

the face of harrowing prejudice, Willa used every challenge as an opportunity to reinforce her strong character, morals, and humanity toward others.

Willa, who was unable to attend college, was an unwavering advocate of the importance of education. She closely mentored her children throughout their school age years, and was a constant advocate for their continued learning and growth, even when they were well into their careers and were successful leaders in their own right. Throughout their lives, her children continuously credited Willa with instilling a sense of pride and responsibility in them. Many other members of our community, including myself, were also able to look up to Willa to solidify these values within our lives—in this way, we were all members of her family.

Mrs. Dellums was my friend and confidant for many years. She guided me through many troubling moments in my life. I will always remember her as a kind and brilliant woman who was non judgmental, yet totally honest with her feedback and insights. We talked for hours on the telephone and I was always amazed at her energy and clarity.

I have many personal wonderful memories of Mrs. D. She knew I needed more exercise and invited me to walk with her on many occasions. Those walks were invigorating. She walked very fast and I could hardly keep up with her. After our walks we'd go eat, and my last meal with her was at a sandwich shop on Lakeshore Boulevard. We both had half a sandwich and a cup of soup.

One day we went to the farmer's market at Jack London Square and then drove around West Oakland. I drove by her former home on Wood Street where she raised her son Ron and daughter Theresa. I told her that I thought this house should be designated as an historic site and she was excited about the idea.

Mrs. D. loved to travel. Oftentimes she would invite me to go with her and Theresa on one of their adventures in far off lands, generally on a boat cruise. My one regret is that my life was so hectic, I could never find the time for a vacation. She always wanted me to slow down and take a break, and it was out of her love and concern that she recognized I needed more rest and balance in my life.

Many have spoken of Mrs. D's culinary abilities. She was a wonderful cook and I loved her chili. Some of my most fond memories are going by her house, eating chili and looking at photo albums. I have had the privilege to visit many countries, primarily on official business, and would take photo albums of these trips to Mrs. D. She was especially interested in the ones from Africa and Israel.

There are very few people who have touched my life in such a magnificent manner. Mrs. Dellums was a shining light in my life and was a great role model for me and other African American women. She was brilliant, kind, sensitive, loving and tough.

It is with deep sorrow, yet gratitude that we say good-bye to Mrs. Willa Dellums. However, her legacy lives through her loving children, Mayor Ron Dellums and Ms. Theresa Simmons. Countless Oaklanders benefited from her love and mentorship and on their behalf, I say thank you.

Mrs. Dellums was married to Vernie Dellums for 43 years. He preceded her in death

in 1978. Our deepest condolences go out to her children Ron and Theresa, grandchildren, and her entire family.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District, I salute the incredible life of this remarkable and courageous woman. May her soul rest in peace.

#### HONORING DARWIN SHEBELUT

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Darwin Shebelut and to congratulate him upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Shebelut was honored at a reception on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Fourth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Board of Directors Installation Dinner.

Mr. Shebelut was born on August 8, 1920, in Madera, California. He graduated from Madera High School in 1938 as the senior class president. After high school he attended Stanford University and received a degree in mechanical engineering. He also served in the United States Army for 4 years during World War II. Upon returning to Madera, Mr. Shebelut became a businessman and an opportunist. His father owned and operated a Chevrolet dealership in Madera that he eventually took over. Under his leadership the dealership grew to include Oldsmobile and Toyota. Mr. Shebelut purchased 182 acres of subdivided land in what is now the center of Madera. He formed a water company through the public utilities commission and developed the area into a residential and commercial area. He built Madera's first shopping center in 1954 on that land. During the late 1970s Mr. Shebelut purchased 50 more acres of land and rezoned the area to include residential, multiple housing and commercial properties. He developed another shopping center and was the co-owner of an adjacent apartment complex. He also owned and operated the Credit Bureau during the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Shebelut was the president and director of American Standard Life Insurance Company, was the director of the Northern California Automobile Dealers Association for 20 years and a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Outside of owning and operating numerous businesses, Mr. Shebelut was very involved in the community. He served the city of Madera as a director of the development agency and in the early 1950s he served as a Madera City councilman. In the County of Madera he served as a director of the joint development agency, commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Commission and was the director for 18 years of the Transportation Authority. He served as the director for numerous organizations, including Madera Businessmen's Association, Madera Industrial Development Corporation and Boy Scouts of America Sequoia Council. He has served as trustee for the University of California, San Francisco's Fresno Foundation, California-Nevada Methodist Homes and

Hospitals, San Joaquin River Conservation Trust and the Queen of the Valley High School. Mr. Shebelut was one of the founders of Madera Community Hospital in 1964 and later served as a trustee and chairman of the board. He has also been involved in Madera Noon Rotary for 42 years (and served as president), Elks Lodge 1918 (charter member), the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Fresno Chapter International Wine and Food Society, Fresno Chapter of Skat International, Fresno Owls Club and Madera Golf and Country Club (member of organizing group).

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Darwin Shebelut upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Shebelut many years of continued success.

#### ON THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD S. CHAMPION

### HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and achievements of a great military officer and constituent of the Sixth District of Maryland—LTC Donald S. Champion. After over 29 years of long and distinguished service Colonel Champion will retire from his present position as Chief, Congressional Outreach Program in the Office of Air Force Reserve, Policy Integration Directorate, AF/REI, Pentagon, Washington DC. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion has been responsible for all legislative outreach as well as all legislative matters concerning Reserve Plans and Programs and Operations for the Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command.

