

TRIBUTE TO JOSE AND MAGALY
ROHAIDY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of two distinguished members of the Hispanic community and the community-at-large, Jose and Magaly Rohaidy of West New York, New Jersey, who are being feted today because of their many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that we gathered here in their honor, for they epitomize care, generosity and professionalism.

Both of these eminent community leaders are dedicated journalists, Jose has served his profession since he was a young man in Havana, Cuba. He was the director for "Radio Nacional" of Cuba. The time spent working with this organization instilled in Jose the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the journalism community. Jose has been a reporter for El Diario-La Prensa for more than 30 years. In addition he has worked with Radio WADO for more than two decades.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Magaly Rohaidy has also had a distinguished career. She began in the textile industry in Cuba. In 1970 she founded Mini-Mundo Magazine and served as Director. She has also been a reporter for El Diario for more than 15 years.

Jose and Magaly Rohaidy both were born in Cuba, and have been blissfully married for more than 42 years. They have four children, Lourdes, Maria Magdalena, Gabriel and Jose Gabriel. They are blessed with six grandchildren.

This pair continually touches the lives of the people around them. Jose helped to organize the Puerto Rican Parades of Paterson and Trenton, the Hispanic American Parade of New Jersey, the Dominican Parade of New Jersey and the Peruvian Parade of New Jersey. In addition, he and his wife created the "Toys Gift" program for children at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, Barnert Hospital in Paterson, and the General Hospital of Passaic. As a public servant in New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, I can say that I can think of no people who work harder or care more about others than these two remarkable people. Perhaps the greatest tribute to Jose and Magaly are the numerous awards and accolades they have received.

Jose was the first Hispanic reporter to be given an honorary degree from Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey. The Martian Women Association of Union City proclaimed Magaly Rohaidy the Mother of the Year. This organization is named for Jose Marti, the National Hero of Cuba. Congress also honored her as "the Woman of the Americas," and the New Jersey State Assembly named her as one of the 13 most notable women in the Garden State. Furthermore, Magaly was the Grand Marshal representing the Hispanic Community at the inaugural Hispanic-Italian-American Parade of New Jersey in Paterson. Mrs. Rohaidy is also the recipient of the Key to the City of Paterson.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a Mayor, Assemblyman, and now as Congressman, I have been privileged to work with nu-

merous outstanding individuals. Jose and Magaly Rohaidy fall into this category, as exhibited by the many achievements and awards detailed on this page. The best thing I can say about Jose and Magaly Rohaidy, however, is that I am proud to call them my good friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Jose and Magaly's family, friends, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Jose and Magaly Rohaidy.

HONORING DNA CHAPTER 13 DURING
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Nashville Chapter of Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity during National Transportation Week, May 14–20, 2000.

Congress and President John F. Kennedy first proclaimed National Transportation Week in 1962. Since then, National Transportation Week has been observed every year during the week in which the third Friday falls in May. It is important to recognize the men and women who deliver the goods from our farms and factories to suppliers and buyers all across this great nation, not only during a given week in the year, but throughout the year as well.

While transportation affords us the opportunity for leisure travel, it has become an increasingly important issue for those of us who commute to and from work. While I have been supportive of efforts to widen and expand our interstates to minimize traffic congestion, I also believe we need to consider alternatives like bus service and commuter rail.

In keeping with the objectives of its international organization, Volunteer Chapter 135 has done an excellent job in creating awareness of transportation issues, promoting safety in the industry and enabling young people to continue their education through numerous scholarship programs. During National Transportation Week, the Volunteer Chapter includes public schools in their awareness program with poster and essay contests and equipment demonstrations.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the transportation industry and its workers. To Nashville Chapter 135, I say, "Roll on!"

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. MURPHY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a kind and decent man who lived his life helping others, and lost his life helping others.

John D. Murphy coached youth basketball and volunteered in his community. He attended the Million Man March, as well as the protest in Tallahassee against Gov. Jeb

Bush's One Florida Plan to dismantle our state's affirmative action program. He was always thinking of others.

On the way home from the One Florida march, he came upon a chain-reaction auto accident that killed two people and injured 24. Despite the pleadings of his sisters, John Murphy left his van and went to help the injured. He was killed when a tractor-trailer filled with lumber overturned and buried him on the highway.

Mr. Speaker, John Murphy's sudden and tragic death is a source of great grief in his family and throughout our community. I join with his loved ones and those whose lives he touched in extending my deepest sympathy for their loss.

I would like to submit an article about John Murphy that appeared in the Miami Herald:

[From the Miami Herald, Mar. 10, 2000]

LOVED ONES FEEL LOSS OF I-10 PILEUP VICTIM

(By Adam Ramirez)

His sisters begged him not to leave the van and venture into the smoke-filled highway, but John D. Murphy insisted on trying to help motorists injured in Wednesday's horrific 23-vehicle crash on Interstate 10 near Wellborn, Fla.

Murphy, 36, who attended the Million Man March and coached youth sports for 12 years, was coming home from the protest of Gov. Jeb Bush's One Florida plan in Tallahassee. The Plantation man was killed when a tractor-trailer filled with lumber overturned and buried him on the highway.

"That's the kind of guy John was—he was always trying to help people, no matter who they were," longtime friend Calvin Joy said outside Murphy's Plantation home in Park Estates. "He devoted his life to helping people—and that's how he died."

Two other people were killed and at least 24 injured in the chain-reaction accident caused in part by heavy smoke on the highway about 90 miles east of Tallahassee in northern Florida, officials said. Also killed were truck driver Ben L. Helmuth III of Claxton, Ga., and Sheila Lindeck, 43, of Jacksonville, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

VERY SCARY SCENE

"It was a very scary scene when Mr. Murphy ran in there—smoke and flames everywhere," said Scott Pate, Suwannee County deputy emergency management director who arrived first on the scene. "He was a true Good Samaritan."

Twenty-three cars and trucks slammed into one another about 8 a.m. after some of them slowed and stopped when they suddenly came upon a cloud of smoke.

Seventeen miles of highway near Wellborn were closed after the accident but were reopened Thursday morning.

Murphy's sisters, Lydia and Jeryle Murphy, watched helplessly as he walked into the smoke and flames. A manager at BellSouth for six years, Murphy was driving a rental van with his sister and two of their children when they hit a thick patch of smoke and pulled over.

MISSING HALF HOUR

"John told them he saw people in the fire and smoke, and he had to go help them," Joy said. Murphy had been the best man in Joy's wedding. "About 30 minutes later, his sisters were asking police to find him." They didn't realize he was only a few feet away.

Erik Gebauer, of Melbourne, said he was driving a Mustang that slid under a tractor-trailer.

"I don't understand how I lived through that," Gebauer said Wednesday, his voice