

TRIBUTE TO BOB MATHIAS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Mathias. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Bob Mathias' Olympic Decathlon Gold Medal victory. Mr. Mathias is recognized as both an exceptional athlete and dedicated American. He has certainly left his mark in many ways.

Bob Mathias had a historical career in athletics that has been matched by no other athlete of our time. In 1948, Bob shocked the world by winning the Olympic gold medal in the decathlon. Bob was seventeen years old at the time, becoming the youngest person ever to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field. This record still stand today. Mathias was recognized as the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States when he received the Sullivan Award in 1949. He never lost a decathlon championship and retired undefeated after winning the gold medal again in the '52 Olympics. Bob was also an All-American running back for Stanford University, where he became the only athlete to play in the Rose Bowl and compete in the Olympics in the same year (1952). He was then drafted by the Washington Redskins in the 1952 NFL draft.

After his distinguished athletic career, Bob began to use his talents in many different fields. He served as an underwater demolition specialist in the US Marine Corps from 1954 to 1956. He also traveled extensively around the world for the U.S. State Department on good will missions, reporting to President Eisenhower. In 1954, Bob began his acting career when he starred in the movie "The Bob Mathias Story." John Wayne then signed him to be an actor in Hollywood where he worked in many films until 1960. In 1966, Bob Mathias was elected to the U.S. Congress where he served four terms as a distinguished Congressman from California.

Always a champion of youth, Bob became the director of the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He worked there from 1977 through 1983 and built the center into a showcase for our athletes. Bob then served as the Executive Director of the National Fitness Foundation until 1987. He is currently the United States Goodwill Ambassador. Bob is married to Gwen and lives in Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Bob Mathias. This year is the 50th Anniversary of his Olympic Decathlon Gold Medal victory. His dedication and exemplary efforts should serve as an inspiration to all. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Bob Mathias continued success for the future.

IN HONOR OF FATHER PETER
METALLINOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Peter Metallinos on the occasion of his retirement. Father Metallinos has served

his parish and his communities in multiple capacities for the last thirty-six years and his presence will surely be missed.

Born on the island of Tinos, Father Metallinos served God from the time he was a small boy. He decided to follow in the footsteps of his uncle after serving as an altar boy for him. Father Peter immigrated to the United States in 1952 and completed his pre-theological studies at the University of California. He entered the military, served as an MP, and assisted the U.S. Chaplain in conducting religious services.

Father Metallinos fulfilled his calling by studying at Holy Cross Theological Seminary in Brookline. His ordination took place on April 12, 1962 and later that year he was appointed as priest of the American-Hellenic Community of Greater Cleveland. This appointment marked the beginning of his thirty-six year tenure at the St. Demetrios Church.

As priest of St. Demetrios Church, Father Metallinos started several monetary campaigns to upgrade the parish. The new facilities allowed St. Demetrios to conduct new ministries to better serve the community. This tradition continues today. Sunday School and Greek School continues to flourish and instill in children the religious teachings necessary for life. Father Metallinos also helped patients from around the world come to Cleveland to be treated at the city's medical facilities. Father Metallinos maintained a radio program designed to introduce the word of God to people of all ethnic backgrounds. Father Metallinos represented his parish well as he served on several international committees and was recognized by the United Hellenic American Congress for his outstanding service to humanity.

Although Father Peter is retiring, he will always be remembered in the hearts of St. Demetrios' congregation as a compassionate and loving person. As Father Metallinos, his wife Presbyteria, and his children move into this new stage of life, we thank him for his service to the community, to his parish, and to his Faith. My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting Father Peter Metallinos on his retirement from St. Demetrios Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM TOHILL

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House of Representatives to salute my friend Tom Tohill, as his 31 years of devoted and courageous service to the people of Long Island and to the Suffolk County Police Department draws to a close.

On February 6 of this year, this outstanding police officer also retired from his position as president of the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association. This Friday, I will proudly join Tom's family, friends and colleagues as the Suffolk County Police Officer's Emerald Society honors him as the 1998 "Irishman of the Year."

The Tohill name comes from the Gaelic "O Tuathail," which itself is derived from the Gaelic phrase "mighty people." And the Tohills were a mighty people of the Irish County of Derry where their roots run as deep

as the River Foyle that graces the banks of Derry City. Tom is certainly proud of his Irish heritage, and we are just as proud to say Tom Tohill is a son of Long Island. Born in the South Shore town of Copiague and raised in the Central Islip community, Tom is a graduate of the State University of New York in Farmingdale. He joined the Suffolk County Police Department on February 2, 1967 and served for more than 20 years in the Third Police Precinct in Bay Shore.

Tom began his service to the Police Benevolent Association in 1982, when his fellow police officers elected him the union trustee for the Third Precinct, a position he served in until 1988. He moved to become the PBA's Financial Secretary, and then in 1992 the PBA membership elected him President.

Tomorrow evening, Tom will be joined by his wife of 33 years, Diane, and surrounded by his children Brian, Jen, William, Melissa, Thomas, Michel-Lyn and Carolann, as his friends and colleagues honor him for his dedicated service to the Suffolk County Police Department, the PBA and the Emerald Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in praising Tom Tohill for his devoted and courageous service to our families, friends and neighbors in Suffolk County. Tom's integrity and dedication to the law during a 33-year law enforcement career serves as an honorable example to the police officers who carry on his work, and are an inspiration to all of us who value his devoted public service and selfless commitment to the residents of our county. Thank you Tom, and God bless you.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER
BREISETH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who is not only a highly respected leader in my community and an excellent educator, but also a very close friend of mine. This past Sunday, Dr. Christopher Breiseth was honored by the highly-respected S.J. Strauss Lodge of the B'nai B'rith as the recipient of the 54th Annual Community Service Award, which is presented to an outstanding citizen who, by courageous leadership and dedication on behalf of humanity, has made a valuable contribution to the fabric of our community life. It is my great privilege to join the entire Northeastern Pennsylvania community in congratulating Dr. Breiseth for this well-deserved award.

Chris Breiseth became president of Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1984, and over the last fourteen years he has had a tremendous impact on the Wilkes-Barre community, as well as all of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He transformed the college into one of the region's finest universities, which has gained recognition as an increasingly-sophisticated regional center for teaching and research, as well as a rich source for cultural and public service programs. Under his leadership, Wilkes University established a six-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree program, the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, a campus-wide computer