

of the American cowboys. He leaves behind a great legacy.

Paul's travels as a cowboy and a shrewd businessman began on Dec. 6, 1898, when he was born in Summershade, KY. At age 17 he went to work in a shipyard, then made his way to Texas where he joined the Texas Rangers. Paul was one of the first people to board the German submarine that sank the Lusitania, an event that precipitated the United States' entry into World War I.

Paul's love of horses led him back and forth to Mexico, where he rode with the revolutionary, Francisco "Pancho" Villa. He eventually came to California where he worked as a bodyguard to industrialist J. Paul Getty and evangelist Aimee Semple MacPherson. He became a devout Christian—something his family and friends said was one of the most important aspects of his life. He purchased real estate throughout the Los Angeles area, including a ranch he called the "Diamond B" in Saugus where he ran cattle, and raised racehorses.

Paul's passion for horses was as strong as his passion for filmmaking. The Veluzat family owns Melody Ranch, home to over 750 "B" western movies as well as other notable films and television shows such as the beloved Gunsmoke. "Last Man Standing" starring Bruce Willis was recently filmed there.

Paul was very successful. He and his first wife, Opal, were simple and down to earth, they were astute in business and had unquestionable integrity. Paul's word was his bond. Ninety percent of his business was conducted by a handshake or over the phone. Paul's true success was measured by his deep spirituality and the love and respect he gained from his family and his many friends. He will be remembered as a generous man who was liked by all.

Paul Veluzat is survived by Rosa, his wife of 14 years, his sons, Rene, Andre and Renaud, four grandchildren, Shantel Hudson, Daniel, Paul and Marcel Veluzat, three great-grandchildren and many, many friends.

STATEMENT OF HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS PRINCE SAYAVONG

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to my colleagues the following letter and testimony sent by His Royal Highness Prince Sayavong to Philip Smith, of the Center for Public Policy Analysis, for the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos that was held on September 7, 2000. My foreign policy advisor, Mr. Al Santoli, was one of the keynote speakers at this event after returning from a research mission to Southeast Asia.

As a Member of the House International Relations Committee, I appreciate the important role of the Royal Family in Laos—past, present, and future. Laos is currently ruled by a one-party Communist regime. After 25 years of communism, its people want and need change. The Lao and Hmong people are rightfully demanding freedom, democracy, human rights and economic prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit for the RECORD the important statement of His Royal Highness.

Paris 4 September 2000

Hon. PHILIP SMITH,

Center for Public Policy Analysis, U.S. Congress—Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Subject: U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos—7 September 2000.

I should be most grateful if you could kindly distribute the attached paper—though unsolicited—to Distinguished Members of the Forum who are to examine the "challenges and opportunities surrounding the 25th Anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic". The views expressed herein are those of the Lao people as a whole whom I am privileged to represent during the last 4 years from our operating Bureau in Paris (40bis Rue Championnet 74018 Paris—France).

Thank you most sincerely for your kind assistance and understanding.

H.R.H. PRINCE SAYAVONG,

Brig. General, The Lao National Army—
Surviving son of King Sri Savangvong (1885–1959) and Half-brother of King Sri Savang Vatthana (1907–1980).

[U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos, U.S. Congress—Capitol Hill, Washington, DC 20510 Sept. 7, 2000]

THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR): AN APPRAISAL AFTER 25 YEARS OF COMMUNIST RULE.

[By Brig General Tiao Sayavong

The year 1975 should go down in Laos' history, indeed in Indochina's as the most tragic date in our common memory—where our beloved country suddenly sustained a horrible cataclysm of gigantic magnitude, plunging that part of the world in total darkness. That was the year where millions of peoples—young and old—had to leave behind their most cherished treasures in order to escape forced-labour camps and death, and to seek freedom in foreign lands.

For us free Laotians we consider December 2nd of each year as the time of mourning—of national mourning—of national mourning since it brings back to memory the death of our age-old traditions and way of life, of our fertile soils and rivers and mountains which we inherited from our forefathers. The Kingdom of Laos was one of the most ancient nations in Asia—the cradle of post-angkorian civilization. Of course, we will never forget that we were the victims of world politics, and we know too that we were the sacrificial lambs of the American foreign policy at that time. That the Pathet-Lao were able to overwhelm us so massive support—politically, militarily and logistically from the Soviet stooges who at the very moment run the show from Hanoi which incidentally will become the future capital of the Socialist Republic of Indochina by the year 2020!

