

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF BOB DICKERSON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Dickerson of RESULTS, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating the political will to end poverty in the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Dickerson has contributed immeasurably to the local and international community over the last twenty-five years as a volunteer leader.

After working as an attorney in Seattle for a number of years, Mr. Dickerson left his law practice and began working nearly full-time as a RESULTS volunteer. His passionate and ever present voice for the powerless—especially children—is truly remarkable. In 2005, his work was recognized with the Thomas C. Wales Foundation Award for Civic Engagement and Passionate Citizenship.

As the RESULTS Seattle Group Leader, Mr. Dickerson has developed deep partnerships with powerful coalitions, elected leaders and the media. His work inspired Members of Congress and volunteers across the country on both sides of the aisle to serve as vocal spokespersons in support of the Global Poverty Act, the Education for All Act, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Bob Dickerson for twenty-five years of excellence. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY
REMEMBRANCE

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, our ally and friend in Southeast Asia, Taiwan, will celebrate their 103rd National Day on October 10th. Known as Double Ten Day, it celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising which ultimately led to the formation of Taiwan as we know it today.

Double Ten Day has the same significance to Taiwan as Independence Day does to us here in the United States. It is a day that people are able to celebrate and remember the sacrifices that led to creation of Taiwan. Both the U.S. and Taiwan are relatively new; in July we celebrated our 238th anniversary and Taiwan is celebrating their 103rd.

On this occasion, I would like to note how important Taiwan is to my home state of Oregon. Last year, Oregon exports to Taiwan reached \$825.6 million. Taiwan became our 5th largest trading partner in Asia and the 7th largest in the world. From agriculture to machinery, Oregon products serve a large part of Taiwan's industries. There are more opportunities to capitalize on and I look forward to working to grow investments and exports to help both our peoples.

Again I wish a happy National Day to Taiwan. We look forward to continuing our friend-

ship and partnership on the many issues that we both face.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SAN
MATEO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the San Mateo County Law Library, a unique California resource that provides public access to justice. The law library in Redwood City, founded in 1916, houses a wealth of information not available at other public libraries and is used by some 9,000 individuals a year. In addition to attorneys, legal professionals and students, ordinary citizens use the library to get assistance with landlord/tenant complaints, marital and child custody disputes probate questions, entrepreneurial pursuits, safety issues and a broad range of other legal issues. In fact, last year the general public constituted 26 percent of all library users.

Individuals without legal training are not left to their own devices to find and interpret legal literature. Librarians help everyone find answers to their legal questions, regardless of their educational background or financial circumstances. The appreciation for this service is best expressed by the public users themselves. One patron said, "The best legal librarians in the Bay Area. Superior kindness, knowledge and patience." Another said, "The staff here have made my life better, and for that I feel compelled to dole out some kudos to them."

The idea for law libraries was born in the Bay Area. In 1870, the San Francisco Law Library Act required the City and County of San Francisco to provide facilities and services at no charge and mandated access to county citizens. In 1891, the California Legislature adopted this practice at the state level requiring each county to have a law library. The libraries were not connected as a system, instead each county library rendered services according to the needs of its communities and was funded by the filing fees generated by the court system.

Because the state law does not provide any financial support to maintain the law collections or services, the San Mateo County Library is now at risk. Filing fees have dropped dramatically.

Before the San Mateo County Law Library opened at its current location at 710 Hamilton Street in Redwood City, it used to consist of two branches to serve the entire peninsula, one in San Mateo's Superior Court and the other in South San Francisco's courthouse. Due to funding cuts, support for the law collection at San Mateo's Superior Court had to be discontinued many years ago and then the courthouse was closed. Similarly, support for the law collection at the South San Francisco courthouse was discontinued in 2011 due to cutbacks and then the courthouse was closed. This created a Catch 22: as the courts closed and filing fees increased, fewer law suits were filed, more members of the general public used the law libraries to solve their legal issues, and the funding for the library dropped. The popularity of the San Mateo Law Library has ironically contributed to its threat of extinction.

California's County Law Library Statute was a direct result of the progressive movement in the late 20th century when disparity in wealth resulted in armed clashes between the working and moneyed classes. Lawyers were considered tools of the rich and the law libraries were tools for the common man to be his own lawyer. Justice Conrad Rushing wrote: "The establishment of law libraries was not by any means the most important feature of what grew out of the progressive movement, but it nevertheless spoke strongly to the idea of equality under the law."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to honor the important role the San Mateo County Law Library continues to play today by providing access to legal support services and justice. May it be saved for all San Mateo County residents as a symbol and manifestation of "equality under the law."

THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TRANSFIGURATION ROMAN
CATHOLIC PARISH OF WILLIAMS-
BURG, BROOKLYN, NY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Transfiguration Roman Catholic Parish of Williamsburg, Brooklyn as it celebrates its 140th anniversary. The church is commemorating this special year by hosting a series of events celebrating the parish and community's rich history.

A church of humble beginnings, Transfiguration originated to serve Irish Catholic immigrants. Its first Mass was celebrated in 1874 by Friar John Fagan in a carpenter's shop on Hooper Street. In 1875, Transfiguration R.C. Church was dedicated. As the congregation and diversity grew, so did the needs of the parishioners. In 1912, the Sisters of St. Joseph established a parochial school that educated thousands of students until 2006 when it closed its doors.

In the late 1900's there were 500 Puerto Ricans living in New York City, and by the 1930's the population increased to more than 45,000. Many of these families moved to Williamsburg and settled in the Southside/Los Sures community near the Transfiguration parish where they lived among Irish Catholics, Italians and Jews. Transfiguration embraced the Latino community and adopted changes to its ministry and services to meet the spiritual, social and educational needs of its new parishioners. In 1956, after his ordination, Monsignor Bryan J. Karvelis, a then young priest came to the parish and saw first-hand the conditions and social needs of the families it served.

Transfiguration, under the leadership of Monsignor Karvelis, worked to improve the lives and social and economic status of the poor and refugee community it served. It founded and helped create organizations like the Southside Mission, the Transfiguration Parish Federal Credit Union, Southside Immigration Services, Nuestros Ninos Daycare Center, a men's shelter and food pantry and Casa Betsaida, a hospice residence opened during the AIDS crisis for individuals infected with the virus. Monsignor Karvelis served