

with \$6,000 that he borrowed from his brother, Apostolos, Nikos created a successful business, Mana Products, that employs over 600 people. For nearly three decades, Mana Products has been an innovative participant in the beauty industry. Headquartered in New York, the company offers research, development, manufacturing and other operations. The company works with some of the most respected brands and professionals around the globe. In addition to his company, Nikos has interests in real estate as well as investments in other businesses.

Nikos has never forgotten the place of birth, Athienou in Cyprus, where he helps to support the local home for the elderly, and has helped build a day care center. He has also provided funding for an archaeological expedition in the area of Athienou, Cyprus for Davidson College of North Carolina for several years.

Nikos also works to promote Cypriot culture and human rights interests in the United States. As a member of the Board of Directors and Trustees of the Pancyprian Association of America, Nikos works to educate young Cypriot-Americans about the culture and ethnic customs of Cyprus and Greece, and to sponsor cultural events. He is a member of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus, PSEKA, which seeks freedom and justice for the Cypriot people and promotes international human rights.

Nikos and his wife Carol, who is his partner in business as well as in their personal lives, have two children, Alexis and Ariana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Nikos Mouyiaris, a true American hero and a remarkable member of the Hellenic-American community.

#### REMEMBERING BILLY EARL HIBBS

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor the life of a dear friend, Billy Earl Hibbs, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 67. Billy was a native Texan, born on September 25, 1938 in Quitman. He graduated from Quitman High School and married his high school sweetheart, Eugenia Stroud, in 1957. Eugenia and Billy had one child, Billy Earl Hibbs, Jr.

Starting with a small, three-person insurance agency, Billy grew his business into Heartland Security Insurance Group, one of the largest insurance holding companies in the Southwest. Heartland is one of the largest providers of claims services to the Federal Government, including all branches of the military as well as non-military personnel injured in Afghanistan and Iraq. Despite its size, Heartland maintains its Texas roots with its headquarters in Tyler and continues to serve almost half the school districts in Texas.

The Texas Legislature recognized Billy's accomplishments in 1981 for his success in handling the John Tyler High School fire loss. In 1990, he led the passage of a bond measure to provide upgrades to the city of Tyler's infrastructure. A patron of the arts, Billy served as

president of the East Texas Symphony Association and worked to relocate performances to the Cowan Center at U.T. Tyler. Billy also served as president of the Tyler Civic Theatre where he oversaw construction of the Braithwaite Theater and the opening of the Rogers Children's Theatre. As president of the Tyler Rotary Club he became a Paul Harris Fellow. Billy was a member of the Henry Bell Masonic Lodge, and a founding board member of the Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas. He served as a board member for Leadership Tyler, the Tyler Independent School District Foundation, and the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Order of the Rose. He was a member of the Pairs and Parents Sunday School class, an usher, and a past trustee of Marvin United Methodist Church. Billy also remained active in the Independent Insurance Agents at local, State, and national levels throughout his life.

In 2004, Billy was inducted into the Junior Achievement "Business Hall of Fame," and made a member of the honor business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, at the University of Texas at Tyler. In 2005, Hibbs-Hallmark & Company was honored with the Better Business Bureau's "Torch Award" for demonstrating a commendable ethical record over the years, and recently, the Tyler Rotary Club honored Hibbs by distinguishing all present and future donors of \$1,000 as "Billy Hibbs Fellows."

Billy is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Eugenia "Jeannie" Hibbs, his son Billy E. Hibbs, Jr., and daughter-in-law Tisa Weiss Hibbs, two grandchildren, Stratton Weiss Hibbs and London Elizabeth Hibbs, and two sisters, Dorma Shields and Betty Cassels of Quitman, as well as other relatives.

Billy was always generous with his time and leadership and he shared his many blessings with his community and his country. Mr. Speaker, Billy Hibbs was a valuable member of the community whose years of service will provide a legacy for many years to come.

#### SAN JOAQUIN RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today, I submit to the House bipartisan legislation, the "San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act," which implements an historic water settlement to resolve an 18-year lawsuit to restore a salmon fishery on the San Joaquin River.

The settlement legislation achieves two equal goals: it restores the San Joaquin River and secures water management objectives to mitigate water losses to farmers in the restoration process. These two elements are crucial to the success the Act, and they are to be implemented in tandem.

The main reason I became involved in this issue last year was to ensure a stable water supply for Valley farmers. With that premise, the provisions in this measure were designed to make certain that water supply levels will

remain manageable for farmers as the river is restored. It was also important to me that impacts to third parties, if any, be minimal and voluntary and the negotiators worked hard to create such language.

The landmark bill introduced today gives the people of our Valley a say in how the river is restored, as opposed to waiting for an uncertain outcome from the Federal court. This solution is science-based and included involvement from individuals throughout the Valley, the State and Federal agencies.

The significance of this bill cannot be understated. Over the past year and a half, countless hours have been spent in developing this measure, and I commend all those involved in this balanced resolution. I especially want to express my appreciation to the Friant Water Users Authority, Natural Resources Defense Council, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce and numerous third parties who were involved in the development of this bill.

I also thank Senator FEINSTEIN, who has introduced an identical bill in the Senate, for her steadfast commitment to this measure along with the members of the Valley delegation.

I'm dedicated to the passage of this measure in Congress and will work toward that end until it is signed into law.

#### ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESS IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, on December 8 and 9 in Taiwan, there will be an important gathering of legislators from Pacific Rim nations to discuss the role of congresses or legislatures in the growing number of democracies developing across Asia.

The meeting has been convened by the Pacific Congressional Caucus, an arm of the Democratic Pacific Union, DPU, a regional organization of Pacific Rim democracies.

Legislative leaders from 20 nations, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and the host Taiwan are expected to participate. It is unfortunate that, because of our legislative schedule, no member of this House or of the other body are able to attend.

However, Mr. Speaker, I did want to take note of this important meeting that will focus on the role of Congress in the various democratic governing models, such as the parliamentary system and the presidential system. Another important set of discussions will focus on the issue of legislative elections in various democracies, how they are conducted, and how they are financed.

I congratulate Taiwan's political leaders who were instrumental in creating the DPU and the Pacific Congressional Caucus. Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu was the prime mover in bringing the DPU into existence and the Speaker of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, Wang