

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS GILMARTIN

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Thomas Gilmartin, on the occasion of his retirement.

Tom Gilmartin served the town of Hamburg as superintendent for buildings and grounds from July 1974 until December 1996. As a former Supervisor of the town of Hamburg, I witnessed first-hand Tom's intense work ethic, professionalism, and integrity.

Tom currently also serves as an usher at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Hamburg. A prominent Irish-American in western New York, Tom's community service includes work with the Knights of Columbus, the Irish-American Cultural Association, the Gaelic-American Athletic Association, and the Irish Parade Committee. In recognition of that dedicated service, volunteerism, and hard work, Tom will serve as the grand marshal of the 1998 St. Patrick's Day Parade in the city of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with Tom's wife, Mary; his children, Katie, Tom, Tim, and Mary Alice; the town of Hamburg; and indeed, our entire western New York community to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas Gilmartin. With retirement comes many new opportunities. May he meet every opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career; and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you Tom, for your tireless effort and personal commitment to our Western New York community. As you enter retirement, I wish you nothing but the best.

AMBASSADOR SAMUEL G. WISE,
JR.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague BEN CARDIN, and I mourn the loss of a gentleman known to many of you in this House and in the international community. For almost 20 years, Sam Wise guided the work of the Helsinki Commission and advanced the cause of human rights around the world.

Ambassador Wise joined the Commission in 1977, the year following its creation, and served with distinction until his untimely death last month. We had the privilege of working with him for more than a decade, and can state without qualification that Sam Wise was the preeminent expert on the Helsinki process and an adept facilitator of its guiding principles. Ambassador Wise participated in every meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its successor, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. His keen negotiating skills and calm demeanor earned him the respect and trust of the entire OSCE community and substantially enhanced the effectiveness of the Commission in the international arena. He was well known and liked in virtually every European capital.

Ambassador Wise brought to the Commission a wealth of experience from a distin-

guished career as a Foreign Service officer. During his years with the Commission, that experience and in-depth knowledge of the Helsinki process guided our work and advanced U.S. interests. His efforts helped to shape the policy and institutions which moved the process forward and demanded the world's attention to the plight of those struggling against tyranny and oppression. We believe the Helsinki process was a driving force in bringing an end to the cold war. Ambassador Wise's contribution to that effort is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, the death of Ambassador Sam Wise saddens us all and leaves a void in the OSCE and the international human rights community that cannot be filled. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Wise and the family. Know that you are in our thoughts and our prayers, and know that Sam's life of superb accomplishment and dedication to liberty and human dignity is a legacy that will inspire and guide generations to come.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO FRANK
A. ORECHIO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to join me in honoring Frank A. Orechio, of Nutley, NJ, who is retiring from his position as director of Facilities Planning and Water Resources Development for the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission.

As a lifelong resident of Nutley, Frank has always been an active member of the community. As a teenager, Frank was involved in helping his neighbors become naturalized citizens and then registering them to vote. As a young activist, Frank rose rapidly through the ranks of the Essex County Republican Party, becoming chairman of the Essex County Young Republican Party and then eventually being elected chairman of the New Jersey's State Young Republicans in 1948.

In the late 1950's, Frank turned to newspaper publishing as a career, and purchased his hometown newspaper, the Nutley Sun. Eventually he acquired several other newspapers and these served as the nucleus for what has since become known as Orechio Communications Co. Although now a newspaper publisher, Frank never abandoned the political field, serving in the capacity as either campaign director or confidential aide to such prominent national figures as Nelson Rockefeller and Richard Nixon.

Eventually Frank's dual commitment to politics and community led him to be appointed as a commissioner to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission in 1966. In his capacity as commissioner, in which he served 16 years, Frank was able to depoliticize the commission and provide leadership for the commission's operations at Wanaque.

After serving 11 years as project coordinator for Wanaque South, Frank was appointed director of facilities planning and water resources development in 1993, and served in this position until his retirement in January 1997. Upon his retirement, Frank can proudly claim accomplishment for the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission being recognized not only as the motivating force for

water resource development in New Jersey, but also as an innovator when it comes to overcoming obstacles associated with similar large-scale public works projects throughout the Nation. Also, Frank deserves praise for the computerization of filtration plants, which although were built in the 1970's, are still hailed as the most modern and effective in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Frank's wife, Edith and the citizens of Nutley in recognizing the accomplishments of Frank A. Orechio and his dedication to the public.

DR. DORIS ALVAREZ: NATIONAL
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. FILNER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Doris Alvarez, a distinguished leader from my home town of San Diego who has made a positive impact on thousands of young lives in our community. I am proud to congratulate Doris Alvarez, the principal of Hoover High School in San Diego, who today was named the National Principal of the Year by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the largest school leadership organization in the Nation.

Like those before her who have received this high honor as the Nation's best principal, Doris Alvarez has worked tirelessly for the benefit of every student enrolled at her school. Ten years ago, Hoover High was best known for the crime-ridden neighborhood in which it was located and its excessive dropout rate of 13 percent.

Then Doris Alvarez took the helm. Today, Hoover graduates 98 percent of its students. Hoover's dropout rate of 2.3 percent is less than half of the average national dropout rate. Hoover has been transformed from a school where dropping out was the norm to a flourishing environment where half of its students go to college.

Doris Alvarez has produced these results in an environment where students are faced with a host of challenges. Most students at Hoover live in neighborhoods with high crime rates. Eighty-two percent of Hoover students are poor. Ninety-three percent are immigrants or minorities, who speak a total of 30 languages.

Doris Alvarez has been so successful with these students because of her own challenging background. She grew up poor in Albuquerque, NM and San Diego as the child of Spanish-speaking parents who taught themselves English and left school after the 8th grade. She and her family were discriminated against at every turn—a fact that motivated Doris to succeed.

She has put her credo—"all kids need equal opportunity"—to practice at Hoover High School. With innovative alumni mentoring, student-teacher "academic families," and an on-site school clinic, Doris Alvarez has brought the community together in the interest of educating its young people.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton this week called upon the American people to work together, to realize that every student deserves