Colonel Champion graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University receiving a bachelor of arts degree in communications and public relations. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1979. He attended undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, California. Following graduation he attended F-4 Replacement Training Unit at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, where he was a distinguished graduate. In 1984 he was selected to attend undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

After earning his wings he attended lead-in fighter training at Hollman Air Force Base, New Mexico, where he was selected as Air to Air Top Gun. He was assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia following training to fly the F-15C. There he served as a flight commander. He returned to the training world where he served as a T-37 Instructor Pilot at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He went on to become a T-38 instructor pilot at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Throughout his distinguished career, Colonel Champion was consistently recognized for his outstanding performance and dedication to duty. For the past 3 years Colonel Champion

has served as a liaison to the United States Congress where he well and faithfully represented the Air Force Reserve to the House and Senate. He was personally helpful to me and my staff during his tenure on the Reserve Staff at the Pentagon. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Colonel Champion, and his daughters Kelsey and Lindsay, for their commitment and sacrifices made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an outstanding and successful career in service to our great Country.

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HONORING ASBAREZ NEWSPAPER

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**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Asbarez newspaper upon the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Asbarez newspaper began publication in August of 1908 in Fresno, California. The publication began as a weekly paper that was committed to providing news and information to the Armenian-American community. In 1908, the focus of this community was the instability of the homeland. Throughout the years, Asbarez has reported on the ever-changing, and fragile, conditions of the Republic of Armenia. The paper covered the tragedy of the Armenian genocide, the triumph of the first independent republic, the growing pains of a community, the catastrophic earthquake, the fall of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno-Karabakh liberation struggle, the rise of the independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and the realities of the people of Javakhk in southern Georgia. Asbarez provides news, information, commentary, criticism, and thought.

On May 1, 1970, Asbarez began publishing its English section. During the early 1970s the offices and publishing headquarters moved to Los Angeles. Today, Asbarez is the largest and only bilingual newspaper serving the 750,000 plus Armenian-Americans in the western United States. It is published five times per week, Tuesday through Saturday. The newspaper also serves as voice for the community and is a source of information for Congress, libraries around the Nation and newsrooms of major media outlets. In 1997 Asbarez launched its Web site, keeping Armenians even more up to date with the issues that interest them the most. Asbarez has become a trusted source for news about the evolving Armenian realities.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Asbarez newspaper on 100 years of business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Asbarez newspaper many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB THOMAS, SR.

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**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw our colleagues' attention to a gentleman and outstanding citizen who has demonstrated that long-term success is possible in America if one has a vision and is willing to work hard to turn it into reality. This gentleman has also devoted himself to the principles we celebrate here in our country—freedom to build a successful business, and loyalty to family and community.

Today I pay special recognition and honor to Bob Thomas, Sr., of Baker County, OR, a genuine “up by the bootstraps” livestock producer who never lost his vision for what the Angus cattle breed could become; a dedicated husband to his wife, Gloria, with whom he raised four very successful children; a leader in his church, community, and industry—and a gentleman whose friends and neighbors have always been able to rely on.

Bob and Gloria moved to the Baker Valley of picturesque eastern Oregon in the early 1960's from New York, via Iowa. With them came their treasured seed stock for their line of Angus beef cattle. In the winter, Gloria fed the cows with young son Rob in the pickup. Bob was also working as a sales representative for Powder River Equipment, selling gates and ranch equipment to supplement their ranch income. They worked very hard to achieve their dream—a high quality herd of registered Angus cattle.

Their first purebred Angus sale was held in October, 1973 and throughout the years Bob and Gloria always made everyone feel like they were special to them because, in fact, they were special to them. Now, nearly 35 years later, that same high quality Angus breeding stock is sold in a 2-day sale in October, as well as a spring sale in March.

The Thomas family still shows the same hospitality and personal attention today as they did at their very first sale. Following in the footprints of Bob and Gloria, son Rob and his wife Lori continue the Thomas tradition as highly respected leaders in their industry and community. They maintain the same unwavering commitment to the high quality of their Angus line and service.

Madam Speaker, I want to especially honor Bob for his many years of dedication to and support of the people of Baker County and the rural way of life in eastern Oregon. His fellow citizens greatly appreciate his high principles, commitment to high quality and standards, and his friendship. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Bob Thomas, Sr.

CONGRATULATING POLLY TADLOCK ON BEING THE NAMESAKE OF POLLY TADLOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Polly Tadlock of Frisco, TX for her many contributions as an educator in the North Texas area and Frisco Independent School District. Mrs. Tadlock was recently chosen as the namesake of Polly Tadlock Elementary School, a new facility in Frisco ISD.

Frisco ISD recommended the naming of a new facility for a former employee whose contributions have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Mrs. Tadlock has been noted for going above the call of duty with her willingness to help her students inside and outside of the classroom. She is known for following her students as they left the classroom and entered adulthood, creating lifelong relationships. According to Polly, “the lifelong relationships with students are the greatest rewards of all.” Mrs. Tadlock taught for a total of 24 years in the North Texas area. She served the district of Frisco from 1968 to 1989, when she decided to retire.

Mrs. Tadlock was born in Ponder, TX, later moving to Fort Worth to continue her education. After receiving her bachelor's and master's from Texas Women's University, Mrs. Tadlock began her teaching career in Pilot Point, TX, later spending the majority of her 24 years as an educator in the Frisco Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to rise in recognition of Mrs. Tadlock, whose dedication to the students and families of Frisco has made her truly deserving of such an honor. Her devotion to her community serves as an inspiration and as an example to us all, and I am proud to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

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**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Polish American Congress. On September 28, 2008, The Polish American Congress will hold a “Terrorist Attack Memorial Service” to honor and commemorate the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, as well as pay a tribute to those who perished on September 11, 2001.

In addition to carrying out the overall mission of the Polish American Congress, the New Jersey Division chooses to hold a memorial for the victims of both the Katyn Forest Massacre and the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. The Katyn Forest Massacre occurred during World War 2 as a result of the Soviet Union's persecution of thousands during the communist era. The September