

can use more outstanding companies such as Stiles Corp. I ask the House to Join me in paying tribute to a great businessman.

IN HONOR OF THE ELIZABETH WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Elizabeth Waterfront Festival, an annual event celebrating the diversity of this great country by bringing together Hispanic families from Cuba, Colombia, Honduras, Peru, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Mexico.

The festival will take place in Elizabeth, New Jersey on May 27, 28, and 29. The expected 450,000 visitors to the festival will enjoy three days of games, rides, crafts, and traditional Latin music and food.

The Waterfront Festival celebrates the history, culture, and arts of the area's Hispanic community, while also providing access to some of Elizabeth's fine resources. The waterfront is an exceptional feature of the city and a perfect place to hold a festival honoring Hispanic heritage.

In addition to celebrating the heritage of other nations, this festival celebrates America's heritage by acknowledging the contributions that made our country great—we are a nation of nations, and this festival is a fine example of why America's collective soul lives on in prosperous fashion—with this celebration, we honor our past and embrace our future.

This celebration would not have been possible without the sponsorship and support of the City of Elizabeth, Melly Mell Productions, Inc., and the Elizabeth Cubanos Lions Club. For their kind support, I extend my sincerest gratitude.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful festival, and ask that we honor America's rich diversity.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES HELEN AND ALBERT LEVINSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Helen and Albert Levinson of Monroe Township, who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this Friday. Together they have served on a wide variety of committees, held countless leadership positions in the community, and tirelessly advocated the importance of public service and "giving back" to the community.

Both Helen and Albert Levinson were born in the United States. Both of their fathers emigrated from Eastern Europe, while their mothers were born in the United States. They met in Newark, NJ, and were married in 1940. Al-

bert served his country during World War II by working in the Newark Shipyards. After the war, he opened Levinson's Furniture in Newark, and in 1968 entered a real estate business specializing in commercial real estate. Albert concluded his real estate career by joining forces with his two sons, Robert and Marc, in the form of Levinson Associates. Helen received a degree in teaching from Newark State Teachers College, and began teaching primary school while raising her two young boys. She eventually embarked on a new career in social services, specializing in pediatric casework.

Albert and Helen moved to the Clearbrook Adult Community in Monroe Township in 1973, and Albert served as president of that community for 3 consecutive years. He was then asked to join the Township Council and was elected for a 4-year term. Today, both Albert and Helen remain active in their communities. At 83 years of age, Albert still comes to work daily, and is a commissioner of the Monroe Township Municipal Utility Authority.

Albert and Helen have willingly given themselves to the community. As they plan to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary tomorrow, I urge my fellow representatives to join me in recognizing this exceptional couple.

CONTRIBUTION OF SULTAN QABOOS OF OMAN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY AND TO U.S.-OMANI RELATIONS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, without doubt, the most distinctive feature of my office in the Rayburn House Office Building is a model ship. This is not just any model of a ship, it dominates my office—the ship fills one entire wall of the office standing nine feet tall and stretching about 12 feet long. This ship model, Mr. Speaker, is an accurate scale model of the ship *Sultanah*, a vessel built in Oman in the last century. The model was constructed from the original blueprints for the ship which are still in the hands of the Omani government. The *Sultanah* has great importance for United States relations with Oman because this ship brought the first Arab ambassador to the United States in 1840. In fact, Mr. Speaker, April 13 of this year was the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the *Sultanah* in New York harbor.

This ship is not only an important symbol of U.S.-Omani relations, but it is important for U.S. relations with the entire Arab world. This model ship was given to the United States Congress by the government of Oman in 1995 when I hosted an exhibit of Omani culture and history in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building to mark the 25th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of Oman of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sid Al-Said. The model of the *Sultanah* is temporarily in my office, Mr. Speaker.

I mention this model of the *Sultanah*, Mr. Speaker, as an introduction to remarks I wish to make today in paying tribute to His Majesty

Sultan Qaboos of Oman. First, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues the singular honor recently bestowed on His Majesty. Georgetown University presented the 25th Anniversary Founders Award of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies to Sultan Qaboos in recognition of his important contribution to the establishment of the Center. In 1975, when the Center was established, the Sultan made one of the first grants to permit its establishment. Five years later, he endowed the Sultanate of Oman Chair in Arabic and Islamic Literature, and in 1993 he made a further endowment by establishing a scholarship fund for the Department of Arabic at the university.

