

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 23, 2000]

JOSEPH G. CIRILLO, A GOP LEADER

(By William Lamb)

Joseph G. Cirillo, 60, a Haverford Township commissioner and chairman of the township's Republican Party organization, died yesterday of an apparent heart attack at Delaware County's Fair Acres Geriatric Center, where he was director of personnel.

Mr. Cirillo had represented Haverford's Third Ward on the township's Board of Commissioners since 1995, when he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by the death of Stephen Campetti. In 1997, he was appointed to the Haverford Authority, a body charged with recommending uses for the 239-acre site of the former Haverford State Hospital.

Mr. Cirillo's political allies and foes described him as a diligent worker who devoted much of his free time to his party and community.

A native of West Philadelphia, Mr. Cirillo graduated from St. Thomas More High School in 1957, an achievement he noted proudly with a personalized license plate: "STM 1957."

After serving in the Navy, Mr. Cirillo took a job with Acme Markets at the supermarket chain's West Philadelphia warehouse at 59th Street and Upland Way. He enrolled at Widener University after chronic back problems forced him to leave the job, and later received a master's degree in counseling and human relations from Villanova University.

In 1959, he married Cathy Dupal, whom he had known since childhood. The couple moved to Haverford in 1966.

Mr. Cirillo immersed himself in his community, and in the Republican organization that ran it. He served on the township's parks and recreation board in the early 1970s. He was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board in 1980 and was elected chairman in 1993.

By the mid-1980s, Mr. Cirillo was first vice president of the township Republican committee, eventually taking control of the local party organization in 1994 after the resignation of Hugh A. Donaghue.

Until his ally Fred Moran failed to win reappointment as commissioners chairman in January, Mr. Cirillo was Haverford's undisputed GOP boss. Despite rumors of an effort to depose him as party chair, Mr. Cirillo had said this week that he planned to seek reelection to the post next month.

He began working for Delaware County in 1982 as a human resources information and referral specialist. In 1987, he was appointed personnel director at Fair Acres, the county's geriatric center in Lima, a position he held until his death.

"I don't know anyone that can't say that Joe was the most loyal and hard-working Republican in this township," said Joan Genthert-Giangiulio, a former Haverford commissioner who befriended the Cirillos in 1969. "He was one of the guys that did all of the work—he didn't delegate much—and I think it's going to be a big loss."

Mr. Cirillo's political opponents also acknowledged his contributions yesterday.

"I was impressed that his community involvement extended beyond just politics," said State Rep. Gregory S. Vitali (D., Delaware), acknowledging Cirillo's involvement at St. Denis Church.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Joseph; daughters Theresa McLean, Susan Ferry and Cathy Koval; five grandchildren; and a brother, Vincent, of Philadelphia.

WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to draw your attention to the critical need for Congressional commitment to support research for women's health research. As a survivor of ovarian cancer myself, and on behalf of the millions of women who suffer debilitating diseases, the advancement of women's health must be a national priority.

Historically, women's diseases have sat on the "backburner" of research agendas. But one hundred years ago when many women did not live through menopause, women were not represented in elected offices as they are now. Today, women are not only 12% of this House, but also 50% of the American workforce and the primary caregivers in our homes. Our daily health greatly affects the productivity of America and the quality of life for our children and families. We need to continue to fight aggressively to make women's health research a national priority.

Too many times, chronic health conditions affecting women have been labeled and dismissed as "psychosomatic." Yet, we know through medical research that these "women's conditions" are real diseases with real biological causes. Chronic conditions are often associated with significant medical costs as patients and providers seek to identify the root of the problem, rule out other conditions, and find a satisfactory approach to managing and treating the illness.

The Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research recently sponsored a briefing that I was pleased to support, "Reaching Gender Equity in the 21st Century: A Renewed Focus on Women's Health." The briefing highlighted the need for increased research into chronic conditions that affect women and their productivity.

The briefing featured two chronic conditions that disproportionately affect women during their prime working years, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and migraine headaches. IBS is a common intestinal disorder characterized by recurring abdominal pain and abnormal bowel functions. IBS affects as many as 50 million Americans, predominately women, and is a leading cause of absenteeism at work.

