

Homeland Belongs to Us All." In this pamphlet, they describe their hopes for a free and democratic Cuba. They were convicted for nothing more than expressing their opinions and speaking the truth. They are the Lech Walensas & Vaclav Havels of Cuba. Their trial and conviction came two weeks after Castro handed down his new Sedition Law to severely punish those who dare speak to foreign journalists or publicly criticize his revolution.

Under the new Sedition Law, they were arrested for holding news conferences with foreign journalists and diplomats, urging voters to boycott Cuba's one-party elections, warning foreigners that their investments would contribute to Cuban suffering, condemning Castro's grip on power, and criticizing Communist Party propaganda. Mr. Speaker, this sounds to me like a return to the gulags of Soviet communism and the horror of European fascism.

They were apprehended and jailed 1½ years ago for their "crimes". On top of the imprisonment and physical and mental mistreatment they endured for more than 600 days, the four freedom fighters were also forced to endure a Stalinist show trial. As a recent wire report observed, in keeping with the closed, totalitarian nature of the Castro regime, "Few Cubans and even fewer foreigners are allowed inside a Cuban courtroom. Trials tend to be closed and proceedings are rarely reported by the government-controlled media." But Castro eagerly allowed the cameras to roll during the trial of these four dissidents to send a message to the rest of the island: Anyone who threatens his regime will be punished severely. Cuban reporters are terrified of the new Sedition Law; it has empowered Castro's secret police to intensify their harassment of Cuba's already-stifled press.

The dissidents received prison sentences ranging from 3½ to 5 years. The independent Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation said that since Feb. 26, 1999, authorities had rounded up nearly 40 other dissidents and warned an additional 35 to remain at home during the March 1st trial. Officials from the U.S. Interest Section in Havana were denied access to the trial.

The State Department recently released this statement regarding the trial: "We strongly denounce these actions by the Cuban government, which reveal its utter disregard of the concerns of the international community." Yet, neither the president nor the secretary of state has taken any action to put muscle behind those words. In fact, underscoring its perverse misunderstanding of the situation, the State Department believes the trial and conviction of these four voices of freedom is the very reason we need more people-to-people contacts with Havana. The only thing more people-to-people contacts will do is further prop-up Castro's regime.

Finally, it should be noted that the Sedition Law was approved by Castro just weeks after the president's January announcement that he was easing the embargo.

Mr. Speaker, I must also report even more disturbing news to my colleagues. I believe we have an administration that is so hellbent on normalizing relations with Cuba that it is willing to overlook allegations of drug-trafficking.

On December 3, 1998, the Colombian National Police seized 7.5 tons of cocaine headed for Cuba, and eventually likely the United States and elsewhere. I have sent investigators down there who were able to put together

the pieces of the puzzle in three days which our government, the ONDCP, DEA, CIA, and White House have either not been willing to do, or worse do not want to put together.

I have a letter from Barry McCaffrey which says there is no evidence that the Castro government is involved in drug-trafficking, ignoring the fact that Castro's brother, Raul, has been under indictment in Miami since the early 1990's for drug-trafficking and racketeering. Also, Ileana de la Guardia, the daughter of executed Cuban Colonel Tony de la Guardia, is currently involved in a court case in France where she alleges that drug trafficking reaches the "highest echelons" of the Cuban government.

What is the problem with this administration when it comes to Fidel Castro? Why does the White House continue to ignore the grim and brutal realities of Castro's dictatorship? I don't know the answer, but I believe it goes beyond a simple disagreement on policy. How we can turn a blind eye to Castro's behavior and even reward him is truly beyond me.

What is obvious is the fact that this White House will do anything to normalize relations with the last dictator in the Western Hemisphere. The White House wants to dilute and then eliminate the Burton-Helms Embargo; the White House is flouting the law, ignoring the will of the American people, and tossing aside four decades of bipartisan agreement on Castro. It is left to us in Congress to do what is right.

Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow cosponsors in support of H. Res. 99. Let's do everything we can to keep the heat on Castro and his gulags. As a Houston Chronicle editorial recently observed, "This is no time to play ball with Fidel Castro."

TRIBUTE TO KATHY ADAMSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Adamson, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

A native of Redwood City, Kathy Adamson has been a foster parent to more than four hundred children ranging in age from newborn to sixteen. Children in her temporary care have included drug exposed infants, shaken babies, toddlers, children with Attention Deficit Disorders, and adolescent girls. Kathy's home became a hospice for terminally ill infants, many of whom died in her loving arms. Since 1995 she has worked with San Mateo County Mental Health as an independent contractor, providing a variety of programs designed to help support parents and children in need. In recognition of her professionalism, her exceptional work and her compassion, Kathy was elected President of the San Mateo County Foster Care Association.

