

PUBLIC SERVICE OF MAYOR TOM JELEPIS OF BAY VILLAGE, OH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of one of the best mayors from northeast Ohio's local communities. This year marks the last and final year of the term of Mayor Tom Jelepis of Bay Village, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland. Tom is choosing to pursue other challenges down the road, and this marks his final few months of public service as Bay Village's respected mayor.

The entire Bay Village community and the adjoining West Shore communities owe Tom a debt of gratitude. Thanks to Tom's remarkable ability to forge a consensus in resolving one of the most daunting threats to the Bay Village and West Shore quality of life, represented by the agreement reached in June, 1998 to halt the proposed tripling of train traffic following the acquisition of Conrail by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads. When the announcement was made in August, 1997 that train traffic would likely be more than tripled through the quiet, densely populated communities along Cleveland's West Shore communities, Tom Jelepis was one of the first public officials to begin to forge a large bipartisan coalition to find a reasonable alternative, an alternative which would stop the train traffic increase and would preserve Bay Village's and the West Shore's attractive quality of life.

It was Tom's relentless perseverance, his ability to reach out to find common ground and consensus, and his enviable charm and wit that managed to bring people together to find a workable agreement that helped hundreds of thousands of local residents. Without Tom Jelepis' involvement, there would likely not have been a positive outcome, a result which halted the proposed tripling of train traffic and brought forward a plan beneficial to all parties and local communities. I had the pleasure to work side by side with Tom Jelepis throughout this challenging time, and I can say with confidence that he represents the very best in public service. His dedication, his sense of decency, and his sincerity is unmatched in public life.

There are very few people in public life—no, in all aspects of life—with Tom Jelepis' unique combination of charm, wit, perseverance, and grace. He is my friend, and I am proud that he is my friend. He is a natural, as a businessman, as a family man, as a community leader, and as a mayor. The entire Bay Village community owes him a genuine "thank you" for his many years of service.

I hold a deep and sincere respect for Tom Jelepis and I wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BENNIE HOLMES, JR.

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sadness that I rise to honor the

life of Bennie Holmes Jr., who passed away recently at too young an age. Mr. Holmes' leadership in the civil rights movement and as an anti-poverty activist earned him the respect of our entire San Francisco community; his caring heart and kind ways earned him our affection. Bennie's presence in the community can never be replaced, but the work of his life will live on after him.

Bennie was born and reared in McComb, Mississippi, and it was there that he learned the values of hard work, community, and his deeply rooted sense of justice. In the late 1950's, he moved to California, and in 1961 he graduated from Monrovia High School in Los Angeles County. He later moved to San Francisco and continued his education at San Francisco State University, where he earned a degree in Political Science.

Mr. Holmes worked much of his life for racial equality. He helped to found the N.A.A.C.P. Junior Chapter at Pasadena College in 1961. In 1964 he organized a group from San Francisco which joined the 1964 march for civil rights that went from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He fought continually for the cause of civil rights with the Congress On Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and with such individuals as Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Farmer.

Dedicated to fighting poverty and improving the lives of low-income residents, Bennie worked most of his professional life with the Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco. For the past thirty-three years, Bennie was employed by this nonprofit group in several different capacities. He organized and raised money for numerous anti-poverty programs in San Francisco and worked to clothe, feed, and find employment for the neediest among us. Known and trusted by everyone, Bennie was regarded as the "eyes and ears" of the community because he was always looking out for those in need.

Mr. Holmes also organized workshops at which tenants learned their rights when dealing with landlords, worked with youth groups, and chaired the Direct Action Committee and Study Group through which he traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

Well-regarded for his tireless community service, Bennie was also admired for his delicious barbecue ribs. At social and political events, he could always be found behind the grill, serving the community in yet another way.

Bennie Holmes left us much too soon. He worked his entire life for civil rights, equal opportunity, and economic and social justice. He treated everyone with respect, and he was respected for doing so. His passing is a loss to all of our San Francisco community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Leola Wells Holmes, his children, and his entire family.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OLIVE WHITMORE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Olive Whitmore.

Ms. Whitmore, a native of Cleveland, is the oldest of 3 children. Her birthday, October 14, 2000, marks the 100th year of her active life. She lived in Cleveland for 76 years, which made her well known in her community. She holds the longest term as a member of the West Boulevard Christian Church, which she has belonged to since she was 3 years of age. Prior to her move to South Westerly in 1983, she was a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star and Electa. Her talented voice contributed to the choir under the direction of Charles Dawes of the "Cleveland Orchestra." The choir was well recognized for their performance during the first 4th of July celebration at the Cleveland Munciple Stadium. Her former community fondly remembers her also for the time she was employed helping customers in Halle's Department store between 1957 and 1970. After her retirement she continued her active lifestyle, and became a noted traveler, traveling to Nova Scotia and throughout the United States.

