

CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170 OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION CELEBRATES ITS 92ND ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 92nd Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, June 6, 1999.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Frances Joan Banchy, Willard A. Conway, Thomas Fadlevic, Marie Flynn, Edward W. Fritz, Frank Grishka, Steve Massack, Violet Mae Mikulich, John Mlacak, Mary Patterson, Marian P. Ritter, and Mike Svaco.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this status.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Benedict Benakovich officiating. In the afternoon, there will be a program featuring a guest speaker, Mr. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, Indiana. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," directed by Brother Dennis Barunica, and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, directed by Edo Sindich, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica, and the Adult Kolo group, under the direction of Elizabeth Kyriakides, will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 4 o'clock in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECIPIENT PRINCESS VICTORIA KA'IULANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Princess Victoria

Ka'uilani Elementary School, which has earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program identifies and gives national recognition to a diverse group of public and private schools that have been judged particularly effective in meeting local, state, and national goals. In being selected, Princess Ka'uilani Elementary School displayed the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. The school demonstrates its strong leadership by providing high quality teaching, instilling policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, initiating strong parental and community involvement, and helping all students achieve to high standards.

The awarding of Princess Victoria Ka'iulani Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School is made even more special by the fact that this year marks the school's centennial anniversary. The school opened its doors on April 22, 1899 and was named for the beautiful Princess Victoria Ka'iulani. The name Ka'iulani means "Child from Heaven." The students come from diverse cultures and various social backgrounds in the Kalihi-Palama neighborhood of Honolulu, Hawaii. And while the neighborhood is sometimes known for gangs and drug dealing, the school has a warm and friendly environment. The school definitely exudes the spirit of "aloha" and "ohana" (family). This nurturing atmosphere helps students to believe in themselves and offers an opportunity to learn and move forward.

There are a variety of factors that contribute to the school's success. For example, at the beginning of each year, parents are given a student ready reference guide, a school profile, and a syllabus of the school's curriculum and activities. To further initiate parental involvement, a monthly parent bulletin is jointly authored by Title I, Parent-Community Networking Centers (PCNC), Primary School Adjustment Project (PSAP) and the Principal. Community involvement is also well established. Groups such as The Rotary Club of Metropolitan Honolulu, the USS Louisville, 516th Signal Brigade from the Fort Shafter Army Installation and the USS Chicago have contributed to the school's various campus beautification projects, providing access to the Internet and even assisting in classes and chaperoning field trips. Also, English Second Language Learners (ESLL) provides support to 101 students whose native language range from Vietnamese, Ilocano, Cantonese, Samoan, Tagalog, Visayan, Lao, Korean, Mandarin, Tongan, Micronesian and Fijian. In fact, students have continued to improve in Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) scores and due to a strong focus on literacy, reading levels have significantly increased over the past few years.

Again, I wish to commend and congratulate the students, teachers, parents, administration, and staff of Princess Victoria Ka'iulani Elementary School for its strong efforts and proud achievement in receiving the Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

GUAM COMMEMORATES PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed the law establishing National Police Week. Commemorated every year since, this seven-day period begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday—the last day being designated as "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

This special period set aside to honor the nation's law enforcement and memorialize their fallen comrades has always served to develop close bonds between officers and their colleagues from across the country. These ceremonies of recognition and remembrance bring people together and enable survivors to gain strength from others who share and understand their grief.

Here, in our nation's capital, more than 10,000 police officers, survivors and supporters gathered to attend this year's activities. As in the past years, National Police Week was a great demonstration of this grateful nation's appreciation for the service and sacrifices of peace officers.

In my home island of Guam, services were also held to recognize and remember those who have fallen. In ceremonies held annually, peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty were honored. The list included: Conservation Officer Francisco Isezaki, Police Officer I John M. Santos, Special Agent Larry D. Wallace, Police Officer I Francisco A. Reyes, Police Officer III Thomas M. Sablan, Police Reserve Officer Rudy C. Iglesias, Police Officer Reserve Helen K. Lizama, Police Officer I Raymond S. Sanchez, Corrections Officer I Douglas W. Mashburn, Police Officer I Eddie, A. Santos, USAF Sgt Stacey E. Levay, Police Officer I Francisco D. Taitague, Police Officer I Manuel A. Aquino, and Police Lieutenant Francisco C. Toves.

Those who have passed on within the past year were also remembered in this year's ceremonies. This list included: Col Francisco T. Aguigui, Sgt Jesus Pangelinan, Police Officer Joe Gutierrez, Detention Officer Eugene Benavente, and Police Officer Ralph Bartels.

The people of Guam join the nation in paying tribute and offering thanks for the service and sacrifices of peace officers.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES PRESIDENTIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan who celebrated his third anniversary in office on May 20th, 1999. President Lee has amassed a number of accomplishments throughout the last three years.

Of all the contemporary leaders that the Republic of China has had, President Lee Teng-hui stands out due to his exceptional ability to guide his nation through the transition to a

democratic republic. Furthermore, the effects of the severe financial crisis which have affected much of Asia have been much less severe in Taiwan. This discrepancy can be attributed to President Lee Teng-hui's ability to maintain a stable democratic environment which has allowed a solid foundation for its economy to grow. In addition, he has given his people hope and optimism in Taiwan's ability to confront the future.

President Lee Teng-hui has also made great efforts in trying to reach out to his compatriots on the Chinese mainland. Unfortunately, his gestures of friendship have been answered with lukewarm responses at best from the PRC leadership. However, President Lee Teng-hui refuses to give up his hope of seeing a free and unified China in the future and continues to pursue a policy to that end. His persistence is a sign of his dedication to democracy and is greatly appreciated by the Western world, and in particular the United States.