Mr. Speaker, Kathy Adamson is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Woman's Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "PETERBO" BANKHEAD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute in memory of Mr. Robert "Peterbo" Bankhead, who recently passed. He was not only a County Supervisor in my district, the 2nd Congressional District, but also a personal and dear friend to me. It is very hard to effectively portray in a short amount of time to you the true heart, spirit, and countless deeds of Mr. Robert "Peterbo" Bankhead.

Mr. Robert "Peterbo" Bankhead was born on August 30, 1999. He attended Humphreys County High School in Belzoni, Mississippi where he was a member of the first class to graduate from Humphreys County High School. He graduated from Mississippi Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1977. Additionally, he graduated from MATC (Milwaukee Area Technical College) with a degree in the Culinary Arts. He opened Peterbo's Restaurant in 1974 in Isola, Mississippi where it remains today. During the life of Robert Bankhead, he received several social and community awards for his countless hours, and dedication. He was life-time member of Mississippi Valley State Alumni, the Mississippi Restaurant's Association, and served as Beat 1 Supervisor for Humphrey County for two consecutive terms.

Robert will always be remembered as a person willing to go the extra mile. In closing, Mr. Speaker I would like to say that Robert has made a tremendous contribution to the future of America. His work was pivotal and instrumental in the overall success of my 1996 and 1998 campaign. My prayers go out to his family and his contributions will be remembered in Mississippi, specifically the 2nd Congressional District for years to come.

A BLOOMIN' GOOD FAMILY AND THEIR BLOOMIN' GOOD BUSINESS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, all around Washington the crocuses and forsythia are starting to bloom, and for some it is a daily ritual to see whether or not the famed cherry blossoms have started to hail the true start of spring. The people of Saginaw, Michigan, may not have the same early blooms or the Tidal Basin ritual, but they have something better—McDonald's Nursery which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this week.

Seventy years ago, Dr. Francis J. McDonald, a dentist with a vision for the beauty of nature, started McDonald's Nursery as a hobby. He bought five acres of land off Seidel Road with a 400-year old beech tree on it. He dug a well that to this day supplies water to the nursery, and with his children, Joe, Jim, Mary, Catherine and Tom, he planted trees. Today those trees provide a forty foot tall memorial to his legacy. With his wife Mary, he

moved the family to what would become one of the most famous nurseries in this part of Michigan.

Nursery products were sold out of the front yard at the beginning. During World War II, while sons Joe and Jim served in the military, he expanded the nursery buying more property with an eye towards the growing suburban area. When Joe returned home, a landscape division was started, and then in 1946 a garden store. The seasonal nursery business turned into a Christmas business in 1955, so that it is now a year-round operation with its biggest months in December and May.

Today, McDonald's Nursery has 112 employees and sales of nearly \$4 million. It has gone through thirteen expansions, and now covers 210 acres in Thomas Township, with an 18-acre lake providing irrigation. The McDonald family has made its mark on the Saginaw business community as leaders to be admired and emulated.

Starting from Francis McDonald's hobby, to Tom McDonald telling friends at a Chamber of Commerce dinner that they sell "every bloomin' thing"—a phrase which became the nursery's hallmark, this is a business that we are privileged to have in the Saginaw community. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating McDonald's Nursery on its 70th anniversary, and in wishing that their new slogan, "McDonald's Nursery 70 Years and Growing" holds as much promise as the first bloom of spring.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MERGERS

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the antitrust division of the Department of Justice for approving the SBC-Ameritech merger. As the telecommunications industry continues to evolve in the aftermath of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, the promise of that act can be fulfilled only if regulatory agencies remove the eye shades of New Deal regulation and begin to view the competitive landscape of tomorrow with a fresh look. This is precisely what the Department has done this week.

However, I was not pleased to learn that, unlike mergers in other competitive industries, telecommunications mergers such as the SBC-Ameritech venture must jump through several hoops before the deal is done. Not only does the Department of Justice conduct its traditional antitrust review, these mergers often must receive the blessing of multiple local and state agencies as well as the Federal Communications Commission. A reasonable person might assume that once the Department of Justice has issued a clean bill of antitrust health for a proposed merger, that venture has passed the smell test. I hope that same reasonable person would share the concern that I have after reading this week that the FCC may hold this merger, and others like it, hostage under some ransom-guided interpretation of the so-called "public interest" standard.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying premise of the Telecommunications Reform Act we passed in the 104th Congress was to break down the ar-

tificial barriers of regulation so that the marketplace would choose the winners and losers in this vital industry. We appear to be a long way from the realization of that promise when regulatory bodies handcuff the invisible hand of our free market system.