Olive Whitmore is a cherished treasure for her family, friends, and community. Her spark, friendly smile, kindness and caring for others has touched countless Clevelanders who have had the honor of knowing her. Olive is a young 100, demonstrating that one's positive attitude and perseverance throughout one's life can carry you a long, long way. Olive Whitmore is loved by many.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Ms. Olive Whitmore on this momentous occasion of her 100th birthday.

"TRIAL" OF IRANIAN JEWS IS A CASE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express outrage over the sentences handed down on July 1st in Iran against ten of thirteen Iranian Jews who were recently put on trial in that country. These people, who were charged with the crime of practicing their religion, were unfairly imprisoned for over a year while waiting for the Iranian government to conduct its trial. Now they have been found guilty in a sham legal proceeding.

The trial—if it can be called a trial—was political intimidation not a judicial proceeding. This is a court with no jury, and one which holds its trials behind closed doors with the "judge" serving as both prosecutor and judge. The defendants were not able to choose their own representation in court.

Furthermore, the thirteen individuals were not even indicted on the original charges that were brought against them. Originally the thirteen were arrested for teaching Hebrew and holding religious classes, and on these charges they were detained for over a year before being tried by the Iranian Revolutionary Court. It is significant that after detaining these innocent people on these trumped up charges for over a year, the Court was unable to provide any evidence other than the coerced confessions of the detainees.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to the actions of President Clinton, Secretary Albright and other Administration officials, as well as

other governments who successfully pressured the Iranian government to hand down jail terms instead of death sentences. Since the Islamic revolution in 1979, seventeen Jews have been executed, and if not for the forceful action of the White House, the Department of State, and other governments, that number would surely now be twenty-seven. While I want to express appreciation for these actions, I urge our Administration and other governments to maintain continued pressure to urge the Iranian government to overturn this decision of the Revolutionary Court and free these wrongly imprisoned victims.

IN HONOR OF DAVE GRESKY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dave Gresky, co-captain of the baseball team at St. Ignatius High School in Ohio. Dave has been selected by the Cleveland Plain Dealer as a member of their All-Star baseball team for the Spring 2000 season. In addition to this considerable honor, Dave Gresky was chosen as the MVP of the All-Star team as well.

As a co-captain of the St. Ignatius Wildcats, Dave Gresky led the team to a 25-6 record, and to their first appearance in a state championship baseball game. Gresky batted .452 during the regular season as a senior right fielder, and he set single season records in three categories for St. Ignatius with 50 hits, 10 home runs, and 51 runs batted in. His notable contributions to the team earned him a baseball scholarship to Northwestern University. In addition, Gresky was selected by the Florida Marlins in the 22nd round of the amateur draft in June.

Dave Gresky's athletic accomplishments do not end on the baseball diamond, however. He also led the St. Ignatius Wildcats football team to a record eighth Division I state title when he scored the clinching touchdown in the championship game.

Recognition by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Dave's accomplishments is an amazing honor because it acknowledges the hours of sacrifice and patience needed to cultivate stamina and perseverance, as well as excellence in teamwork and cooperation. More importantly, I am inspired by his motivation, poise, and good sportsmanship on and off the playing field. Clearly, he is the quintessential model of grace under pressure. He is truly remarkable. I know that Dave has much to offer. I look forward to offering more congratulations to this promising athlete in the future.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Dave Gresky, an impressive right fielder and dedicated young athlete, for his outstanding achievements in sports.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE OF THE  
HONORABLE JOE A. GONSALVES

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of

my very dear friend and colleague, the Honorable Joe A. Gonsalves, former Member of the California State Assembly representing the 66th Assembly District which includes several of the cities and communities in my 34th Congressional District. Mr. Gonsalves died Friday, July 7, 2000 at his Gold River, California home.

Joe A. Gonsalves was a true exemplification of the fulfillment of the American ideal and the California dream. The son of Joaquim and Elvira Gonsalves, Portuguese Immigrants from the island of Terceira in the Azores, Joe was born on October 13, 1919 in Holtville, California. From the humblest beginnings in the farming region of the Imperial Valley, the Gonsalves family moved first to Whittier, then settled in Artesia, where they began the first of several dairy farms. In time, each Gonsalves son would own and operate his own dairy farm and through dint of hard work and steady growth, would become the basis of the families prosperity. Joe attended local schools and graduated from Excelsior High School in Norwalk, California. The Gonsalves family were among the founders of Holy Family Catholic Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School in Artesia.

