

TRIBUTE TO GESU CATHOLIC
CHURCH OF MIAMI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me tremendous pleasure to pay tribute to Gesu Catholic Church of Miami, which has for the past 100 years been the spiritual heart for the people of south Florida. As Miami celebrates its centennial anniversary, so too does the Gesu Catholic Church. Together the city and the church have been harmonious partners in a relationship that has seen Miami become a premier city of the United States and the Americas.

As the first house of worship in Miami, Gesu's contributions to the cultural, religious, educational, and charitable development of south Florida have been enormous. Indeed, Gesu has been a loving place of worship that has allowed many community leaders including Steve Clark, mayor of the city of Miami, J.L. Plummer, commissioner of the city of Miami, and Arthur Estopiñan, my chief of staff in Washington, DC, a site of reflection and inspiration.

For my chief of staff, Arthur Estopiñan, the church takes on a special significance. Arthur worked part time after school in the rectory since he was 13 years old until after graduating from college, helping to coordinate liturgies with Father John Edwards, S.J.; Father Bill Mayer, S.J.; and Father Donald Pearce, S.J. The loving influence that the Jesuits at Gesu have shown Arthur enabled him to become a man of the highest moral character.

Gesu has served as a beacon of hope for many people from many different lands who came to this great Nation in search of freedom. It is a historic landmark that has a devoted following of parishioners that come together to celebrate their faith and heritage. The American people should be extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of Gesu during the past century and I am confident that Gesu will have an equally outstanding history in the century to come.

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR
INDIA

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to explain why I oppose the amendment to the bill making fiscal year 1997 appropriations for foreign operations, offered by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON]. The gentleman's amendment sought to limit appropriations to India for development assistance or to nongovernmental organizations and private voluntary organizations operating within India.

Action of this nature would send the wrong message, Mr. Speaker. In my view, instead it would behoove our Government to take steps that would serve to encourage the progress being made in India on several fronts.

On one front, the voter turnout in India's most recent national elections is evidence of

the continued growing support for democracy. Another front worthy of note is the improvements and reforms made in the area of human rights. Finally, I believe the Government of India is to be commended for the initiatives undertaken to liberalize the economy and to recast its markets.

I am pleased that 295 other House Members chose to join me in rejecting this amendment, Mr. Speaker. Our vote speaks of our and the United States' support for a strong relationship between our governments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOIS J.
LECRONE ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a very special occasion. My good friend Lois J. LeCrone is retiring on June 30, 1996 from the CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp. in Sullivan, IL, where she has served as the senior volunteer program director. I congratulate her on 30 years of exceptional dedication to the cause of senior citizens and for always being a consummate professional.

Those that know Lois understand her contributions to her field as well as her deep personal commitment. She has been at the forefront of a movement that recognizes that seniors have a lot left to give to their communities. Improving the quality of life for our older citizens is more than making sure they have sufficient health care and savings, but showing them that they can still make a significant contribution to society in general. Lois has helped countless people give back to those around them while providing each of them a priceless feeling of self-worth. This work takes patience, but as I believe Lois would tell you, the rewards are worth the effort.

Mr. Speaker, our country needs more people like Lois to remind us of the importance of not just doing your job, but of doing it with compassion, grace, and attention to detail. By setting such a high standard we come to expect and demand excellence, and that should be our collective goal no matter what the field. I wish Lois all the best in this new phase of her life. I have enjoyed working with her as well as representing her in the U.S. Congress. I am sure she has a lot to give of herself, and for that I am very grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I will be absent from the U.S. Congress on Monday, June 10 and Tuesday, June 11 for personal reasons.

DAY OF PORTUGAL

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Dia de Portugal, or Day of Portugal, which commemorates Portugal's numerous achievements and rich cultural heritage. This is a day for the Portuguese community to rejoice in the strides they have made as a people. More important, it provides the rest of the world the opportunity to heighten its awareness of this valuable segment of our society.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the day is its connection to the Portuguese poet Luis de Camoes. June 10 marks his birthday, and is thus an excellent occasion to recognize his contributions of Portugal's language and culture. As the Portuguese equivalent of Dante and Chaucer, Camoes gave the people a voice for their innermost hopes and dreams. His eloquent turns of phrase are a noted source of pride for the Portuguese people.

However, in this day and age, I believe it is important to realize that Portugal has even more to be proud of. Its economy has battled high unemployment rates to achieve greater economic growth, and is now projected to join Europe's single currency in the near future. In addition, foreign investors are attracted by the government's plans to privatize and decrease the budget deficit. Further progress will help Portugal move through the Europe's ranks and increase its economic standing.

The rest of the international community should pause to reflect on this remarkable progress and join the Portuguese community in celebration.

GEORGE SOROS MAKES CASE FOR
POSTPONING BOSNIAN ELECTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, George Soros, my good friend and the chairman of one of the largest and most widely praised philanthropic organizations in the world, put forth a very strong argument for postponing the Bosnian elections until there is stronger evidence that the goals set by the Dayton Accords for free and fair elections have been met. His op-ed, which appeared in the Wall Street Journal, makes a well-reasoned case for delaying the elections until indicted war criminals are arrested, freedom of movement is established, a free press exists, and lines of communication are opened between and within ethnic groups.

The Soros foundation/Open Society Foundation is one of the primary philanthropic organizations dedicated to promoting free societies throughout the world. George Soros has demonstrated his commitment to making the peace process work in Bosnia by pledging \$15 million for TV broadcasting prior to the elections. These funds, in conjunction with the commitment of the United States and the world community, will be of enormous help in executing free and fair elections once preconditions are set.