I wish President Lee Teng-hui every success in the future. He is a respected leader of a free, prosperous and democratic country and deserves no less than our full support.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, because of weather-related travel difficulties, I was unfortunately detained in my district Monday, May 24, 1999 and missed several votes as a result.

Had I been here, I would have voted in the following way:

I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 145 and 146.

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#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES JOHN EBNER

### HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and cousin, Charles "Chuck" Ebner, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on June 7th. Chuck was born in Albany, New York, and currently resides with his wife, Laurel, in Barberton, Ohio. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the dedicated service to country and community that has distinguished the life of Charles John Ebner.

In 1942, at the age of 18, Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was a "selected volunteer" for the U.S. Naval Armed Guard. He attended Gunnery School in Virginia and then was assigned to his first ship, the U.S.S. *China Mail*, whose mission was to transport troops to Africa.

On his second tour of duty on the *China Mail*, the ship circumnavigated the world. The long voyage embarked from the West Coast of Africa, traveling westward across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and through the Panama Canal. After crossing the South Pacific to Aus-

tralia, the *China Mail* continued across the Indian Ocean and into the Persian Gulf, where it dropped off cargo in Iran. The ship passed through the Suez Canal and sailed across the Mediterranean on its return to the West Coast of Africa.

Chuck then returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard where he prepared for his next assignment as a gunner on the U.S.S. *Carlos Carrillo*. Later he was transferred to the U.S.S. *Sacajawea*, which took part in the invasion of Leyte in the Philippines. Shortly thereafter, his ship sailed to Pearl Harbor. At the end of the war, Chuck was ordered to return to the United States where he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy at Lido Beach, New York on October 14, 1945.

But Chuck's patriotism and sense of duty inspired him to re-enlist in the U.S. Navy on February 13, 1947 and train to become a radioman. In that capacity, he was assigned to the U.S.S. *Prairie* and stationed at the Atlantic City Naval Air Station until his second honorable discharge on February 5, 1952.

Near the end of his military career, Chuck married Laurel Kelley on January 25, 1951. Upon his discharge, they moved to Barberton, Ohio—known as the "Magic City." Chuck and Laurel have three adult children, Cathy, Linda and Jack, and have been blessed with nine grandchildren.

Chuck's commitment and dedication to his country and community did not end with his military career. During his years in Barberton, Chuck coached Little League and in 1959 joined the Barberton All Sports Boosters—on which he served as an officer for ten years and as president for three. Chuck also served as president of the Barberton Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for five years and was the founder of the Barberton Sports Hall of Fame in 1979. Chuck was elected the first president of that organization and still serves in that position.

In 1980, Chuck was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award by the Barberton Jaycees for his sports activities in the community. He continued his strong commitment to youth and sports by organizing the Barberton Reunion Basketball game to honor the Barberton State Champs of 1976. The sold-out game raised money for the Barberton Little League, Crippled Children Circus Fund and the Barberton All Sports Boosters. Chuck also organized student dances at Barberton High and started the All Sports Banquets.

Among Chuck's many community service awards for these and other activities, he received the "Andy Palich Outstanding Athletic Service Award" from the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame, of which he is now a board member.

Chuck is now retired from Seiberling Rubber and from his employment as the Outside Bailiff for the Barberton Municipal Court. But he is not retired from his community. Chuck continues to dedicate even more of his time and boundless energy to promote sports among the youth of Barberton.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chuck Ebner on his 75th birthday for his lifelong dedication and commitment not only to his country, but to his family and the youth of his community. He is a true role model for our young people. I wish him continued success and good health in the years to come.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MR. IRVING LITTMAN

### HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Irving Littman, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 27, 1999. Mr. Littman served with the First Field General Hospital in the invasion of North Africa in World War II. As a sergeant at that time, it was his duty to give anesthesia in the operating room to soldiers wounded in combat. Mr. Littman was awarded many citations and medals for his four years of gallant military service to his country.

Upon return to the United States after the war, Mr. Littman became one of the youngest Lincoln-Mercury dealers in our nation. He retired to Florida. He campaigned for elected officials, and was the secretary/treasurer for the Milton Littman Scholarship Foundation, which to date has presented 236 one-thousand-dollar scholarships to worthy young students from four different high schools in Dade County.

Mr. Littman is married to his beloved wife, Mavis, and they have a loving daughter, Francine. It is a privilege to pay tribute to such a compassionate American citizen as Mr. Irving Littman on the occasion of his upcoming birthday, and I wish him many more years of health and success in the service of his community.

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#### KOSOVO REFUGEES

### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 1999*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting today for the RECORD the enclosed article written by Mr. Leonard Cole of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Mr. Cole, who serves as the distinguished chairman of the Communal Unity Committee of United Jewish Appeal Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson and as vice chair of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, recently returned from refugee camps in Tirana, Albania. In his article, Mr. Cole eloquently illustrates the remarkable humanitarian efforts being made by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, in association with the United Jewish Communities, to assist refugees displaced as a result of the conflict in Kosovo. I am confident that all of our colleagues will find much food for thought in this well written article.

[From the Jewish Standard, May 14, 1999]

FINDING KINDNESS AMID CHAOS

(By Leonard A. Cole)

Nearly 15 years ago, on a two-day mission to Israel, I witnessed lines of bedraggled Ethiopian Jews emerge from an El Al airplane. They had suddenly been transported from a 14th-century existence in Ethiopia to a 20th-century life in Israel. Last week, during another two-day mission, I witnessed a sad obverse. In the company of Israeli and American Jews, I visited refugees in a camp in Tirana, Albania, whose lives have been reduced to primitive survival. Among the