It's the philosophy Master Rhee embraced so long ago and which has stood the test of time—the same philosophy which took him from someone who barely could speak the language of his new country, to one of the world's most sought-after motivational speakers.

There is no dream too large for Grand Master Rhee, but I'm sure even he has difficulty comprehending how many millions of people around the world owe their positive, constructive ways of living to his wholesome influences.

Many of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, know first hand Master Rhee's call to realize the aspects of life larger than self. We know this because he founded the U.S. Congressional Tae Kwon Do Club and has taught more than 250 current or former Members of Congress not only the art of Tae Kwon Do, but also the art of living a healthier and happier life. We know the affection he engenders to all who make his acquaintance, whether through athletics, business or when hearing his motivational presentation.

Master Rhee's success is wide ranging. Aside from his accomplishments in Tae Kwon Do and in training world-class athletes, he has starred in feature films, authored a number of books, served as a goodwill ambassador and started a hugely successful business venture. He also is held in the highest regard as an innovator and teacher.

But perhaps where he excels most is in an area that is missing so dearly in today's world—the role of husband, father and citizen.

Jhoon Rhee departs himself with the utmost respect and dignity for those with whom he deals and with society in general. For more than 50 years, he has embraced the role model aspect of a life that comes with international renown, a role taken for granted by so many and perfected by so few. He gladly accepts the responsibility of presenting himself and his way of life as an emblem to be worn proudly.

This is not just my assessment. His contributions to buttress America's culture with pride and decorum are echoed by many distinguished citizens in and out of government. Among his biggest fans are boxing legend Muhammad Ali, Parade magazine Publisher Walter Anderson and motivational speaker Tony Robbins. Jack Valenti of the motion Picture Association of America has said, "Master Rhee defies the assumed rush of years. He is an ageless patriot, whose brand of unbreakable loyalty is seldom seen. . . ."

Our esteemed colleague IKE SKELTON says, "Master Rhee is an American treasure." Our esteemed former colleague Bob Livingston says it quite simply: "Master Rhee is one of the greatest Americans I know."

At an age when even the most industrious of people tend to enjoy the leisure of their later years, Master Rhee at age 68 continues with remarkable energy to exert his positive influence on people of all ages throughout the country and the globe. He has recently launched a new global project, the JhoonRhee.com Web site, where he continues to promote the martial arts, fitness, the healing arts and a way of life whereby, in his words, "Everybody is happy with every breath of life."

On March 17, 1992, President George Bush named Master Rhee one of his Daily Points of Light. President Bush said, "The true measure of any individual is found in the way he or she treats others—and the person who regards others with love, respect and charity holds a priceless treasure in his heart. . . . any definition of a successful life must include others. Your efforts provide a shining example of this standard."

Master Rhee's devotion to the principles of America's Founding Fathers is unsurpassed. He instills in his countrymen the Founders' vision and demonstrates the power of that vision to people throughout the world to show them the path to freedom, peace and prosperity. He understands that everyone on this planet has the right to be happy. But to achieve that happiness, individuals must accept the foundation of perfect human character that entails exercising true freedom approved by one's conscience, and never to practice false freedom licensed by selfishness.

Master Rhee is a proud American who cherishes the words freedom, free enterprise, democracy and heritage. He lives the American Dream. Indeed, he exemplifies it. He inspires all, and with a special enthusiasm toward the young, to live lives of honor and integrity. The eloquence and conviction of his message to live noble lives of grand purpose penetrates the most hardened hearts and cynical souls.

His accomplishments are legion. A 10th Degree Black Belt, he introduced the martial arts to Russia in the early 1990s, where now there are 65 studios that bear his name. He is the author of five books on Tae Kwon Do, a mem-

ber of the Black Belt Hall of Fame and the recipient of the National Association of Professional Martial Artists' Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was named by Black Belt Magazine as one of the top two living martial artists of the 20th Century and also as "Martial Arts Man of the Century" by the Washington, D.C., Touch-down Club. He has been featured on the cover of Parade, collaborated on several projects with Bruce Lee and had the lead role in the films. When Tae Kwon Do Strikes and The Silent Master. Additionally, he created and choreographed the martial arts ballet—the basis for today's popular "musical forms" competition—and invented and implemented the safety equipment used in major open tournaments, including the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

I would like to summarize some of Master Rhee's accomplishments, a truly impressive list of famous firsts. He was the—

First master to teach Tae Kwon Do in America: Master Rhee introduced Tae Kwon Do to America in 1956.

