

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE HIS ALL HOLINESS PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 1997*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement in support of House Concurrent Resolution 134 authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople and new Rome on October 21, 1997, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Ecumenical Patriarch occupies the foremost position among the National Autocephalos Orthodox Churches worldwide and has the responsibility to coordinate the affairs of the Russian, Eastern Europe, Middle, and Far Eastern churches. Worldwide, the Patriarch is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians of which 5 million reside in the United States.

Therefore, it is important that Members of Congress, as leaders of a nation that was built on religious freedom and tolerance, have an opportunity to receive and honor one of the world's preeminent religious leaders. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew not only promotes peace and religious understanding throughout the world, but he is also profoundly committed to preserving and protecting the environment. Today, as the 270th successor to Apostle Andrew, His All Holiness continues efforts on behalf of religious freedom and human rights.

In closing support, is an expression of appreciation to the members of the Hellenic Caucus for their advocacy of this resolution as well as H.R. 2248, the recommendation to award the Patriarch with a Congressional Gold Medal, of which I am a proud cosponsor. H.R. 134 as introduced by BILIRAKIS from Florida, is a measure which provide the occasion to receive such an individual of high character and moral standing as His All Holiness in a manner befitting their rank and title.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JERRY L. PETTIS MEMORIAL VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 1997*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA. As the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that provides funding for veterans programs, including veterans medical care, I am especially proud of this facility at this historic moment. On Thursday, September 25, this fine facility will celebrate 20 years of service to veterans who live and work in southern California. My dear friend and predecessor in Congress, Shirley Pettis Roberson, will address those attending this very special ceremony at the medical center.

In June 1974, a large crowd gathered for the ground breaking to begin construction of this facility. The first patient was admitted in December 1977, realizing a dream and long-term goal of former Congressman Jerry Pettis. Jerry Pettis was a good man and a close personal friend. Today, his legacy lives on through the commitment and fine work of the men and women who strive to serve our veterans with great care and respect. Jerry Pettis would certainly be proud of this fine institution and the many worthy people it serves.

The Pettis VA Medical Center has 125 acute care beds and 106 nursing home beds. With a budget of approximately \$109 million, over 600 volunteers, and over 1,200 employees, the facility last year alone, had over 6,500 admissions and over 230,000 outpatient visits. Working closely with Loma Linda University in many areas of clinical research and study, the medical center continues to conduct critical work in a variety of scientific disciplines.

In addition, the Pettis VA Medical Center has vigorously explored ways of providing the best possible service to the more than 290,000 veterans in Riverside County and San Bernardino County. The recently opened Victorville outpatient clinic, for example, has greatly improved access to primary care for thousands of veterans in California's high desert region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in paying special tribute to the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center on its 20th anniversary. All of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our veterans, and we also owe a special thanks to the memory of our good friend and former colleague, for whom this facility is named. To both Jerry Pettis, and our veterans, Congress thanks you—and salutes you—on this historic day.

IN HONOR OF KEITH AND ANNE MEDEIROS

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 1997*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Keith and Anne Medeiros for their distinguished careers of service to the community of Fremont, California. For 42 years, Keith and Anne lived in the Fremont area. In that time, they consistently worked to make our community a better place. Both have been dedicated to the field of education as elementary school teachers. Keith Medeiros also served as school principal, and as a member of the Alameda County Board of Education. Anne Medeiros taught English as a second language.

Their service to the community has been diverse. Keith Medeiros worked as an Indian Guide Dad, a Pathfinder Toastmaster, a Chamber of Commerce activist, a Fremont Rotarian, an on and off stage actor and toastmaster, and a Washington Township Men's Club member. Anne Medeiros served the community as a representative for Congressman Don Edwards, and as a board member for the Serra Center and the Committee to Restore the Mission. They shared their talents as members of the Fremont Gourmet Club, the Fremont Dance Club, and the Fremont Kite

Flyers. They have been world-wide travelers, goodwill ambassadors, and advocates for historic Mission San José.

Keith and Anne Medeiros set a new standard as innkeepers for those whose travels took them to the Bay Area. Their hospitality was a welcome respite for travelers.

On September 22, 1997 the friends and colleagues of Keith and Anne Medeiros will honor their many years of community service. I join my neighbors as they extend a thank you to Keith and Anne for all they have done for Fremont.

TRIBUTE TO ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS PARISH

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 1997*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to the Parish of St. Raymond Nonnatus, which yesterday celebrated 100 years of serving the community in my South Bronx congressional district.

The parish was named after a 13th century Spanish mercedarian and cardinal. It is located at 1759 Castle Hill Avenue, in the Bronx.

A mass of Thanksgiving offered by Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor opened the ceremonies of the parish's 100th anniversary. The church belongs to the family of parishes that were established in the late 1890's in New York City; among them is Holy Family Parish, which this year also celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The origins of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish date back to 1843. A small church was erected under the leadership of Bishop John Hughes. In the 1890's Father Edward McKenna saw the church in poor condition and decided to erect a new building. The church was built in 1897 in a beautiful Byzantine style, with wonderful stained-glass windows.

Since its beginnings, the church has served a multiethnic community. In the early 1900's Catholics from all over Europe were members of the congregation. More recently, African-Americans and members of the Hispanic and Asian communities have joined the parish.

In 1908, under the pastorate of Father McKenna, a school was established to educate the children of the community. In the 1950's, Father Thaddeus Tierney oversaw the construction of a new school of accommodate the growing number of students. Even today, it remains one of the best equipped elementary schools in the Nation.

In addition, two other schools were established, the Boy's High School in 1958, and St. Raymond's Academy for Girls in 1960. A convent, a rectory and a cemetery are also integral parts of the parish.

Since the 1970's a social ministry was expanded to better serve the needs of the community. Monsignor Henry J. Vier added a Spanish mass to the Sunday schedule. He also established the Bronx Association for Special Education, the Archdiocesan Drug Addiction Program and the East Bronx Hunger Program.

Through the years, the church has been renovated several times. It now houses a magnificent marble alter, a great canopy, and an organ.