

Company, which on September 24th of this year will celebrate its 150th anniversary in O'Fallon, Missouri. As the representative of Missouri's 2nd district, I am honored to recognize such an innovative company with a long history in the state of Missouri and throughout the country.

Since its founding in 1863 by retired ship captain William Holdredge, Fireman's Fund has been involved with several important events in our nation's history. Fireman's Fund has insured construction of such national treasures as the Golden Gate Bridge and Hoover Dam, in addition to the renovation of the Statue of Liberty in the 1980's. And for those of us from Missouri, we are particularly aware that it was a Fireman's Fund policy which helped provide for the production of Charles Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" plane in 1927.

The company was also the first to offer a standing grain insurance policy in the United States, and the first to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance. Such innovation has contributed to new ideas for the insurance industry, but more importantly it has contributed to the sustained economic growth of our country over the last century and a half.

Fireman's Fund embodies some of the best values of American business. Not only is the company committed to servicing its customers, it is also committed to giving back to communities all across the country. In fact, the name "Fireman's Fund" comes from the company's founding social mission to award a portion of its profits to the widows and orphans of fallen firefighters. This commitment to the fire service was renewed in 2004, and since that time Fireman's Fund has awarded roughly \$30 million in grants to fire departments across the country. And in the wake of the May 2011 tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, Fireman's Fund was there to offer support for the victims of that catastrophe.

It is indeed an honor to recognize such a great American company on its 150th anniversary. I thank the employees of Fireman's Fund for all they do, and wish them many more years of continued success and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CENTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25 years of service by the Community Enrichment Center (CEC). Located in North Richland Hills, Texas, the CEC serves over 7,000 unduplicated individuals in Tarrant County with food, housing, education classes, free tax preparation, job services and seniors working to stay out of isolation.

Formed in 1998 as a food pantry by the Richland Hills Church of Christ, the CEC has expanded dramatically over the years as they identified the needs of individuals and families in crisis that extended beyond the basic need for food. In their efforts the CEC has partnered with homeless agencies, local municipalities, churches, community organizations, businesses, schools, local and state homeless coalitions.

Toward accomplishing this mission, in 1993 the CEC received the first non-profit U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homeless grant offered in the 5 state region served by the Region 6 office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Initially extended as a demonstration project and known now as the Continuum of Care grant, the CEC matches federal funding with private resources at approximately 400 percent. CEC was also recognized by HUD Best Practice Award in 1998 for their Adopt-A-Family homeless program.

In their effort to meet broader needs, the CEC absorbed Open Arms Home, Inc. to reduce administrative expenses and allow more funds to be committed to meeting the housing needs of those fleeing from domestic violence. CEC's mission has also led them to provide testing and coaching to the underemployed to identify needs and guide them through education and training resources toward financial independence. Nutritional cooking classes were also added, along with a greater selection of fresh produce and frozen meat to better serve the health needs of those using their food pantry.

I am grateful for the commitment of the CEC staff and volunteers for the 25 years of dedicated service to the underserved of Northern Tarrant County. I join them in celebration of all they have accomplished in meeting the challenges of their mission. It is my privilege to represent the organization and many of their volunteers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF EPPAMINONDAS "EPPIE" JOHNSON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise in honor of Eppaminondas "Eppie" Johnson, who passed away recently in Sacramento at the age of 85. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Eppie, as his family, friends, and the entire Sacramento community gathers to celebrate his life and legacy.

Eppaminondas Johnson was born on May 7, 1928, in Astoria, New York. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, he moved to Sacramento to work for his father's restaurant and hotel business. In Sacramento, Eppie became a business and community legend. He was to become a symbol for everything great about Sacramento.

Eppie founded a chain of 24-hour coffee shops and he became famous in the 1960s and 1970s for running a popular TV advertisement featuring himself balancing a plate of food while water skiing. He was well-known for his lively marketing campaigns, such as "Professor Eppie" that gave free sundaes to students who earned straight As. He eventually came to own sixteen restaurants in Sacramento, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Fresno, and the Lake Tahoe area, as well as hotels and other properties.

An athletic man, Eppie was also the founder of a beloved Sacramento tradition known as "Eppie's Great Race." Started in 1974 as a promotion and charity fundraiser, this three-

event contest included running, cycling, and kayaking all in the beautiful American River Parkway. Popularly called the "world's oldest triathlon," the contest has grown into a major summer celebration that annually attracts more than 2,000 participants. Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Great Race and I know Eppie will be cheering everyone on. His race has raised over \$1 million for the Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Services which offers activities to individuals with developmental disabilities. I had the pleasure of visiting Therapeutic Recreation Services with Eppie, and his passion to assist those with disabilities was clear.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Eppaminondas "Eppie" Johnson for being an exemplary member of the Sacramento community. I ask that we all take a moment and give our utmost respect and condolences to his children, George Johnson and Lisa Mangles, and his grandchildren. His life and commitment to our community are an inspiration to us all. The Sacramento area has lost a true legend.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY DILL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for small business in my district—and a true friend. For the past decade, Andy Dill has served as the President of the Community Chamber of Commerce of East Montgomery County. His leadership has helped grow this important organization and the community it promotes threefold.

