

TRIBUTE TO HARRY PASTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the constituents of my district in honoring Mr. Harry Paster. Next month, one of the guiding lights of American advertising will retire after a most distinguished 47-year career. Harry Paster, a legend in the advertising world, will be retiring from his position as executive vice president of the American Association of Advertising Agencies [AAAA] on September 30, 1995.

American advertising is one of the Nation's most vibrant and important industries, and for over 77 years, the leadership of the AAAA has advanced and strengthened the advertising agency business throughout the U.S. One of the most respected and dedicated members of that leadership team has been the AAAA's executive vice president, Harry Paster.

Mr. Paster, who earned his bachelor's degree at City College of New York and his master's degree from New York University, started with AAAA as a statistician in 1948. Subsequently, he was promoted to vice president, to senior vice president, and in 1980, to executive vice president of the association. In each of these positions, Mr. Paster demanded the highest standards from his industry and from himself.

In 1992 Mr. Paster's dynamic career and extraordinary contributions to the advertising agency business were aptly recognized when he was named Man of the Year by the Advertising Club of New York and awarded the prestigious Silver Medal by the American Advertising Federation.

When Harry Paster retires next month from the industry that he has nurtured and led for almost five decades, his humor, his counsel and his unparalleled insight into the people and the workings of the advertising business will be sorely missed. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me, and Harry's countless friends in commending Harry Paster for his dedicated service and in wishing him the very best for a most rewarding and fulfilling retirement.

VIEQUES LANDS TRANSFER ACT
OF 1995**HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vieques Lands Transfer Act of 1995. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the Municipality of Vieques for public purposes which benefit the people of the island.

The Island of Vieques is located in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 6 miles east from the eastern coast of Puerto Rico and 22 miles southwest of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Vieques is a long narrow island nearly 22 miles long and 4.5 miles wide at its widest point. It has an area of about 33,000 acres or

51 square miles of land and, according to the 1990 census, a population of 8,602. The island's two towns, Isabel Segunda and Esperanza, have populations of 1,702 and 1,656, respectively. The other residents are classified as rural inhabitants. Vieques is a civilian municipality of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and is divided into seven wards—barrios.

The Navy and Marine Corps conduct Atlantic Fleet training and readiness exercises at the Puerto Rico-Virgin Island complex known as the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Range [AFWTR]. Headquartered at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, PR, the complex consists of four ranges: the inner range on the east end of Vieques; the outer range which is an easterly ocean range extending both north and south of Puerto Rico; the underwater tracking range at St. Croix, VI; and an electronic warfare range which overlaps all of the ranges.

On Vieques, but outside the inner range, is the Naval Ammunition Facility [NAF] which occupies the entire range of the civilian zone—approximately 8,000 acres. The Navy uses this facility for deep storage of conventional ammunition. Ships delivering the ordnance dock at Mosquito Pier, located on the northern coast of the NAF. From there, it is transported by truck to bunkers distributed throughout the NAF. Most of the ammunition is destined for off-island use by the Navy, the Marines and the Puerto Rican National Guard. Occasionally, ammunition is transferred overland from the NAF to the ground maneuver area located east of the civilian zone. At present, training exercises are not carried out at the NAF.

Since the 1940's, when the U.S. Navy acquired 78 percent—approximately 26,000 of 33,000 acres—of Vieques' territory, the island has suffered a prolonged and ever-increasing economic crisis and a massive out-migration. From a population of around 15,000 in the 1940's, Vieques currently has 8,602 inhabitants. An unemployment rate higher than 50 percent, lack of adequate housing, health, educational facilities, and a growing crime rate are among the clearest manifestations of the critical economic situation on Vieques. According to the 1990 census, the per-capita income in the island was \$2,997, and the Viequense families with an income below the established poverty level reached 70 percent in 1989.

Women must be flown by emergency plane to the main island of Puerto Rico to give birth due to the poor conditions of Vieques' hospital. The island also suffers from the highest rate of broken families among Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities.

In the late 1970's, Viequense fishermen spearheaded a drive to stop the bombing on the island and end restrictions on fishing. Many of them were arrested.

In 1980, our colleague from California and now ranking minority member of the House National Security Committee, Congressman RON DELLUMS, directed a House Armed Services Committee panel review of the naval training activities on the island of Vieques. This panel concluded in its final report to the committee that the Navy "should locate an alternative site" and that "[i]n the interim, the Navy should make every effort to work closely with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in implementing programs to alleviate the impact of its activities and in particular explore turning

over additional land to the island for civilian use."

In 1983, while Governor of Puerto Rico, I signed an agreement with the Department of the Navy whereby the Puerto Rican Government agreed to drop all litigations in court against the military for ecological and economic damage on Vieques in exchange of a Navy commitment to mitigate the ecological impact of their activities and help with local economic development. All of the economic projects set up in Vieques with assistance from the Navy closed down within 1 or 2 years after initiating operations.

Lack of control of over two-thirds of the island by the municipal government is widely recognized as the principal cause of Vieques' economic and social woes. Trying to find a solution to the current problems, the local planning board and the municipal government, in close coordination with the government of Puerto Rico and the State legislature have designed and commenced the implementation of a tourism industry strategy. But the truth of the fact is that this gloomy economic picture can only be improved if and when the municipal government of Vieques acquires sufficient lands to develop the required infrastructure for the implementation of the tourism industry strategy.

My bill would transfer the 8,000 acres of land that currently comprise the NAF to the municipal government of Vieques. The transfer would take place only after the municipality submits to the Secretary of Defense a detailed plan of the public purposes for which the conveyed property will be used—such as housing, schools, hospitals, libraries, parks and recreation, agriculture, conservation and economic development—and such plan is approved by the committees with jurisdiction in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

The eastern part of Vieques, which comprises approximately 15,000 acres, would still remain U.S. Navy property. This means that, even with the adoption of this bill, the Navy would still control nearly half of the island.

Puerto Rico has a long and proud tradition of supporting national defense. This has been shown time and time again as hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have demonstrated their valor and patriotism through service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today, more than ever, we stand ready to assume an even bigger role in the defense and values for which our Nation stands.

This bill is in no way contrary to that tradition, but rather one that I believe provides a solution which will be beneficial for both the people of Vieques and the U.S. Navy. I am hopeful that it will receive favorable congressional action at an early date.

HEALTH UNIT COORDINATORS DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, 1995 is the 50th anniversary of the profession of health unit coordinators. Michigan, along with many other States and local municipalities have designated August 23, two weeks from today, as Health Unit Coordinator Day. I support these