

So Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Our Savior Lutheran Church, of Centerach, for its 40 years of devoted service to God and man. We are fortunate to count this wonderful church among the crucial cornerstones of our Long Island community. Through the grace of God, may Our Savior Church continue to grow and flourish, so that it may continue to proclaim Christ to the heart of Long Island and beyond.

#### INTEGRITY AT THE BALLOT-BOX

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, over the last several days, this House has been asked to consider repeated motions to end the investigation into possible voter-fraud in California's 46th Congressional District during the 1996 election. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly tried to make this into a political dogfight. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This investigation has absolutely nothing to do with either candidate in the 46th district election. This investigation is about integrity at the ballot-box and ensuring that the electoral process in America remains genuine.

This is not a partisan issue, this is not a personality issue, and this is not a political issue. Most of all, this should never be made into an issue of race. The investigation into this election is a defense of free and fair elections.

It could happen in California, it could happen in Montana. No matter where it occurs, we have a responsibility to pursue the facts vigorously and ensure that future elections are fair. The Constitution demands it and the American people deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, are we that far removed from our history as a nation to forget the importance free and fair elections? there is no excuse for fraud at the ballot box and there is no excuse for those here in Congress who turn their backs to it.

#### IN HONOR OF MR. GUST SEVASTOS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gust Sevastos. On Saturday, November 8, 1997 the Chios Society-Chapter No. 7 will gather to celebrate the 84th anniversary of Chian liberation from the Ottoman Turks. During this celebration, the Chios Society will honor Gust Sevastos, a recent recipient of the Chian Achievement Award.

Mr. Sevastos immigrated to Cleveland, in 1958 to live out the American dream. He got married, started a family, and initiated his own business. Mr. Sevastos also began a legacy of distinguished service to the Greek community. Mr. Sevastos became very involved in the Annunciation Church, serving as the president of the church, helping found the Annunciation Greek Heritage Festival and advising a local

youth program. In 1987, Bishop Maximos honored Mr. Sevastos with a proclamation for his outstanding service to the church.

During the late 1970's, Gust Sevastos joined the Ohio-West Virginia Chapter of the Chios Society. As a member of the Chios Society, Mr. Sevastos held positions of leadership on both a local and national level. He served six terms as president of his local chapter. On a national level, Mr. Sevastos served as supreme vice president and supreme president. As a member of the Chios Society, Mr. Sevastos helped raise more than \$250,000 for the eye clinic and Skilitisio hospital in his homeland; he also helped raise money for the underprivileged in Chios.

Over the years, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Secretary General of the Greek Government, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and the Chios Omogenon Society in Greece have all honored Mr. Sevastos for his distinguished service to the Greek community.

I am proud to know Gust Sevastos and to consider him a friend. He is a remarkable individual, and his contributions to his community—and to the Nation—are noteworthy.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Gust Sevastos. Through many years of hard work, Mr. Sevastos has made immeasurable contributions to the people of Cleveland and the Greek community as a whole.

#### HONORING JOHN N. STURDIVANT

### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of John N. Sturdivant, whose contributions to our Federal Government and its workers are beyond measure. John died on October 28, 1997 after fighting a valiant battle against leukemia. It is hard for me to believe that such a vibrant and dynamic citizen is gone.

John served as the president of the American Federation of Government Employees [AFGE] since 1988. Since that time, he strengthened this union and ensured that our Federal employees had a much stronger voice in government. John fought to make sure that our civil service received the respect it deserved. When he took over the helm of the AFGE, it was a floundering union without a distinct mission or an activist style. John quickly changed that; it was not long before he was lobbying for amending the Hatch Act to give Federal employees a greater level of participation in the political process.

I often worked closely with John throughout the years and particularly during the two Government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996. I will miss the strong spirit and single-minded devotion that John brought to his mission. John recognized that it is easy for politicians to make Federal employees a faceless symbol of a large bureaucracy and he knew that this was simply unacceptable. Instead, he reminded elected officials at every level that civil servants often work for less compensation than the private sector. In fact, John was the leader who won locality pay for Federal work-

ers to bring their salaries more in line with the private sector.

I know that John will be missed by those he served who were lucky to have his tireless energy working for them. My deepest condolences go to John's family. John will be a friend and advocate that I will never forget. A recent article in the Washington Post clearly illustrates Mr. Sturdivant's contributions to our region and the Federal Government.

[From the Washington Post]

John N. Sturdivant, 59, who as president since 1988 of the American Federation of Government Employees helped lobby Congress to ease a 57-year ban on political activities for federal workers and rallied public support to end two government shutdowns, died Oct. 28 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. He had leukemia.

AFGE, one of the largest federal unions, has about 178,000 active members in 1,100 locals and represents about 600,000 workers in 68 federal agencies. Many have jobs in the Defense Department, Veterans Affairs Department and Social Security Administration. They add up to more than one-third of the federal work force.

Mr. Sturdivant was a primary labor spokesman on Capitol Hill and with the Office of Management Budget, pushing for pay raises and improved conditions and retirement benefits. He worked with legislators to create "locality pay," a salary system that attempts to bring federal compensation into line with the private sector.

Downsizing of government and budget pressures constantly dogged Mr. Sturdivant's effort to preserve federal jobs. After Congress failed to agree on a budget in 1995, and many government operations were suspended, Mr. Sturdivant accused House Republicans of trying to destroy government and denigrate federal workers.

The changes he and other federal labor leaders helped bring about in the Hatch Act three years ago came as unions were launching a multimillion-dollar counterattack on the congressional Republicans. Off-duty federal employees had been barred from political activity that included holding office in a party, distributing campaign literature and soliciting votes.

The Hatch reforms permitted employees to contribute money, attend fund-raisers and volunteer for work such as staffing phone banks.

Mr. Sturdivant, of Vienna, had long been active in Democratic politics, serving on the party's national committee and the Virginia and Fairfax County central committees, and he encouraged his members to get involved.

He also directed AFGE to contribute \$300,000 last year to organized labor's blitz against the GOP and assigned 22 of his organizers to get-out-the-vote effort.

This month he received the Spirit of Democracy award of the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation.

AFGE is a major affiliate of the AFL-CIO, and Mr. Sturdivant, who was one of the highest ranking African Americans in the labor movement, was vice president of the federation's executive council. He also was a trustee of its George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

ALF-CIO President John Sweeney said this year that Mr. Sturdivant had been at the forefront of helping the federation "focus more on diversity in the labor movement and in leadership development."

Mr. Sturdivant also was a member of the National Partnership Council, a Clinton administration initiative to improve labor-management relations in the executive branch. He came in for criticism after the 1996 election when he asked his staff to compile a list of career officials who could be