

American and extraordinary human being who led with quiet strength, the Reverend Chris Hadgigeorge of Toledo, Ohio, who was laid to rest this week.

Father Hadgigeorge served the Toledo community so wisely and so generously for over a half a century, anchoring his service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, which he helped to elevate from a church to a cathedral during his service. He was 91. What an incredible life.

Surviving are his beautiful wife, Presvytera Ann Hadgigeorge, who he married in 1948; daughters Pattie Senerius and Angie Bohland; son, William; sister, Presvytera Zafera Bartz; six grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters. He worshipped them all.

He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, to immigrants from the Greek island of Samos. When he was growing up, he served as an altar boy. When the family went visiting with friends, children asked what he would like to play and he said: "I would like to play church." So Father Chris would be the priest. As he said in a Blade interview back in 1998, he would marry his brother to one of the girls, and he would have a bag of marbles that he would use as his censor.

Father Hadgigeorge attended Holy Cross, a school of Greek orthodox theology in New England, and was ordained in 1948. He served as pastor in a broad range of communities, including Indianapolis and Detroit, before arriving in Toledo. How lucky we have been.

He served as pastor starting in 1960 and pastor emeritus after 1991, and he has been a leader for more than half of the North Toledo landmark church's existence. As I mentioned, it is now a cathedral due to his efforts.

He had such an influence beyond the congregation he so dutifully served. The pastor recognized the changing needs, not only of the congregation, but of the community, as he saw his own congregation transition from U.S.-born members whose forebears arrived decades ago to more recent Greek and Cypriot immigrants. As his son said: "I always called him a peacemaker."

He served as a board member of the Toledo Council of Churches and was active in the International Institute, building goodwill with every step and every word he uttered. He raised his article of faith far beyond the congregants of his own cathedral.

He planted his congregations' commitment in the heart of Toledo and maintained it there at a time when it was really needed, before the community had transitioned to the new century when it was struggling. He led his community to oversee renovations to the church building as it was elevated to a cathedral, including the construction of a beautiful educational center and the purchase of surrounding property, while supporting the parish leaders' decisions to stay put and not move, not suburbanize. He felt that that congregation should control its own destiny and to grow where it was planted.

Father Chris was enthusiastic when the parishioners decided to throw a festival in 1971. The Holy Trinity's Greek festival has become an annual affair in our region, bringing people back to the city and being so much a part of the revitalization of Toledo long before it was popular. He was a true leader. He was such a leader for us.

"There are many generations who knew Father Chris," said the Reverend Larry Legakis, who became Holy Trinity's pastor in July 2014. Reverend Legakis said: "For some of the people in their eighties, they remember working side by side" with Father Hadgigeorge. "Some see him as a father and a grandfather. And he was with us for so long, others see him as a great-grandfather." Personally, this Congresswoman sees him as a friend.

Our community is forever indebted to him, and the Greek American community he shepherded is an essential building block of the city of Toledo. We would be so much less without having their faith-filled commitment.

May his family draw strength from his beautiful life and from the lessons that he taught us and from the city that he loved and the cathedral to which he gave his life. May his family be blessed and may he rest in peace.

I would like to place in the RECORD as well the obituary that was printed in the Toledo Blade this week.

[From The Blade, Jan. 3, 2016]

THE REV. CHRIS HADGIGEORGE (1924-2015): ORTHODOX PRIEST UNIFIED GREEK COMMUNITY, PARISH

(By Mark Zaborney, Blade Staff Writer)

The Rev. Chris Hadgigeorge, a leader of what is now Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, as pastor and pastor emeritus, for more than half the North Toledo landmark's existence, died Thursday in his Sylvania Township home. He was 91.

He died in his sleep, his son William said. The cause was not immediately known. He had surgery recently to replace a heart valve and put in a pacemaker, but he did not appear ill and took part in liturgies at Holy Trinity for much of December.

The Holy Trinity community was organized in June, 1915, and has worshiped at its distinctive home on Superior Street north of downtown since 1919. Father Chris arrived as pastor in 1960.

"There are many generations who knew Father Chris," said the Rev. Larry Legakis, who became Holy Trinity pastor in July, 2014. "For some of the people in their 80s, they remember working side by side. Some see him as a father and a grandfather, and he was with us for so long, others see him as a great-grandfather."