This is only the latest recognition of the Sultan's role in improving relations between Oman and the United States and between the Arab world and the United States. His commitment to better ties between our two countries has been an important element in the friendship that marks our relationship with Oman.

Mr. Speaker, the second reason I call the attention of my colleagues to the activities and role of Sultan Qaboos is that this year marks the 30th anniversary of his assumption of power on July 24, 1970. When he became the new leader of Oman, he was confronted with insurgency in a country plagued by endemic disease, illiteracy, and poverty. One of the new sultan's first measures was to abolish many of his father's harsh restrictions, which had caused thousands of Omanis to leave the country. He offered amnesty to opponents of the previous regime, and many of them returned to Oman and have played critical roles in the economic, political, and cultural development of the country.

Sultan Qaboos established a modern government structure, launched a major development program to upgrade educational and health facilities, built a modern infrastructure of roads, airports, and public utilities, and began the development of the country's resources. The results of this effort have been dramatic. The number of schools rose from three in 1970 to more than 840 by 1993, while hospital and clinic beds increased during this period from 12 to 4,355. There have been further substantial increases in quantity and quality of public services since that time.

Under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos, Oman has pursued a foreign policy that has contributed to stability and moderation in that important part of the world. The relationship between the United States and Oman has been cordial and cooperative. In an important indicator of the warmth and importance of our relationship with Oman, President Clinton stopped in Oman on his return from India earlier this year and held important discussions with Sultan Qaboos. Agreements on security and economic cooperation between the United States and Oman have established a firm and secure basis for our relationship.

Oman has also played a positive role in encouraging peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. It supported the Camp David accords and was one of only three Arab League states that did not break relations with Egypt after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty in 1979. Not long after the signature of the Oslo Accords, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were invited to visit Oman, and the

country has taken a positive role as chair and host of a Middle East working group on water issues. During the Gulf War, Oman assisted the UN coalition effort.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to important legal and political changes that have been taking place in Oman under the leadership of His Majesty. In 1996 with the personal involvement of the Sultan, a Basic Charter was promulgated which provides for many basic human rights, such as an independent judiciary, and freedoms of association, speech, and the press. Some of the enabling legislation issued under the Basic Charter has been issued by the government, but others still remain to be issued.

Sultan Qaboos has also taken a number of important steps to increase the involvement and participation of the citizens of Oman in their government. In November 1991, he established the Majlis ash-Shura (Council of Deliberation/Consultation), in an effort to systematize and broaden public participation in government. In 1997 he established a second consultative body, the Majlis al-Dawla, to further increase the accountability of the government to public representatives. In forthcoming elections, suffrage has been expanded and the participation of women in the political process significantly increased. These political institutions and the broadening of political participation are important steps toward greater democracy, and I commend Sultan Qaboos for taking these important steps.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleague to join me in commending Sultan Qaboos and the people of Oman as we mark the thirtieth anniversary of the ascension of the Sultan to the throne of Oman, and as we note Georgetown University's appropriate honor to him for his contribution to better understanding between the people of Oman and the United States.

HONORING THE LATE JAMES
HOUSTON DOSS, JR.

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and remember an outstanding civic leader of the 12th District of Texas. Mr. James Houston Doss, Jr., a great business leader and philanthropist, passed away Monday, May 22, at the age of 85. While Mr. Doss's passing is a loss to the community, his life was a blessing to the entire area.

Mr. Doss was raised in Weatherford and graduated from Weatherford College in 1934. He spent time at the University of Texas in 1936 and Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1937.

Many knew Mr. Doss through his role as a successful banker. Not many realized that he worked his way up from the bottom to enjoy his success. Mr. Doss joined Weatherford's Merchants and Farmers State Bank (now Texas Bank) in 1929 as a janitor earning only \$15 each month. After years of dedicated service, he was chosen to serve the bank as president from 1945–55.