I would strongly urge the FCC to follow the lead of the DOJ and quickly approve this merger.

JEROME JANCZAK 1999 PAL JOEY AWARD WINNER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Jerome "Jerry" Janczak, of Milwaukee, the recipient of the 1999 Pal Joey Award from the St. Joseph Foundation, Incorporated.

Jerry Janczak, a true product of Milwaukee's south side, is the youngest of eleven children born to his Polish immigrant parents. He attended Catholic grade school and high school, where he was an accomplished athlete. Shortly after graduating from high school, Jerry enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served until 1955. While stationed in Florida, he met his future wife, Grace. They were married in 1954.

Jerry worked for many years as an employee of Milwaukee County, with the House of Corrections, the Sheriff Department and the Probate Court where he remained until his retirement in 1988.

That same year, Jerry was honored by the South Side Business Club as their "Man of the Year" and was given the "Special Award" by the St. Joseph Foundation.

Jerry and Grace have two children, Michael and Thomas, and six grandchildren. Jerry's love of sports and competition, which he passed down to his children, led him to develop a part-time trophy and awards business in 1972, which still operates today. Besides his family and business, Jerry's hobbies include golf, bowling, sheephead and traveling throughout his home state, Wisconsin.

He is active in many civic and religious organizations, including his parish, St. Mary Magdalen, the South Side Business Club, St. Joseph Foundation, the Milwaukee Society Polish National Alliance, Polish Festivals, Inc., and the secret International Mushroom Pickers Society (IMPS.)

Jerry has given valuable time, energy and resources to make Milwaukee's south side and the Polish community stronger and has set a fine example for all to follow. For these reasons, he is truly deserving of the 1999 Pal Joey Award.

Congratulations, Jerry and Grace. Keep up the excellent work. May God continue to bless you and yours.

COMMENDING DR. W.C. WIEDERHOLT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, For more than a century the Chamorros on Guam have

suffered by Lytico and Bodig. There is hardly a family on the island who has not had a relative die of one of these terrible diseases. During the past 40 years, many researchers have come to Guam to investigate the diseases, and to try and find the cause and subsequent treatment for Lytico and Bodig. One of these researchers is Dr. W.C. Wiederholt who first came to Guam in 1994 at the invitation of Dr. Kurland of the Mayo Clinic. His mission was to complete the mandated functions of the University of Guam/Mayo Grant and to evaluate the possibilities of writing a five-year grant. The University of Guam/Mayo grant activities had gone awry for many reasons, and it appeared as if the research on Lytico and Bodig would once again come to a halt. However, Dr. Wiederholt pressed on undaunted despite the obstacles. He took a sabbatical leave from the University of California at San Diego and remained in Guam for almost six months. He brought the project back on track and provided much needed neurology services. Dr. Wiederholt also conducted some pilot studies to gather data for the new grant application.

Under Dr. Wiederholt's leadership, and with the collaborative efforts of a group of world-renowned neuroscientists, the University of Guam and the University of California at San Diego were awarded a \$10.8 million grant in 1996 to study "Age-related neurodegenerative disease in Micronesia." The project employs nine local people, and provides practical sites for social work and nursing students, as well as internship opportunities for Guam medical students. In addition, the project provides support to students at all grade levels preparing theses or dissertations about Guam's neurodegenerative diseases, aging concerns and caregiver issues.

Under Dr. Wiederholt's guidance, the project has moved into a new dimension and is exploring, among many potential causes, how familial predisposition or susceptibility might interact with environmental factors in causing the disease. It is hoped that through Dr. Wiederholt's research, more effective methods for detection, treatment and ultimately the prevention of this disease will be developed for the benefit of the people of Guam.

Guam has become Dr. Wiederholt's home for at least seven months out of the year. Not only does he make initial diagnoses of neurological diseases and furnishes follow-up services to all patients, he also provides courtesy consultations to Guam's community physicians and the Veterans Affairs Center.

Dr. Wiederholt's dedication to the people of Guam is highly admirable and deserves our sincerest gratitude. On behalf of the people of Guam, I say to you Dr. Weiderholt, Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

IN HONOR OF PAULINE "POLLY" HAMMACK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I now take this moment to recognize the life and contributions of Pauline "Polly" Hammack. Sadly, Colorado lost this leading citizen earlier this year. While family