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Senate

JAMES AND SOPHIA TARABICOS' 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Jim and Sophia Tarabicos, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 28, 2004.

As Jim and Sophia celebrate this milestone in their lives, they will surely reflect on the many changes, successes and accomplishments they have experienced together over the last fifty years. Theirs is a journey of which they can be proud.

Jim is the son of the late Harilaos and Alexandra Tarabicos. Jim attended high school in his hometown of Nafpaktos, Greece. He came to Wilmington, DE at the young age of 19 to work at his uncle's restaurant, Presto, located at 817 Market Street in downtown Wilmington. His wife, Sophia, is the daughter of the late Louis and Georgia Liarakos. She is a native Delawarean who graduated from P.S. DuPont High School and studied at the University of Delaware.

Jim and Sophia met at a church event when they were 19 and 17 respectively. They married two years later on February 28, 1954 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Wilmington in front of their friends and family.

For over 40 years, Jim and Sophia dedicated their lives to one another and to their businesses. They opened their first store, a luncheonette named Jim's Place at

8th and Orange Streets in Wilmington in the mid 1950s. Several years later, they bought Presto Restaurant from their uncle. They later changed the name to Tarabicos. Jim and Sophia were committed to the success of their restaurant. Owning their own business allowed them to spend valuable time with each other, while at the same time being devoted parents, and major contributors to their neighbors, community, and church. They retired a decade ago, and continue to remain active members of their community.

Jim and Sophia consider their church to be like a second family. Jim was the president of the parish council for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church from 1971 to 1973. While Jim was president, plans were made to move forward with approving the construction of the community center and the design, financing and use thereof. Sophia is a member of the Philoptochos Greek Ladies Society and served as president from 1981 to 1983.

In addition to the restaurants and church activities, Jim and Sophia were also quite involved with political activities, committees, and fundraisers in the City of Wilmington and were active with the city's merchants association. In their spare time, they enjoy taking walks together at Bellevue State Park, and traveling, especially taking cruises.

They are blessed with three children, Larry, Alexandra, and Georgiean, and six grandchildren, Kristin, Sophia Alyssa, Maria, Sophia Elaina, Michael and Dimitri. They are devoted to each other and to their families. Jim and Sophia are active in their children's and grandchildren's lives, often traveling to visit family members and spending meaningful time with their grandchildren and passing on to them valuable life lessons. They enjoy attending all of their various school functions

Today, I rise to congratulate Jim and Sophia on their 50th wedding anniversary. Both have shown great service and commitment to their family and to their community. They serve as true role models. I know that their years together hold many beautiful memories. It is my hope that those ahead will be filled with continued joy. I wish them both the very best in all that lies ahead.