Holy Trinity was consecrated as a cathedral in 1966, "because of his leadership," said George Sarantou, a former parish council president.

Father Chris oversaw renovations to the building and the educational center and the purchase of surrounding property while supporting parish leaders' decision to stay put.

"He felt we should control our own destiny," said Mr. Sarantou, Toledo finance director and a former member of the city council. "He was a good solid leader who understood what our needs should be. He got the job done with his quiet but effective leadership. He knew how to motivate people."

Father Chris was enthusiastic when the parish threw a festival in 1971, and Holy

Trinity's Greek festival has become an annual affair.

"He loved the city and the community. It was home," his son said.

The pastor recognized the changing needs of the congregation, from the U.S.-born members whose forebears arrived decades ago to more recent Greek and Cypriot immigrants.

"He was a great unifier in the Greek community. He could work with all groups, young and old," Mr. Sarantou said.

His son said: "I always called him a peacemaker."

"I'm speaking as a son now," William Hadgigeorge said. "He would never lecture me about God's way. It was always the right way; do the right thing, even when others aren't looking."

Father Chris retired as Holy Trinity pastor in 1991. Afterward, he was interim pastor of a Springfield, Ohio, church for several months but stayed in Toledo.

He was named a protopresbyter in the church by Archbishop Iakovos in 1973, and received the patriarchal cross from Patriarch Bartholomew in 2006.

Father Chris was born Aug. 3, 1924, in Youngstown, to Paraskevi and William Hadgigeorge, immigrants from the Greek island of Samos. He was an altar boy growing up and sang in the choir. When the family went visiting and friends' children asked what he'd like to play, "I'd say, 'Let's play church,'" Father Chris told The Blade in 1998. "And I would be the priest. I would marry my brother to one of the girls. I would have a bag of marbles that I used as my censor."

He was a 1942 graduate of Youngstown's East High School. He went to Holy Cross, a school of Greek Orthodox theology in New England and was ordained in 1948. He was a pastor in Indianapolis and Detroit before arriving in Toledo.

He'd been a board member of the Toledo Council of Churches and was active in the International Institute.

Surviving are his wife, Presvytera Ann Hadgigeorge, whom he married March 7, 1948; daughters, Pattie Senerius and Angie Bohland; son, William; sister, Presvytera Zafera Bartz; six grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

Visitation will be from 1-9 p.m. Monday in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, with Trisagion prayers at 7 p.m. A vesperal liturgy at 9 a.m. Tuesday will be followed by funeral services at 11 a.m. in the cathedral. Arrangements are by the Ansberg-West Funeral Home.

The family suggests tributes to Holy Trinity's memorial fund.

SECOND AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, with the recent announcement of new policies to restrict firearms, President Obama has yet again used executive overreach to force his agenda on the American people. Congress has already rejected these policies in a bipartisan fashion, and this action is another example of the President overstepping his constitutional authority to circumvent the people's voices in Congress. The administration's assault on Americans' constitutional rights must stop.

Time and time again, our courts have defended the Second Amendment, and

Congress has voted repeatedly to reject new restrictions on our constitutional rights. For more than 200 years, the Second Amendment has been protected and championed by Americans, the courts, and Congress. We must stand together to defend and protect our constitutional rights. As a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, I am outraged by President Obama's actions and will fight to stop this executive order.

In my home State of West Virginia, using guns for sport and hunting is a way of life. We respect firearms and are taught at an early age how to use them. In many families, fathers and mothers teach their children how to hunt and, when they are old enough, they receive their own gun as an important coming-of-age tradition. West Virginians are not alone. Families across this country have these same traditions and sports.

As West Virginians, we know that law-abiding citizens are not the problem and our country was not founded on the principles of taking away rights from the people. Our rights cannot and should not be taken away. This administration is determined to attack our way of life, our traditions, and our constitutional rights. I wish I could say this is a surprise, but time and time again, this President has used executive actions and regulations to eliminate policies and rights he disagrees with.

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Sadly, we have seen this far too often with the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, which has aggressively—aggressively—used regulations and rules to destroy our coal-mining communities, in particular, in my State of West Virginia.

I have fought to stop the EPA and will fight to stop President Obama's executive actions on gun control. As a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I will use the power of the purse to eliminate funding for these new actions. As a Member of Congress, I am dedicated to working for our State and doing what is right for the people of West Virginia. I will continue to support our constitutional rights, including the Second Amendment, and push back on the administration's overreach into our lives, businesses, and communities.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND RICHARD SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a good friend, Richard Smith.