Many successes have been achieved in medical research of women's health, for which I am personally grateful. All of us have benefited from the advances in medical research and the resulting technology. But it has been only in the last 10 years that women have been included in clinical trials. We have a long road ahead of us and many challenges to meet. We can not rest on the laurels of our past. Instead, we must dedicate ourselves to advancing our national women's health research agenda. I intend to do just that.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant support of the Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Bill, which provides over \$9 billion in emergency funds for this year. This bill provides \$5 billion for ongoing operations in Kosovo, \$2.2 billion for natural disaster assistance, \$2 billion additional funds for the Defense Department, and \$1.7 billion in assistance to Colombia, Peru, and to fight narcotics traffickers.

While I support the Supplemental Appropriations bill, I have strong reservations about using this legislation as a vehicle to circumvent the regular appropriations process. Many initiatives and decisions contained in this bill should be part of the regular FY 2001 appropriation process rather than trying to slip under the past and current year spending levels. This bill reduces the non-Social Security budget surplus for this year by about 35%. Such efforts don't speak well for the often-stated Congressional pledges to pay down the debt. Too often under this GOP leadership, the term "emergency" is misunderstood and misused. This Emergency Supplemental request should not be an opportunity to evade spending caps for non-emergency items.

I supported the increases of the Lewis-Spence amendment, which would provide \$4 billion in additional emergency funds, mostly targeted at maintaining critical need areas under the Department of Defense. While it would be preferable to consider this funding during the regular budget process, I believe the military has urgent needs in the areas specified by the amendment. Under the amendment, an additional \$4 billion will be provided to fund the operations and training of currently deployed forces, as well as provide much-needed increases for the military health care program, personnel recruiting and retention, and improvements to military housing. However, this amendment underscores the fallacy of the Majority's FY 2001 Budget Resolution adopted last week.

The Supplemental Appropriations bill does include important funding for fighting the drug war in Colombia and providing the military with adequate funding levels to pay for rising fuel costs; health care and repairing damages to military facilities caused by recent hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters is understandable. These are truly unforeseen costs.

I decided to support the Emergency Supplemental because the assistance package for Colombia is a vital priority and is clearly in our nation's fundamental interest. Colombia is the source of more than 80 percent of the cocaine and much of the heroin that enters the United States. In fact, Colombia produces 60 percent of the world's cocaine crop, an astonishing 90 percent of which makes its way to the U.S. The cost of illegal drugs to the U.S. is \$110

billion a year, and the U.S. Drug Czar, Barry McCaffrey has reported that illegal drugs account for 114,000 American deaths a year. Assisting Colombia is clearly in the interest of our nation and especially in the interest of our nation's youth.

In 1999, Colombia's President Pastrana unveiled a proposal, known as Plan Colombia, to address the country's drug production and civil conflict. The Government of Colombia has estimated that \$7.8 billion will be needed over the next three years to reverse the country's role as the hemispheric center for drugs, rebuild its economy and bolster its democratic institutions.

But as we offer assistance to Colombia, it is important that we include tangible means for measuring the actions of the government-supported forces. We must ensure that the funds we provide to Colombia are utilized in a manner consistent with our national interest. That is why I supported the amendment offered by my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY that would have delayed funding for military hardware and training contained in the Colombia assistance package until July 15, 2000. The amendment would have provided for immediate funding of all drug interdiction efforts under the Administration's plan, but with withheld military aid until sufficient review by Congress. The delay would have provided the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on International Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence time to hold hearings about the conflict in Colombia and the need for this kind of hardware and training before the funds are appropriated.

I believe the funding contained in the aid package should not serve as a blank-check for the Colombian military to engage in actions that may violate human rights, including the killing of innocent civilians. It is important to remember that since 1987, it has been reported that more than 35,000 noncombatant civilians have been murdered or made to disappear by the Colombian security forces and their paramilitary allies. While President Pastrana has made important strides in restoring the rule of law and improving the human rights record of the military, the U.S. should act very carefully before appropriating funds to any army with such a decidedly bloody record.

I also believe this legislation should have included drug prevention measures to reduce the demand for illegal drugs in the United States. Such an effort must be part of a comprehensive U.S. anti-drug strategy. Indeed, I find it ironic that we're considering an emergency supplemental bill in the House of Representatives whose emergency status is in part due to the production of illegal drugs in Colombia, without one dollar in the bill being used for drug prevention in the U.S.