Prior to entering Chamber work, Andy served in the telecommunications industry and petrochemical and agricultural chemical industries. Frankly, I've learned there is very little Andy can't do and hasn't done.

A graduate of Nacogdoches High School and Stephen F. Austin State University, Andy's career has taken him across east and southeast Texas. We consider ourselves lucky he settled on the dynamic east Montgomery County.

Andy's community honors are many. From YMCA Volunteer of the Year, Rotary Club Service and Roll of Fame Awards, Andy has been a go-to person when a civic or community organization wants to get going. Andy also serves our communities on the TCC Board of Directors, the Board of the Kingwood Medical Center, Leadership Montgomery County and many others.

When it comes to leadership, Andy is a triple threat. He is a 1988 graduate of Leadership Lufkin, a 1996 graduate of Leadership Montgomery County and a 2005 graduate of Leadership North Houston. It was no surprise to me that when Leadership East Montgomery County needed him, he answered the call.

Andy keeps learning each and every day. He has completed the three-year Community Development Institute program and a fourth-year continuing education year program through the Texas Community Development program.

Andy couldn't be the success he is without his wife Sylvia. For 44 years, she has been

his biggest cheerleader. She is also a community treasure in her own right having spent 20 years as a special education teacher.

Their daughter, Angela, son, Alan, daughter-in-law, Sarah and three wonderful grandchildren; Brady, Maddi and Lauren; inspired Andy's keen interest in both education and strengthening our communities through leadership.

Somehow, Andy finds time for his wood-working hobby and an occasional round of golf. As he leaves the Chamber in a strong position for the future, he won't be slowing down much. He plans to consult, work with boards and non-profits and spend time with his grandchildren.

Andy, I—and all of southeast Montgomery County—only have two humble words for you: Thank you! You have set an amazing example that we'll all strive to live up to. Best wishes, friend.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT JOEL WHITMORE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joel Whitmore of Boy Scout Troop 37 in Calmus, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. The work ethic Joel has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISTRICT ENERGY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the many dedicated men and women of District Energy on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of this community energy system.

District Energy launched as a demonstration project in 1983 as Saint Paul's response to the energy crisis of the 1970's. The venture was a public-private partnership between the City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota, United States Department of Energy and the downtown business community, all of whom believed in the viability of a hot water district heating system to alleviate the pinch of the energy crisis.

District Energy Saint Paul was built from the vision of Saint Paul Mayor George Latimer. Led by Mayor Latimer, the City lobbied the State and Federal governments for assistance in adopting a technology, developed in Europe, that could solve the heating problems of the city. Using the expertise of Hans Nyman, District Energy's first president, the system was successfully designed to be energy efficient, fuel flexible, and result in stable rates for its customers.

In 1993, ten years after the successful start-up of the district heating system, District Energy began offering cooling service to downtown building owners. Ten years later, in 2003, District Energy became a green energy service provider following construction of an affiliated combined heat and power (CHP) plant that is fueled by a renewable resource—clean, urban wood residuals. It is the largest wood-fired CHP plant serving district energy system in the nation. The system was advanced further in 2011 with the installation of the Midwest's largest solar installation. It is one of the country's largest hot water solar projects and the first in the United States to be integrated into a district heating system.

Today, District Energy Saint Paul is considered the most notable in the United States for its use of renewable energy sources and implementation of energy conservation measures. In the past couple of decades, District Energy has been recognized on numerous occasions for its work promoting energy conservation. This year District Energy has received the Innovation Recognition and Bronze Space Award from the International District Energy Association as well as the Renewable

Energy Award from the Sustainable Saint Paul Award Program. Furthermore, it continues to stand by its core values of customers, community, work environment, and conduct.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of District Energy, a community energy system committed to energy conservation, I am pleased to submit this statement in recognition of their 30th anniversary.

CÓRDOVA & FERNÓS CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program on its twentieth anniversary.

The Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program is an educational program that was created in 1993 by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico to provide outstanding college students on the island the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, DC. By giving these college students the opportunity to work as interns in the United States Congress, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and private corporations, and other places, this internship program enriches their academic, personal, and professional lives.

In addition to working, Córdova interns have the opportunity to conduct a research project directly related to their studies, attend lectures in various embassies, and become acquainted with influential policy makers and opinion leaders. Since its founding, the Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program has given hundreds of college students the opportunity to learn and understand how Washington works. Furthermore, Córdova interns have had the opportunity to help others learn about Puerto Rico and what it can offer to our Nation and to the world. I am proud to have been able to contribute to this program since its establishment by hosting interns in my congressional office and in other ways.

Mr. Speaker, programs such as this one help young people become involved in and learn from our democratic system of government. In short, the Córdova & Fernós Congressional Internship Program is preparing the next generation of Puerto Rican leaders to play an active role in the future of the island and I will continue to support this program and its young leaders.