Mr. DENHAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DENHAM. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), my good friend, as we both recognize an amaz-

ing life of a good friend and acknowledge and honor the life of this personal friend and beloved community leader, Rich Smith.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away peacefully in the comforts of his home, surrounded by his family, on December 27, 2015.

Born on December 19, 1946, Rich was raised in Walnut Creek, California. Growing up, Rich's family was involved in 4-H, and agriculture had always played a major role in his life. Rich continued down this path by obtaining a bachelor of science degree in ag science and management from the University of California, Davis in 1968.

Originally, Rich was interested in the technical aspects of agriculture. He worked in a lab performing analysis on soil, water, and plant nutrition. Never did Rich believe he would be the owner of a successful wine company, but in 1987, this became a reality when he and his new bride, Claudia, purchased the vineyard known as Paraiso Vineyards.

Today Paraiso Vineyards is owned and operated by the Smith family and is located in the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey County. The family business consists of almost 3,000 acres of vineyards and continues to evolve in all aspects. Rich leaves behind a tremendous legacy that can be celebrated and appreciated by everyone who visits this magnificent vineyard.

Rich had a generous spirit and provided lasting contributions to the community. He was a local hero to the Salinas Valley, and he demonstrated time and again a desire to share his resources and talents with others.

I was one of those whom he shared his talents with as he encouraged, supported, and advised me to run for political office. Rich's motto always was: Treat people the way that you want to be treated. All that were lucky enough to spend time with him found that he truly lived by these words. Rich will forever be remembered for his kindness, generosity, leadership, and love.

On kindness and generosity, he and Claudia were kind enough and generous enough to host, 23 years ago, then my fiancée, now my wife, Sonia, and our wedding at the beautiful Paraiso Springs.

On leadership and love, as I was in the State senate, Rich provided leadership for not only the State of California, but the Salinas Valley, the wine industry, creating a wine mecca, pioneering Monterey County to be a leader in wine production as well as a new tourism corridor.

His love for family and his community was unmatched. He is a friend that is going to be forever missed. Not only was he a leader, a very kind man, a very generous man, but he had a tremendous sense of humor. I will never forget soon after our marriage, his daughter, Sonia's best friend, was being married at Paraiso Springs as well, and a funny episode happened where Sonia passed out in the middle

of the wedding. Rich seized the moment to rib me a little bit and my new mother-in-law. He made it clear that he thought that Sonia may be pregnant on that day. It was a funny gesture that, as a young man, made me a little nervous at the time, but he will always be a friend and sorely missed.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, we both got to know Rich through politics. It is amazing that he was a person who supported us both: Jeff being a Republican, myself being a Democrat; Jeff being in the State legislature, I being in the State legislature.

I got to know him when I was a county supervisor in Monterey County. Rich was always the go-to guy to really do sort of the technical issues that you drill down deep on a lot of controversial agricultural issues. His ideas were always based on good science, good farming practices, always sort of the idea of conservation in the best sense of the word.

He also was participatory in my daughter's wedding because the wines we served at that wedding were from Rich's vineyards. In fact, I brought a bottle of his wine today here on the floor to show the world that this man did some great things. His wines were served also at many, many charitable events that they did at their vineyards.

He and Claudia were kind of leaders. Claudia was very interested in getting the whole ecotourism, agritourism involved to get people out into seeing how agriculture is really produced, and wine visits are obviously a good way of attracting people, but the knowledge of it.

We are going to really miss him. He was a great person, and I am glad that we are able to create a national park right across from his vineyard so he can always stare at it.

Got bless Richard Smith and the great wines he made.

DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of life and in firm opposition to Planned Parenthood's unconscionable activities.

But as I begin my remarks, I want to be very clear about one thing. The vote that the House will take today is a victory for women's health while also serving as a cry to end the monstrous actions of an organization that continually attacks our most vulnerable unborn children.

There are more than 13,500 publicly supported alternatives for women's health care in the country and 588 in Missouri—alternatives that treat women without performing abortions, alternatives that will have more access to Federal money for women's health care. This means that in Missouri alone, there are 45 health clinics for every Planned Parenthood clinic in the