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TRIBUTE TO EVELYN BANKS NEELY ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American and proud Californian, Evelyn Banks Neely, on the occasion of her retirement as director of the Income Maintenance Division of the County of San Mateo, CA, Human Services Agency.

Evelyn Banks Neely has served San Mateo County honorably and with distinction for more than 32 years. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing innovative social services, programs, including the homeless General Assistance Program, the Greater Avenues for Independence [GAIN] Program, and the SUCCESS Program, which she piloted in Redwood City. She successfully negotiated San Mateo County's first In-Home Supportive Services contract and has served with distinction as the past president of the County Administrators' Association and the San Mateo County Women in Management organization.

Evelyn Banks Neely has provided great leadership in forming Black Women in County Government, co-chairing the development of a symposium highlighting issues and strategies for preserving black families and serving as a member of the first Affirmative Action Advisory Committee in San Mateo County.

Evelyn Banks Neely has dedicated her leadership skills to many volunteer activities, including serving as past president of Delta Sigma Theta, serving as past president of Links, Inc., a volunteer service organization, serving as fundraising co-chair to provide scholastic benefits to high school graduates, and she has maintained active membership in the National Association of Black Social Workers.

Evelyn Banks Neely's accomplishments have been previously honored by the California State Senate, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Evelyn Banks Neely has earned the respect, admiration, and dedication of the hundreds of Human Services staff who have served with her during her progressively responsible leadership positions with the County of San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evelyn Banks Neely for her more than 32 years of exemplary service to the people of County of San Mateo, the State of California and our Nation. Her life of leadership and community involvement is instructive to us all. Her dedication to the ideals of democracy and public service stand tall and it is fitting that she is being honored on the occasion of her retirement. Therefore I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in honoring a great and

good woman and someone I'm privileged to call my friend and colleague. We are indeed a better county, a better country, and a better people because of Evelyn Banks Neely.

THE DEDICATION OF THE JOHN D. ONG LIBRARY

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 10, Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, OH, will dedicate a new building, the John D. Ong Library. I am pleased to note, that it is not a memorial service, but one of celebration. For John Ong, when he is not tending to his Pennsylvania farm, continues to contribute his time, wisdom, and service to our community and to our Nation.

John Ong has described himself as "the World's Most Flexible Man." But that flexibility does not mean inconsistency. Since his college days, John Ong has recognized that a knowledge of history and the humanities is essential for well-rounded citizenship. So, while John embraces change, he values the principles that guide and strengthen our Nation. He understands that committed corporate activism strengthens communities as much as it does corporate ledgers and the national economy. He is a reminder of the good things that come about when businesses and their leaders see themselves as part of the community rather than as self-interested, self-contained entities.

John Ong's career in business is a well documented story of accomplishment and service. A graduate of the Ohio State University and the Harvard Law School, John spent 36 years at the BFGoodrich Company, rising from assistant counsel in 1961 to chairman and CEO from 1979 to 1997. At a time when the tire and rubber industry was buffeted by global change, John Ong demonstrated remarkable vision and leadership as he guided and transformed his company from a tire manufacturer into a leading provider of aircraft systems and specialty chemicals.

Today, as chairman emeritus, John has not rested on his laurels, but looks to the future, most notably through his work with New American Schools, a non-profit corporation dedicated to raising student achievement through comprehensive school reform.

That devotion to the highest values in education also abides in his long relationship with Western Reserve Academy, one of the Nation's oldest and most respected independent schools. The school, like John Ong, reveres and respects the past, while keeping pace with educational innovation. Both John Ong and Western Reserve Academy are committed to excellence and high personal standards.

The founders of Western Reserve Academy hoped to create "the best institution for learning in the world." John Ong has done his part to make that vision a reality. John's service to the academy includes 20 years as a board member and 18 years as board president, directing renovations and chairing capital campaigns. During his tenure as president the school's endowment more than tripled.