Illegal drugs are killing our kids at an alarming rate. In 1998, five million young people in this country required treatment for drug addiction, and nearly 600,000 required an emergency room visit. In the United States, there are 1.6 million drug-related arrests annually, and over half of our prison population committed drug-related crimes. Even more disturbing, while the average age for marijuana users is increasing, heroin abusers are getting younger. The cost of drug abuse to our society is estimated to be \$110 billion per year, but it is much higher if measured in countless lives lost and young dreams broken. This problem, Mr. Chairman, is staggering. As

such, I supported the motion to recommit the bill back to the Appropriations Committee with instructions that it be reported back to the full House with sufficient domestic drug prevention funding. While this effort failed, I hope the Administration and the Majority take important steps to address the demand side of the drug problem in this country. If we are to truly eradicate drugs from our streets, we must recognize that when there is a demand, there will always be a willing supplier.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that, should this bill progress, the leadership will pare back spending which is not truly emergency. Much of this bill can be considered under the regular appropriations process for FY 2001. We should be reticent to completely ignore spending caps for the current fiscal year as this bill does.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH
BIRTHDAY OF NEAL TRAVIS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neal Travis, one of New York's most celebrated newspaper columnists and writers, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Neal Travis' insightful analysis of the New York scene has educated and entertained those in the big apple for many, many years. His column in the New York Post, Neal Travis' New York, has covered all aspects of life and has attracted the attention of all segments of our society. His blend of wit, sarcasm, compassion and searing observations have inspired, motivated and always informed New Yorkers.

Born in New Zealand, Neal Travis emigrated to the United States in 1964 where he served as a foreign correspondent for Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. He then rose quickly up the ladder and secured his own column in the New York Post. Some 15 years after its inception, Neal Travis' New York is more popular than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in sending our warmest congratulations to Neal Travis on his 60th birthday. Life in New York will always be more significant and exciting because of his presence and his gift with the written word.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BROOKLYN POLISH
AMERICAN HOME, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Polish American Home, Inc.

Established in 1935 when South Brooklyn was a growing community full of various ethnic backgrounds, the community felt a cultural center should be established. This center would serve, not only as a meeting place for the entire community, but as an educational

tool where people could visit and learn about their own heritage and the heritage of others. Thus, the Brooklyn Polish American Home was born. The Home's objective is to further not only Polish ideals, but the ideals of the entire community; in addition it serves as a civic, social, and recreational center.

With a goal of serving the community, and with generous donations from the entire area, a parcel of land was purchased on April 10, 1935. The Home serves not only as a meeting place, but as a builder of futures for young people. The Home managed to establish a Scholarship Trust Fund, awarding grants to high school graduating seniors entering college or any other approved higher education institution. The first grant was provided in 1971, and through 1999 a total of 81 individuals had received financial assistance, totaling over \$32,200.

The Home has not been without hardships, though. Throughout the years, numerous renovations have been done to the Home. In the late 1980's, two fires caused substantial amounts of damage and had to be renovated again. As a result of the generosity and involvement of the entire Brooklyn community, sufficient funding was acquired making these extensive repairs possible. The fact that the Home was able to overcome these challenges is a testament to the character, will and stamina of the community's residents.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join in honoring the 65th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Polish American Home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Thursday, March 30, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 89-95. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 89 on Agreeing to the Kasich Amendment; Rollcall vote 90 on Agreeing to the Weldon Amendment; rollcall vote 91 on Agreeing to the Stearns Amendment; roll call vote 92 on Agreeing to the Paul Amendment; rollcall vote 93 on Agreeing to the Tancredo Amendment; rollcall 94 on the Motion to Re-commit with Instructions; and rollcall vote 95 on Passage of H.R. 3908, Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for F.Y. 2000.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 90, 94 and 95. I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 89, 91, 92, and 93.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DEACON
WILLIE MARTIN, SR.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Deacon Willie Martin Sr., as he celebrates his 100th birthday on April 8, 2000 in Pineland, South Carolina. Congressman JAMES E. CLYBURN, my distinguished colleague from the 6th District of South Carolina, joins me in this tribute.