Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional individual, Harry Pregerson. He is not only the oldest active Judge of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a man of legendary accomplishments, he is a good friend whose wise counsel I rely upon. I am pleased that he will be honored by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association on September 29, 2001, with the prestigious Stanley Mosk Legacy of Justice Award.

Judge Pregerson began his legal career, after graduating from Boalt Hall Law School, in private practice. In 1964, he was named to the Los Angeles Municipal Court and subsequently to the Superior Court. In 1967, President Johnson appointed him to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Later, Judge Pregerson was named to the Ninth Circuit by President Carter. Each of these prestigious appointments were a direct result of his hard work, talent, and dedication. During these years, he garnered an impressive reputation and earned the respect of his colleagues.

In addition to his judicial career, Judge Pregerson has been a longtime advocate for the homeless, especially homeless veterans. He has overseen the construction of thousands of dwelling units for homeless veterans in Los Angeles County. In 1988, Judge Pregerson started the Bell Homeless Shelter, a shelter which today provides a full array of social services to homeless individuals in East Los Angeles. Recently, he helped bring together local law enforcement authorities, judges and county officials to create a new program that assists veterans convicted of minor violations complete a rehabilitation program and return to a productive life. His special affinity for helping veterans probably comes from his own distinguished military service. He himself is a war veteran who was seriously wounded in the battle of Okinawa during World War II.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association’s recognition of Judge Pregerson is not surprising since the event commemorates commitment to the legal profession and the public. Judge Pregerson’s distinguished service on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and numerous public service projects clearly demonstrate his very strong commitment to the law and the community.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Judge Pregerson for his outstanding achievements, and to congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

Tribute to Harry Pregerson

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

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APPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to an increasingly serious problem affecting the public trust and truth in advertising. Today as we debate H.J. Res. 51, to approve the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment with respect to the products of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I wish to make my colleagues in the House aware of the misleading marketing of the Vietnamese basa fish as catfish.

Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana farmers who endured, and continue to endure, the significant capital risk and time investment to raise catfish—notice I use the term catfish—should not be made to compete with a foreign product bearing no similarity to North American catfish. Vietnamese Pangasius, also known as the basa fish, has flooded the American market and now accounts for 20% of all catfish sold in the United States. This basa fish, however, is not catfish yet it is labeled catfish and even bears the industry logo.

American catfish farmers, who have worked for over a quarter of a century and spent half a billion dollars in research and development, deserve better. They deserve the assurance that their government will take the steps necessary to ensure their product retains the public trust and is not compromised in any way. Similarly, when a consumer purchases catfish they have the right to expect they are purchasing grain-fed, pond-raised North American freshwater catfish. The basa fish, however, is not grain-fed, nor pond-raised, neither is it the American species.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues carefully consider the erroneous marketing of basa fish before reaching any decision on extending the nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Vietnam.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY, INC. ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN KIRK
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Opportunity, Inc., an exceptional organization located in Highland Park, Illinois. This extraordinary enterprise is a fine example of the initiative needed to help more people move from welfare to work allowing them to pursue the American dream.

Opportunity, a not-for-profit contract manufacturer that employs over 125 persons, most of whom have developmental, physical or emotional disabilities. Founded in 1976, the company’s mission is both to provide a mainstream plant environment in which “Handicapped” people can reach their full potential by working and earning a paycheck and to provide customers such as Baxter International, Allegiance Healthcare, Searle, Gerber, Uresti, and Medline with the best possible service.

As everyone understands, budget constraints compel us to look for ways to effectively address important needs without government subsidies, and Opportunity is leading the way in that regard. A model of community re-