First master to work out to music: Master Rhee created the Martial Arts Ballet and gave birth to the Exercise to Music craze.

First master to invent safety equipment: Master Rhee invented martial arts safety equipment after one of his students was injured in a competition. The introduction of safety equipment enabled martial arts studios to get insurance. Because of that, parents began to send their kids to martial arts instructors, and the martial arts industry was born.

First master to promote martial arts in the U.S. through television advertising.

First master to use the color belt system: At one time, martial arts awarded only white, brown or black belts. Master Rhee introduced the color belt award system now used worldwide.

First master who also is a concert musician: Master Rhee was the featured musician with the Washington Symphony Orchestra. He played classical music on the harmonica.

First master to require black belt scholastic excellence: For more than 30 years, Master Rhee has required his students to maintain a "B" average or better to qualify for a black belt.

First master to train Members of Congress in martial arts: Master Rhee founded the U.S. Congressional Tae Kwon Do Club, where he has taught Members of Congress without interruption since 1965.

First American to open martial arts studios in the Soviet Union: Master Rhee first traveled to Moscow in 1991 to teach Tae Kwon Do and now has 65 Jhoon Rhee Do studios throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States. Learning English is a requirement for a black belt.

First to teach martial arts in America's public schools: Master Rhee launched his Joy of Discipline program of martial arts and character education in America's public schools in the early 1980s.

First Tae Kwon Do master to star in his own movies: Master Rhee starred with Angela Mao in When Tae Kwon Do Strikes. As Grand Master Lee, he is the underground leader of a group of patriots in Japanese occupied Korea.

First martial artist to train a world heavyweight boxing champion: Master Rhee taught

the legendary Bruce Lee his kicking techniques, and Bruce Lee taught him how to punch. Master Rhee then taught Muhammad Ali what Ali later called his powerful "Accu-punch." Ali used it in 1976 to knock out Bruce Denn in Munich and also in the Joe Frazier heavyweight title bout.

First martial artist to be named Man of the Century: And now, Master Rhee is the first and only native Korean to be named as one of America's top 200 immigrants of all time. Mr. Speaker, the National Immigrant Forum made a wise choice. He is a man of character and the prototype role model for the new century. I can think of few others so worthy of such a designation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 10, 2000 if I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on the Spratt Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. Con. Res. 290 instead of "yea" as indicated in my explanation.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO
MARTHA MANUEL CHACON

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the recent passing of Martha Manuel Chacon, and elder and tribal leader of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, who helped the tribe maintain its pride and traditions and simultaneously setting it on a course of future self-reliance. Mrs. Chacon passed away on March 28 at the age of 89.

Martha Manuel Chacon was born in a two-room adobe house without floors and was raised on the San Manuel Reservation in Highland, California. She was the granddaughter of Santos Manuel, the Serrano Indian leader who was responsible for holding the tribe together during difficult times in 1866, and for whom the reservation was named.

After attending Highland Elementary School and St. Boniface Catholic School on the Morongo Indian Reservation, Martha Manuel worked in any job she could find as a young adult, commuting weekly to Los Angeles when she couldn't find them locally.

She became a tribal leader and regularly traveled to the state capital in Sacramento as a spokesman for the San Manuel Band. Tribal members give her credit for bringing electricity to the reservation in the last 1950s and running water to tribal homes in the 1960s. Her strong devotion to her Serrano ancestry, culture and heritage helped the San Manuel Band improve its quality of life and set out on the path to self-reliance.

Martha Manuel Chacon is survived by her husband of nearly 60 years, Raoul Chacon,

six children, 18 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, words do not begin to convey the love and admiration with which Martha Manuel Chacon was held by her family, friends, and supporters. Her life journey stands as a remarkable testament to leadership, courage, strength and honesty and her memory will continue to inspire countless people. It is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to this courageous woman today.