DISASTROUS BALANCE SHEET

After 25 years behind the bamboo curtain what do we see today? Politically we see that the following inhumane abuses are daily occurrence: violation of basic human rights; non-respect of fundamental freedoms; brutal suppression of democratic dissent; imprisonment without due process of the law; arbitrary arrest upon simple denunciation and torture. Economically the LPDR ranked among the ten poorest countries in the world today according to the United Nations. Per capita income is less than \$300; foreign debt amounts to well over \$3 billion or more; local currency (the Kip) is almost worthless; inflation averaged 300 percent annually thus pushing the rate of the Kip up to almost 10,000 to a dollar. Without substantial external assistance the government will not be able to function normally. The inevitable consequence is that ordinary citizens find their daily existence totally unbearable—

fueling pervasive resentment against the dictatorship of the proletariat. It is obvious to everyone that the LPDR is actually on the brink of explosion at any moment! Socially peaceful Lao traditional society is turned upside down—forcing thousands of young men and girls to flee across the borders in order to escape misery and seek good fortune in neighboring Thailand. Meanwhile millions of foreigners, mostly from North Vietnam—keep pouring into the country to fill the void—thus bringing destruction and irreparable damage to our thick forests and wildlife and driving local inhabitants to abandon their lands with apparent impunity. Recently Hanoi promised to triple the Lao population—actually estimated at 5 million—by the year 2020!

PATH TO SALVATION

Since the Lao people are being prevented from changing their government for the better through democratic means external intervention—essentially from Western powers, the United States and Japan therefore become critical in order to bring about needed radical reforms in our country.

Even before S. Res. 240 and H. Res. 169 were officially adopted by the US Congress we have had numerous opportunities of submitting to The Honorable Senator R. Grams, Senator C. Thomas, US Representative B. Vento and Chairman J. Helms for consideration of a number of concrete proposals aimed at restoring social justice, liberty and democracy in our homeland. They still remain valid to these days, viz:

1. We humbly request that S. Res. 240 and H. Res. 169 be transmitted to the Executive Branch as soon as feasible together with ample budgetary appropriations necessary for their implementation;

2. We humbly request that the US government set up a Special Lao Task Force (SLTF) to be charged with the responsibility of translating the sense of the US Congress into practical reality without further delays; the SLTF should be required to work closely with all truly anti-communist groupings (such as the Lao Liberation Front led by Major-General Vang Pao and the Party of Vientiane Government—PGVT—under the chairmanship of Phagna Houmphan Saignasith) put in place by Lao refugees in the United States, Europe and elsewhere—excluding those openly or discreetly in favor of power-sharing with the communist Pathet-Lao;

3. We humbly request the US government to take the lead in choosing the future Lao political leaders from among the Lao anti-communist elite to all ethnic groups residing abroad; these selected intellectuals should form the backbone of the Kingdom's political, economic and administrative framework;

4. We humbly request the US government to solicit the concurrence, support and commitment of the countries signatory of the Geneva Accords of 1962 on Laos neutrality and of those which were party to the Paris Agreements of 1973;

5. We humbly request that the US government resolve in collaboration with ASEAN and the United Nations—to exert maximum diplomatic and military pressure upon the marxist authorities in Vientiane in order to compel them to relinquish power and be replaced by a new power structure freely elected by the Lao people; and

6. We humbly request that the US government, with the concurrence and support of its allied, announce a massive assistance programme designed to help the newly-elected government of the Kingdom of Laos to reconstruct the country anew on the basis of respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In the end it will prove to be necessary to convene an International Conference similar to the Geneva Conference of 1962 to tackle various abuses and problems confronting Laos today—in particular the non-respect of the neutrality, sovereignty and independence of our country by its immediate neighbours.

In view of the fact that a great number of political groupings set up by Lao refugees abroad are heavily infiltrated by communist elements and opportunist trouble-makers it will be difficult—if not impossible altogether for them alone to create a single anti-communist entity without American prodding. The success of the US pro-democracy crusade in Laos will undoubtedly trigger throughout the Asia region a genuine tidal wave carrying a powerful signal as well as an unmistakable warning to dictators and tyrants in other lands hence that the international community will no longer tolerate undemocratic practices and uncivilized and inhumane behavior by members of the United Nations.

The Lao people both inside the country and overseas hope and pray with us that the American people will understand and support their government's resolute action humanely intended to assist the Kingdom of Laos in regaining peace, independence and liberty essential ingredients for economic advancement and well-being in the years to come.

PARIS 1 SEPTEMBER 2000

THE HOME AMENDMENT, H.J. RES.
39

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention an amendment which I introduced the first session of the 106th Congress. H.J. Res. 39, The Home Amendment "would provide for a Constitutional amendment requiring that all citizens of the United States shall have a right to a home, which shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State."

Despite the economic growth that has brought unprecedented prosperity to the nation, we are still faced with shortages of housing and affordable rents, particularly in larger cities such as New York. Indeed, many people have not been included in the economic windfall of the 1990's.

