

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSITION TO CLINTON ADMINISTRATION MOVES TO RECOGNIZE THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our responsibility as a nation to account for all of those who have bravely served our country, especially in time of war. But to date, there are still over 2,200 unaccounted for POW's and MIA's in Indochina. And that is why I am so dismayed at the Clinton administration's rash drive to recognize Vietnam. Our country should not hastily recognize and normalize relations with the Communist Government of Vietnam without the fullest possible accounting of those who selflessly put their lives on the line for our great Nation. We should not let their efforts be forgotten. The families and friends of lost service members deserve to know the true fates of their loved ones.

The cooperation of the Vietnamese Government on the investigation of the fate of POW's and MIA's has been insufficient to warrant rewarding them with their cherished recognition. In addition, let us remember who we are dealing with here. This is an unelected illegitimate, Communist dictatorship with a consistent record of duplicity and brutality. Year in and year out, the Government of Vietnam ranks right near the top of the list of human rights violators in the world.

This is the same regime that lied to us about how many men they were holding at the time of the Paris Peace accords in 1973. The same regime that began violating those accords immediately and then launched a massive, conventional invasion of South Vietnam in 1975, armed with Soviet tanks and a vote of confidence from the United States Congress. The same regime that gave us the boat people and reeducation camps. And it is important to remember that, despite their subsequent split, North Vietnamese soldiers fought side-by-side with the genocidal Khmer Rouge in Cambodia before 1975 and helped immensely to bring those murderers to power.

Mr. Speaker, I categorically oppose the moves by President Clinton to normalize relations with and recognize the Communist Government of Vietnam. America should not bestow this honor on such a heinous and brutal government that has done so much harm to so many people and which may still be doing harm to Americans. The American Government has a responsibility to use all of its diplomatic might to further investigate the fate of our missing sons and daughters. We have not yet exhausted that might and recognizing Vietnam now will take away our last bit of leverage with that government.

We absolutely must get the fullest possible accounting of POW's and MIA's in Indochina so that their families and friends can finally be

put at ease with the knowledge of the fate of their loved ones, and to ensure that no one was, God forbid, left behind.

I doubt we will ever get that if we recognize Vietnam and I implore the administration to step back from this unwise course.

SALUTE TO SHALIMAR ABIGAIL ORDONEZ FOJAS

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 1995

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the academic achievements of Shalimar Abigail Ordóñez Fojas. This talented young woman won third prize in the 1995 Young Scholars Contest sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities.

Started in 1993 by the council, this essay contest is an effort to promote an awareness of the humanities at the secondary school level of education. Each student is required to write a research paper with a humanitarian theme which changes on a yearly basis. This year's theme, entitled "A Life Worth Knowing," was dedicated to the life of a historical figure.

Shalimar Abigail Ordóñez Fojas, a student at Brewster High School in New York, wrote an essay that embodied the life of Charles Lamb. Her essay titled "An Anatomy of Selflessness: Charles Lamb's Lifelong Sacrifice," proved to the council that Shalimar had carefully researched and learned to understand the significance people have in shaping their own worlds. The prize, \$1,250, hopefully will be used to further Ms. Fojas' education.

Mr. Speaker, I close with a salute to Shalimar Abigail Ordóñez Fojas for her intellectual achievements, and the bright promise that her future holds.

RECOGNITION OF EDWARD COX

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to herald the accomplishments of my good friend and community leader, Mr. Edward V. Cox. On June 30 Ed Cox will retire from his position as the county administrator of St. Mary's County, MD. Ed's retirement will mark the end of 22 years of public service to St. Mary's County. As a resident of St. Mary's County, I know that Ed's departure will be a great loss for his colleagues and, most importantly, the citizens who have been well served by his leadership.

As the administrator of St. Mary's County, Ed established an extraordinary record of fairness, decency, and a faithfulness to the interests of all of our residents. During his 22 years of service, Ed has served as the admin-

istrator to six different boards of county commissioners. He led St. Mary's County through periods of great turmoil and unprecedented growth. His work in the community has been consistently guided by a commitment to excellence and an unwavering loyalty to the public good.

Ed is an advocate of community participation in government. He worked tirelessly to provide the citizens of our county with access to the decisionmaking process. Time and time again, he has found the means and served as a catalyst for improvement in St. Mary's County.

It is impossible to list all of the programs and initiatives that Ed Cox has championed in his 22 years of service. His work is respected by our entire community and he has brought a level of integrity to public service that is unmatched. Ed Cox will be sadly missed.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE SILVER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my personal sense of loss, and the loss of the entire San Francisco community, at the passing of Steve Silver. A master showman, a philanthropist of boundless heart, and creative genius, Steve passed away this Monday.

It is difficult to distill the life and journey of Steve Silver in any way that adequately describes his impact upon San Francisco. A San Francisco native, Steve's artistic and creative talents were readily apparent to all who knew him. On a budget of \$900 and a cast of 11, on June 7, 1974, the first "Beach Blanket Babylon"—complete with sand—opened in San Francisco's famed North Beach. For over 20 years—making it the longest running musical revue in the Nation—"Beach Blanket Babylon" has packed over 3 million fans in over 7,700 shows.

Queen Elizabeth, President Reagan, countless of the famous and not-so-famous, and tourists from every part of the globe have been enchanted and captivated by Silver's magical cabaret at Club Fugazi. Topical, over-the-top, hysterically funny, with puns, campy dialog, double-entendres, outrageous costumes, and even more outrageous, imaginative, and gigantic hats, all thrown around like loose change, "Beach Blanket" is a cherished San Francisco institution.

Steve's success with "Beach Blanket" was poured back into the community of his birth. He was responsible for construction of the main portal at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. Even his last birthday this past February—his 51st—Steve used the occasion to celebrate the dedication of the new portal to the Memorial Grove. He gave generously to Project Open Hand, the AIDS Emergency Fund, the High School of the Arts, and

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