THE NEW HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR
THE JEWISH FELLOWSHIP OF
HEMLOCK FARMS

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues of the dedication of a new house of worship for The Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms which will be celebrated with an open house on Sunday, May 28, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Hemlock Farms is a private four-season recreational community in the heart of the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Its 4,500 acres include state forests, lakes, deer, bears, tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a club house with a fitness center and auditorium, a private country club with an 18-hole golf course, 72 miles of paved roads and more than 2,700 homes. About a third of the population are year-round residents. The others who spend their summers or weekends in Hemlock Farms come from the metropolitan areas of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and other areas of Pennsylvania. They include a growing number of Jewish residents.

In 1971, a small group of Jewish residents met to form The Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms. Representing the heart of the Jewish community in the Poconos, the Fellowship completed the religious presence of the three major faiths in Hemlock Farms. The Fellowship flourished, and it has taken an active role as a member of the Interfaith Council. For the first 7 years, services were held in members' homes and community buildings.

Rapidly increasing membership made possible the construction of its first permanent home in 1980—designed to seat 120. By 1992, the membership had grown to more than 400. The happy result is a new Jewish house of worship and community center designed to seat more than 500. It is under the full-time leadership of Rabbi David Spritzer. It is significant that an increasing number of Jewish families residing in other areas of the Poconos outside of Hemlock Farms are joining the Fellowship.

The Fellowship conducts religious services on Friday nights, Saturday mornings, and on the traditional religious holidays throughout the year. There are also many celebrations of Jewish life-cycle events such as weddings and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. The Hebrew School and other activities of the Fellowship enrich Jewish cultural life. Through lectures, discussion groups, media presentations, socials, and auxiliary volunteer groups of men and women

serve the needs of the Fellowship and the extended community. In doing so, the Fellowship enhances the identity of the Jewish people in the midst of diverse populations.

The Pocono Mountains region and Pike County in particular constitute the fastest growing sectors of Pennsylvania today. This includes, of course, the increasing number of Jewish residents. This change could not have happened during the first half of the twentieth century because of the existence of social, economic, and educational discrimination. According to historical reports in *The Jews of Wilkes-Barre* (Levin, Marjorie: Ed.), early nineteenth century Jewish establishment in the area took the form of mercantile service to both the coal industry and commerce along the local waterways. Jews were kept out of utility and banking industries until the 1950's and 1960's.

In 1955, because of the efforts of Pennsylvania Attorney General Herbert Cohen, Pocono Mountain hotels and resorts were compelled to comply with state law with the admissions of guests or have their liquor licenses revoked. Educational institutions, at the same time, publicly stated they would no longer condone discrimination regarding admissions. Since then, people of all ethnic origins have been increasingly welcome in the area.

At the dedication ceremony on May 28, 2000, the two Torah Scrolls, presently in the old building, will be passed to the new building from member to member lining the path connecting them. One Torah Scroll that was presented to the Jewish Fellowship several years ago had been written for and dedicated to an Eastern European community that no longer exists. It wandered with the generation of the Holocaust and survived like the Jewish people.

At the presentation ceremony, the president of the Fellowship declared:

Today we will give a new home to this homeless survivor of the Holocaust. This Torah was to have been part of the collection of Hitler's Museum of an Extinct Race, a dream that happily did not come to fruition. Rather, it should be a reminder of the indestructibility of the Jewish people.

Marjorie Leven and Paul Zbiek in *The Jews of Wilkes-Barre* state:

It is certainly true that many of today's Jewish professionals and business leaders do not need the economic and psychological security of a tightly-knit Jewish society to the same degree as their forebears. It is also true that maintenance of a unified Jewish community is more difficult in today's increasingly mobile and secularized society. Local Jewish institutions, through their programming, try to reinforce Jewish identity and help ensure Jewish continuity.

On an individual and family level, the future for area Jews appears to be positive. On a communal level, Jewish institutions must meet the difficult challenge of assuring their relevancy to Jews while maintaining tradition and competing with general community activities for Jewish attention.

Members of Jewish Fellowship believe that the new building will facilitate the ability to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms, Pennsylvania, and wishing them every happiness in their new home.