

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD
B.H. SOLOMON

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I note the death of a former colleague and a great New Yorker, Mr. Gerald Solomon, who passed away last month.

Jerry grew up in Delmar, New York and attended Siena College and St. Lawrence University before enlisting in the Marines at the onset of the Korean War. After serving his country with honor as a member of the Armed Forces, Jerry continued working for the nation as a Member of Congress. But even as an elected representative, when you spoke with Jerry, you could easily guess his background. Like the motto says, "once a Marine, always a Marine."

First elected in 1978, Jerry and I were in the same freshman class of Congress as I too was elected that year. I got to know, and become very good friends with Jerry during the 20 years we served in the House together. He was perhaps the most ardent supporter of our nation's veterans. As the Ranking Member on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Jerry worked tirelessly on their behalf. In fact, it was largely through his work and dedication that the Veterans Administration was elevated to a cabinet-level department.

Jerry was a man who didn't mince words—he was fair and principled and called things as he saw them. We got along well because we were similar in many ways and agreed on a lot of things. But, sometimes, we disagreed. I never, for example, quite saw the merits of the Northeast Dairy Compact the way he did—but even when we disagreed, we disagreed like gentlemen.

It is a testament to his character as a legislator, and a reflection of his leadership, that during his final years in the House, he served as Chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee. This is particularly noteworthy because as many of you know, he was the first Republican to have that position in four decades!

When Jerry spoke, people listened. Not because he was Chairman of the Rules Committee, but simply because if he took the time to tell you something, you could bet it was worth your while to pay attention to him.

It is with a heavy heart that I say good-bye to my friend Jerry. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to Jerry's wife Freda, their five children, six grandchildren, and brother, in this time of sorrow and sadness. They will be in our prayers.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF
OAKLAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland, California.

In 1941, the Filbert Street Boys Club merged with the East Oakland Boys Club to become the Oakland Boys Clubs. The purpose of this club was to create a fun environment while at the same time provide educational programs and services specifically tailored to the needs of young men. For many years the Oakland Boys Clubs were solely focused on providing for the well-being of boys. However, in 1989 the Board of Directors agreed that their organization should be a club that is inclusive rather than exclusive. Therefore, they extended their membership to young women. They wanted the Oakland Boys Clubs to become the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland which would welcome young people of all backgrounds.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland have a membership of 2,400 people who are taking full advantage of the programs and services this organization has to provide. The Boys & Girls Clubs offer career development, character and leadership development, health and life skills, arts, sports, fitness and recreation opportunities. They empower young men and women to live a happier, healthier and fuller lives.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland strives to instill and enhance a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, influence and responsibility in each child. This organization is dedicated to enriching the lives of our youth.

I ask Congress to join me and the constituents of the 9th Congressional District in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland and in wishing them many more years of success and positive influence on our young leaders of tomorrow!

HONORING COMMUNITY VETERANS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and give thanks to Latino veterans across the nation and in New York's 12th District—those brave soldiers who served in our Armed Forces during times of turmoil and crisis in our Nation's history.

Today, the Borinquen Senior Center celebrates another anniversary—close to the landmark one of a quarter of a century. Since its doors opened 24 years ago, the center has been a safe haven for hundreds of seniors and veterans in the Williamsburg, New York community. The Borinquen Center serves three meals per day to almost two hundred seniors, including veterans. It provides meals on wheels for homebound seniors, offers work-

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shops on healthcare and other important issues, arranges activities, and provides classes such as ESL (English as a Second Language). Through its work, the center plays a very important role in the community. And as the Borinquen Center celebrates its anniversary, it will also honor—for the first time—the veterans of this country who served so bravely in our Armed Services.

Given the war against terrorism our great Nation is now waging both here and overseas, I believe we must take time to honor and give thanks to a few of our Nation's Latino veterans from the 12th District. Many of these men were young men, unaware of how war would change them when they enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. They joined the service with hopes of strengthening our nation's security, fighting for the ideals of democracy and freedom, and ensuring a more peaceful world. Although many returned home with lasting wounds, their spirit was never broken. It is important that we remember on this Veteran's Day the sacrifices they made for this country.

Therefore, it is with much appreciation that I honor the Latino veterans of my district in celebration of November 11: Luis Maldonado, 1940–1946; Angel Acevedo, 1941–1947; Jose La Fuente, 1942–1945; Herminio Rivera, 1942–1947; George Feliciano, 1947–1967; Jose Calderon, 1951–1954; Oscar Figueroa, 1951–1954; Gilberto Bonilla, 1952–1954; Isamel A. Torres, 1952–1956; Francisco Adames, 1953–1955; Felix Gonzalez, 1953–1957; Jose Rendon, 1953–1961; Fundadon V. Cancel, 1954–1958; Gerardo Torres, 1954–1959; George A. Maldonado, 1954–1956; Carlos M. Colon, 1956–1958; Augustin Perez, 1957–1959; Adolfo Rivera, 1960–1962.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. ELDON
H. STRODE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Eldon H. Strode and thank him for his contributions to the community of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Eldon passed away this October at his residence in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Mr. Strode came to Colorado in 1945. He began work in the ranch industry, working the land for more than two decades. After his work in ranching, he ventured in the coal industry for thirteen years until his retirement in 1981.

Eldon was an avid sports enthusiast in the Glenwood Springs community where he was a member of the basketball and softball league. Eldon also volunteered his services as a member of the youth baseball program and as a member of the chain crew for many football games at Glenwood Springs High School. In 1980, he was honored for his contributions to the team. Mr. Strode continued his involvement in the ranch industry by volunteering his knowledge to several cattlemen associations such as the Colorado Cattleman and the Holy Cross Cattleman's Association.