When the new City of Dairy Valley, later to become the City of Cerritos, was incorporated in 1958, Joe Gonsalves was elected to the first City Council and served two terms as Mayor. When a new legislative district was formed in Southeast Los Angeles County following the 1961 reapportionment, Joe A. Gonsalves won election to the California State Assembly in the 1962 General Election, becoming the first legislator ever elected from Portuguese descent. When all but a small handful of state legislators were part-time Joe Gonsalves sold his dairy interests and became a Full-Time Legislator and moved his family north to the state Capitol in Sacramento. There he began to build a remarkable record of achievement during California's golden era of growth and progress.

Serving with political titans including legendary Speaker Jesse M. Unruh and Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Joe Gonsalves authored landmark legislation including the law that created a more equitable configuration of the state's important dairy industry benefiting the independent farmers. His diligence, skill and personality were rewarded with his appointment as Chairman of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee, Joint Committee on Rules, and later the Revenue and Taxation Committee. His leadership on the State Allocation Board and the Assembly Education Committee produced substantial increases in funding for local school districts.

Following his distinguished service of twelve years in state office, Joe began the third chapter of his professional career by establishing his own company to provide professional legislative representation. He soon became one of the Capitol's most highly respected and influential lobbyists. Later, he was joined by his son Anthony D. Gonsalves in the firm that would be called Joe A. Gonsalves & Son. The Gonsalves lobbying firm represented a blue chip roster of interests including the Port of Long Beach, the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, the Oak Tree Racing Association, the California Dairymen's Association, the Portuguese government, and over forty incorporated California cities. The firm expanded to include a third generation of Gonsalves advocates when

Joe's grandson Jason Gonsalves joined the company.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored by the wonderful friendship I enjoyed with this unique and outstanding gentleman. He was a wise and trusted advisor to me during my service as a City Councilwoman, Mayor and Member of the California Assembly. Joe Gonsalves was a real friend to countless people from all walks of life. He was a true role model for everyone who aspires to the highest levels of honesty, decency, loyalty and integrity in a profession that has seen all too little of these qualities.

Above all Mr. Speaker, Joe A. Gonsalves never forgot from whence he came. He was a great man with a common touch. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and cherished his friendship. Preceded in death by his first wife Virginia, Joe Gonsalves is survived by his wife Jerry Farris Gonsalves and by his nine sons and their spouses, Robert, James & Ruth, Joe & Mary, Jack & Debt, Frank & Theresa, Anthony & Evelyn, David & Josephine, Tim & Stephanie, John Kennedy & Julie Gonsalves. He is also survived by two step children Jerry Farris & his wife Shirley and Terry Farris, his sister Mabel Gonsalves, three brothers Jack, Bennie and Frank Gonsalves, 28 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

On behalf of my husband Frank, my family, my Chief of Staff Chuck Fuentes, (whose own father Bob Fuentes served as Joe's Administrative Assistant during most of his legislative career) and the citizens of the 34th Congressional District and the Southeast Los Angeles communities, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire Gonsalves family. Joe A. Gonsalves was a proud and patriotic American and a great Californian!

IN HONOR OF MICHELLE SIKES

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Michelle Sikes, a member of the track and field team at Lakewood High School in Ohio. Michelle has been selected by the Cleveland Plain Dealer to be a part of their All-Star Girls Track Team as the distance runner for the Spring 2000 season.

Michelle has demonstrated exceptional athletic ability and tremendous commitment to her sporting activities. This past Spring season, Michelle has become an integral part of Lakewood High School's track and field team. As a first time runner, she won the 3,200 meter race at the state meet with a time of 10 minutes, 45.11 seconds, making it the best time in the event in her area. In addition, she was the area's highest finisher in the 1,600 meters. Her time was 4 minutes, 53.95 seconds. These impressive times mirror Michelle's commitment to responsibility. Her strong faith and belief in her abilities has enabled her to become one of the finest athletes in northern Ohio.

Recognition by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Michelle's accomplishments is an amazing honor because it acknowledges the hours of sacrifice and patience needed to cultivate stamina and perseverance, as well as excellence in teamwork and cooperation. More importantly, I am inspired by her motivation,