

IN MEMORIAM OF A SON OF
TEXAS: JUDGE JAMES DEANDA

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great honor and solemn regret for a great son of Houston that passed away last Thursday. I stand in honor of the late U.S. District Judge James deAnda who passed last week from a battle with cancer.

The son of Mexican immigrants, James deAnda was born and raised in North Houston and graduated from my alma mater, Jeff Davis High School. He went on to graduate from Texas A&M University, but not before he joined the U.S. Marines and served in the Pacific during WWII. Once returning from service he graduated from the University of Texas School of Law.

With a resume of this caliber James deAnda could have gone on to private practice and plea cases that would have made him a very rich man. Instead he went on to fight for the disproportionate and unrepresented Texans of that time. James deAnda went on to work cases, pro-bono cases, to fight segregation of Hispanics within Texas' schools, he also won a Supreme Court ruling stating that Hispanics were a separate group deserving of the same constitutional protection as other minorities.

While his career was a long and great one, cases such as these serve as witness to the type of character that Judge deAnda was. A man that never sought after the limelight or recognition.

Fortunately for all of us, he did gain recognition 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed James deAnda to serve as Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas. He later would serve as Chief Judge of the Southern District of Texas. He became the second Hispanic to be appointed to a Federal Judge bench.

He served in this role with distinction until he retired in 1988, he went back to work in the private sector until he began cancer therapy.

Judge James deAnda leaves us with a great sense of honor and pride. The footprints that he has left for us will be hard to follow. Judge deAnda took part in the creation of the Texas Rural Legal Aid and he was the co-founder of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, but most importantly he changed the law to work for all men and women during a time when there were many that were opposed to such change.

Mr. Speaker I ask for one minute of silence in honor of Judge James deAnda, not only a son and public servant of Texas but also of this great Nation. I ask this as his service takes place back home in Houston.

SALUTE TO RUSTY HAMMER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and sincere

gratitude to Rusty Hammer, who, after 5 fruitful years, left his position as president and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

In keeping with the chamber's 118-year history, Rusty dedicated himself to improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Los Angeles Chamber's 1,500 members, who represent more than 600,000 employees throughout the Los Angeles region. Under Rusty's strong leadership, the Los Angeles Chamber has successfully built partnerships between business, community, labor and civic organizations. These partnerships have reestablished the chamber as the Los Angeles region's premier business advocacy organization.

During Rusty's tenure, he pioneered many noteworthy projects. For example, Rusty spearheaded the chamber's effort on local business tax reform and established a highly successful workforce development program. His leadership role in creating "Mobility 21," a transportation advocacy coalition, helped secure over \$2 billion in State and Federal funding for transportation improvements in Los Angeles. By partnering with the organization UNITE LA, Rusty helped create a badly needed and extremely valuable college scholarship program that has provided scholarships, application assistance, and college access information to nearly 30,000 students in the Los Angeles region.

Under Rusty's stewardship, the chamber's annual trip to Washington, DC, has become one of the most successful advocacy efforts on behalf of the Los Angeles region and the Los Angeles business community. In addition, his weekly opinion article, "The Business Perspective," provides an insightful and informative look at business issues facing the Los Angeles region.

Rusty's talents, innovative strategic thinking and willingness to work with stakeholders on all sides of the political spectrum have played an integral role in the Los Angeles area's economic growth. He has truly earned the respect, admiration and gratitude of all who know him and have worked with him.

While Rusty Hammer will truly be missed in Los Angeles and at the Los Angeles Area Chamber, we will all continue to benefit from his many contributions. We are fortunate that we will also gain from his talents as he continues to work on issues that affect California's economy and quality of life.

My husband, Ed, and I are fortunate to have Rusty and his very special wife, Pam, as dear friends. I am proud to join the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in thanking Rusty Hammer for his great leadership and many contributions to the Los Angeles region and the business community. Ed and I send our best wishes and sincere gratitude to Rusty, Pam and his wonderful family.

RECOGNIZING TINA BATT FOR HER
WORK WITH THE MUIR HERITAGE
LAND TRUST

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Tina Batt, the Founding Executive Director of the Muir Heritage Land Trust, as she leaves her post after eighteen years of dedicated service.

Under Ms. Batt's leadership, the Martinez Regional Land Trust grew to become the Muir Heritage Land Trust, a powerful force for conservation in Contra Costa County. She has been directly responsible for preserving over 2000 acres of open space in and around the City of Martinez, California. Her passion for the environment and dedication to preserving our heritage has translated into a highly successful fundraising effort that has over the years totaled over five million dollars.

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has also expanded its public agency partners to include the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the California Coastal Conservancy, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Departments of Fish and Game and Water Resources, the City of Martinez, Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, East Bay Regional Park District, the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Critical support from well-established public and private foundations has increased dramatically due to Tina's efforts. The list of supporters now includes the Bechtel Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, Firedoll Foundation, David B. Gold Foundation, Martinez Community Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, the B.T. Rocca, Jr., Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, the Charles Schwab Corporation Foundation, L.J. & Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, Strong Foundation for Environmental Values, Trust for Public Land, the Morrison Foerster Foundation, and the Valley Foundation. She also fostered steadfast corporate support from Union Bank of California, Conoco Phillips, Mechanics Bank, Shell Oil Products, Tesero Corporation, Chevron, Parsons Corporation, Shapell Homes, Telfer Oil, Dow Chemical Company, John Muir Health, Overaa Construction, Plumbers & Steamfitters Union Local 159, Contra Costa Times, Diablo Magazine, East Bay Business Times, and Galilee Enterprise.

With all of this valued support, Tina Batt has led the Muir Heritage Land Trust through a phenomenal period of expansion. The Trust has preserved easements, facilitated acquisition of treasured open space, and ensured the permanent protection of an important segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which runs the length of the Franklin Ridge from Martinez to Hercules and Crockett.

Mr. Speaker, because of Ms. Tina Batt's many contributions to acquisition and preservation of open space in Contra Costa County,