I first introduced this amendment during the 104th Congress, and again in the 105th at the request of Reverend Dr. M. Moran Weston, who was actually the inspiration behind the development of this legislation.

Weston, who for many years served as pastor of St. Philip's Church in my 15th Congressional District of New York, is the Founder and long time President of the National Association for Affordable Housing. One of our community's greatest religious leaders, his genuine concern for people who lacked the most basic need, a decent place to live, inspired him to do more.

This renowned Harlem pastor responded as an example to others, by playing a leading role in renovating a block on Harlem's 135th Street. As a member of the original board of directors of Carver Federal Savings & Loan in my congressional district, he was the sponsor

of a federal government guaranteed renovation project, a 198-unit development, which he viewed as an early step in the creation of a "New Harlem." It was his inspiration and way of desire for a better life for all people, that led to my introduction of this amendment.

Though Reverend Weston no longer resides in my congressional district, his many contributions to our community over the years, have not gone unnoticed or have been forgotten by this Congressman or the people of New York.

Only last year that Dr. Weston was named with a Distinguished Lectureship in Urban and Public Policy established in his name by Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. The first two speakers in the lecture series were Chairman of Fannie Mae Franklin Raines and Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo.

It is my hope that on behalf of Reverend Dr. M. Moran Weston, and millions of people who would benefit from H.J. Res. 39, that we support this amendment, and look forward to its enactment.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST FOUR
DON LESLIE MICHAEL OF LEX-
INGTON, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Alabama's true heroes, Specialist Four Don Leslie Michael. Michael's life was one of service to his country and brave sacrifice. I honor him today on the occasion of his induction into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor.

Michael's family recently attended the induction ceremony at the Hall of Honor located in Marion, Alabama. Michael, 1 of 13 members asked to join this elite Hall, was born in Florence and soon moved to Lexington where he grew up with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. Michael, now deceased. The Alabama Military Hall of Honor is described as "a permanent and visible tribute to Alabamians who have distinguished themselves in the Armed Services of their country. It serves as a constant testimony to present and future generations that patriotism and heroism are not forgotten, but ever serve as challenges for those who are yet to come."

Michael's distinction with the Alabama Military Hall of Honor brings additional honor to his memory. In May of 1969, President Nixon handed the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Michael to his family at a White House ceremony. While in the Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Michael sacrificed his life in service of this nation. During a conflict in Vietnam on April 8, 1967, Michael put himself on the line to throw six grenades. He was successful in destroying the enemy positions, yet he was mortally wounded in the effort. Michael's award citation reads "His inspiring display of determination and courage saved the lives of many of his comrades and successfully eliminated a destructive enemy force.

Specialist four Michael's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself and the U.S. Army."

Michael, the only Congressional Medal of Honor winner in northwest Alabama, has gone unrecognized long enough. I am pleased that his induction into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor will ensure that the example of his life and his unceasing dedication to the United States and its democracy can be an inspiration for our state for years to come. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of North Alabama. I want to express my outstanding respect and admiration for Specialist Four Michael. I know that his family is deeply proud of his legacy and I share my joy with them that his life and memory are being properly recognized.

IN HONOR OF DR. ORLANDO
EDREIRA, FOR DEDICATING HIS
LIFE TO LANGUAGE AND TEACH-
ING

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Orlando Edreira for his life-long commitment to education.

Dr. Orlando Edreira has been a symbol of learning since his days as a student in Cuba during the 1950s and 1960s. It was then that he decided to make the study of language and the education of others his life's work. His decision was based on a true understanding of the value of language and the freedom it provides.

Dr. Edreira began his career as an educator in 1966, when he became an instructor in the Department of Spanish at Columbia University. In 1968, he joined the faculty of Kean College of New Jersey as an assistant professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, where he has been an integral part of the faculty ever since, and where he became as associate professor in 1972 and a full professor in 1977.

As a member of the faculty at Kean College, Dr. Edreira served as the Coordinator of the Bilingual Education Program from 1971-1972, and the Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages from 1974 to 1986. He has served as the Director of the Spanish Speaking program since 1972.

In addition, Dr. Edreira has made important contributions to program development, faculty development, and student development at Kean College. He is a member of the Committee on Academic Concerns of Hispanic Students; a member of the Language Laboratory Committee; and a member of the Committee on Academic Support for Hispanics. He also initiated and coordinated faculty training programs for faculty of the Spanish Speaking Program, and developed and directed In-Service Training Programs for Bilingual Teachers in the State of New Jersey.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Orlando Edreira for his lifetime commitment to education and for the support and guidance he has provided Hispanic students.