

rights," will be ever more heeded by the civil authorities. We urge and look forward to further hopeful signs of positive developments within Cuban society that could lead toward the needed rapprochement between our two countries and reconciliation among all our peoples.

The Holy Father summarized his goal for the visit as offering the "opportunity to strengthen not only the courageous Catholics of that country but also all their fellow citizens in their efforts to achieve a homeland ever more just and united, where all individuals can find their rightful place and see their legitimate aspirations realized." We stand with the Cuban people in their just hopes for full civic, political and religious freedom.

CELEBRATING A CHICAGO LEGEND

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, one of the few genuine legends of Chicago journalism, Irv Kupcinet, has just completed 55 years of writing one of the most popular columns in the midwest. "Kup" has countless friends in the worlds of entertainment, politics and sports. His entire career has been spent with the Chicago Sun-Times and predecessor newspapers. And on January 18th, the Sun-Times published a warm editorial which I am pleased to share with my colleagues:

KUP A TREASURE

For 55 years, Kup's Column has been a staple of Chicago journalism. And its author, Irv Kupcinet, has been a dean of his profession.

It is not just that he has done what he does for so many years. It is that he has done it with a grace, quality and compassion so often missing from contemporary American culture.

Kup has been a gentleman away from his keyboard as well. Over the years, he has spent his time and money supporting the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Chicago Academy for the Arts, Little City Foundation and the Variety Club, and working on telethons raising money for Easter Seals, muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy. Last, but certainly not least, he spent an amazing 50 years hosting the Purple Heart Cruise to thank veterans for their service to the country.

And to think this whole, wonderful career happened only because an injury ended his first career as a professional football player.

Football's loss was Our Town's gain. Chicago, and the Sun-Times, are lucky to have you, Kup.

REGARDING COL. WILLIAM VOGEL

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to extend my utmost appreciation to Col. William Vogel, district engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. Colonel Vogel deserves special recognition for the hard work and dedication to his employees demonstrated during the recent reduction in

force executed at the Army Corps of Engineers' Mobile District.

Faced with unfortunate, but unavoidable funding constraints, the Corps was forced to notify 192 employees in June 1997 they would be affected by the impending RIF in October of the same year. Obviously, when this notice was made public by the Corps there was tremendous and justified concern and uneasiness felt on the part of those employees whose names appeared among the 192.

Colonel Vogel led the mission to accomplish the necessary reductions and made every effort to minimize the apprehension and potentially devastating implications to his dedicated and loyal work force. He worked tirelessly to accomplish this goal. Realizing the only way a mutually beneficial agreement could be reached was through the cooperation of the Corps' management and the union, Colonel Vogel met often with union officials in an attempt to minimize the impact on those who would be terminated. Among the many efforts designed to accomplish this goal, local union leaders were invited to attend staff meetings and labor-management meetings were increased to every 2 weeks, therefore opening the lines of communication between the two sides.

The immensely successful program which followed was the direct result of Colonel Vogel's efforts. Several options were made available to the employees who faced termination, ranging from early retirement packages to transfers or pay cuts. A center was established to facilitate job placement for those who chose to leave. The final results in December 1997 were, given the potential alternatives, the best possible in this unfortunate situation. Seventy-nine employees left to pursue other employment opportunities and 113 were to be re-assigned. Of the 192 employees affected by the Reduction in Force, none were faced with involuntary separation.

I would like to personally thank Colonel Vogel and his staff for their dedication and commitment to their employees and coworkers. As Congress continues in its efforts to reduce the size of the Federal Government, other Federal agencies facing the same downsizing realities would do wise to study the model and accomplishment put forth by Colonel William Vogel and his staff.

I and everyone else affected by the Corps' reduction in force extend our sincere appreciation for a difficult job well done.

TRIBUTE TO NAVY CAPT. MANUEL A. HIPOL

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Capt. Manuel A. Hipol of the Navy Medical Corps who is retiring after almost 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to our country.

Born in Manila, Philippines, Captain Hipol launched his medical career at Manila Central University, completing its thoracic medicine residency program at the Philippines Veterans Hospital in 1966. Later that year he immigrated to the United States and settled in Seattle, WA, where he completed a 1-year in-

ternship and then accepted a commission as captain in the U.S. Army.

Like many dedicated, hard working career medical officers, Captain Hipol saw duty in numerous locations including Fort Sam Houston, TX; Fort Sheridan, IL; the Rock Island, IL Arsenal dispensary where he became officer-in-charge; and the Camp McCoy Army Dispensary, Sparta, WI, also serving as officer-in-charge.

Captain Hipol resigned from the U.S. Army in 1974 and almost immediately accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander. His first assignment at the Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA, was in the radiology department of Boone Clinic. He transferred to the reserves and served as commanding officer of the Naval Reserve, Naval Station Branch Clinic 106 in Norfolk. In 1980, he was promoted to the rank of captain.

Captain Hipol was recalled to active duty during Desert Storm and rejoined the reserves after his active duty release. Despite these many transfers and assignments, he remained active in numerous professional and community organizations including: the Association of Philippine Physicians in America; the Manila Central University Medical Alumni Association of America, where he served as national president; the Philippine Cultural Center Building Committee, where he served as chairman; and the Council of United Filipino Organizations of Tidewater, where he also served as chairman.

He has been recognized as 1 of the 20 most outstanding Filipino-Americans in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Hipol will continue his medical practice of outpatient diagnostic radiology in partnership with his wife, Rose, who practices general internal medicine. I join his many friends in wishing Captain Hipol and his family fair winds and following seas.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to RON DELLUMS, a friend and a man whose departure from Congress will leave a major void on Capitol Hill. RON is known as an articulate spokesman for his constituents and a serious legislator of proven ability. These attributes alone when combined with his many years of public service are worthy of praise and commendation. But RON brought more to the job that singled him out as a congressional and national leader.

He reached out: across the aisle, across racial boundaries, and across ideological lines. He did it with a sincerity that was heartfelt and a pure motive, and it showed. This was his magic and this was the key to his many friendships and the unusual respect he received during his service and upon his retirement. I know Congress as an institution is a better place for his service. I hope we as individual Members have learned from his example.