Mr. Doss then left banking to pursue other interests in homebuilding, shopping center de-

velopment, and real estate investment but quickly returned to the bank. He served as Chairman of the Board for years and became Chairman Emeritus in 1998. Most recently, Mr. Doss was named "Banker of the Year" by the National Institute of Community Banking.

In addition to his successful career in the banking business, Mr. Doss taught accounting at his alma mater, Weatherford College. His contributions of time, talent, and resources were responsible for the Doss Student Center, the Doss Scholarship Fund, and many other initiatives. His commitment to education was demonstrated in his service as a trustee of Weatherford College and the Weatherford Independent School District. For 33 years, he was on the Board of Trustees at Trinity University in San Antonio. In 1976, he was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce because of his business success and commitment to education.

In addition to his service in the education community, Mr. Doss was also very involved in the Presbyterian Church. He was the third generation of his family to serve as a Presbyterian elder in Parker County; and he held many positions within the church including moderator for the Synod of Texas of the Presbyterian Church in the USA in 1964, first president of The United Presbyterian Foundation Synod of the Sun, and trustee of the National United Presbyterian Foundation in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for the entire community when I express our great remorse at the passing of James Houston Doss, Jr. Mr. Doss set a standard for community activism and professional excellence, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LATE JOSEPHINE
BARNETT LACKEY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy and saddened today at the passing of Mrs. Josephine Barnett Lackey, affectionately known as "Miss Jo", who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, May 14, 2000, at the St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN, after suffering cardiac arrest. "Miss Jo", a constituent of mine from Forest, Mississippi, was the wife of Jimmy Lackey, owner of Lackey Home Center in Forest, and one of the more prominent Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders, and Exhibitors in our state. Her death was untimely, and has certainly shocked and devastated the Forest community.

"Miss Jo" grew up in the Standing Pine community in Leake County, and graduated from Walnut Grove High School. She graduated from Delta State University with a degree in Elementary Education in the spring of 1950, and shortly thereafter moved to Forest where she taught in the Forest school system. She and Mr. Lackey were married in 1953, and on July 12, 2000, they would have celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary. For more than 50 years, she was a resident of Forest.

"Miss Jo" delighted in meeting, greeting and helping people. That was her hallmark. That is why the Gift and Bridal Registry Shop she operated in the Lackey Home Center was such a fascination and delight to her. She loved being with people, and offering suggestions that would make their life happier and enjoyable. Sid Salter, editor-publisher of the Scott County Times, summed it up real well when he said in his May 17, 2000, editorial, Josephine Lackey, "there are few homes in Forest that don't have a piece of fine crystal or china hand chosen by Jo Lackey as a gift. For rich and poor alike, she gave her best advice and treated every customer at Lackey Home Center as a friend."

"Miss Jo" was president of the Forest Garden Club, and was a member of the Hontokalo Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a member of the Forest Baptist Church and was a substitute Sunday School teacher. Her love and faith in God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, was most evident in the two scripture passages that were used by her Pastor Reverend Gordon Sansing, and her former Pastor Sonny Adkins as the text for their remarks at her funeral. These passages were: Psalms 71:17–18 "O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now that I am old and greyheaded, O God forsake me not, until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come", and Proverbs 3:5–6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths."

Again, quoting Sid Salter, "Josephine Barnett Lackey was—by every rational measure of mind, body and spirit—a beautiful, elegant woman. Blessed with the beauty nature gave her as a young woman, Josephine Lackey merited the still beautiful face of a faithful wife, devoted mother and grandmother, hard-working business woman and dependable friend she had earned at the age of 70 when her great heart finally failed her.

Our community is diminished by her passing and we will—with her family—sorely miss her."

"Miss Jo" had a deep love for her family that included husband, Jimmy, son Jim, daughters Julie and Jenny along with their husbands, and five grandchildren. Another daughter, Joy, preceded her in death in 1996.

Without a doubt, the legacy that "Miss Jo" would want us to remember her by is the love she had for her Lord, her Family, her Church, her Friends, her Country, her State, and by all means her love for Forest and Scott County. She was truly a dedicated Christian lady, and a great American. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family. Also, I want to express my appreciation, and that of all citizens of the 3rd district for her life of service, and contributions to the betterment of our world.