

IN HONOR OF REVEREND GARY
HOOVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB, on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary of his profession of vows, on July 16, 2002.

Reverend Hoover, a Benedictine monk, has taught theology at Benedictine High School for the past eighteen years. He has recently been assigned to the position of Director of Alumni Affairs at the High School.

In addition to his new position and teaching duties, Reverend Hoover is the director of Campus Ministry, and is the chaplain for Benedictine's athletic teams.

Reverend Hoover continues to demonstrate his commitment and dedication to his faith, and to the students and families he serves. He is an integral part of what makes Benedictine High School an outstanding, faith-centered, educational institution.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Reverend Gary Hoover, on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary in the priesthood. Reverend Hoover's dedication, counsel, and teaching have enhanced and strengthened the entire Benedictine community.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNIE VAN
VELKINBURGH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, Today, I join all of Denver in sorrow at the tragic loss of one of our city's great heroines and in offering my heartfelt condolences to her sons, Joseph and Anthony. A person of great courage and selflessness, Jeannie Van Velkinburgh exemplifies the virtues Denver strives for.

On the night of November 18, 1997, Jeannie was shot and paralyzed while trying to prevent the murder of Oumar Dia, a West African immigrant living in Denver, who was attacked just because he was black.

Despite struggling everyday with her paralysis, Jeannie never regretted putting her own life at risk to try save the life of a stranger. Just last week she reiterated her conviction that she had done the right thing, saying, "You're supposed to help people when things are going wrong . . . If you walk away, how can you call yourself a good person?"

Everyone in our community can learn from Jeannie's legacy of love and respect for all people, regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity. While her ongoing efforts to recover from the attack were so difficult, Jeannie remained an icon of the fight for equality. Esquire Magazine recognized her in 1998 as one of the "New American Heroes" for standing up for a man she had never met before. In 1999 she received the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Award from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights for exemplifying Humphrey's legacy of selflessness and devoted service for equality.

The men involved in wounding her so deeply, both physically and emotionally, are now behind bars, but that does not mean the fight for justice is over. I urge all Denverites to follow her belief that, "we should stick together no matter what color you are."

For my part, I will continue to introduce and support legislation that will strengthen the regulations for purchasing assault weapons by working to close the "gun show loop hole". Furthermore, I will continue to work towards strengthening the penalties for hate crimes, the kind of crime that took the lives of both Jeannie Van Velkinburgh and Oumar Dia.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS SCOTT
CWIKLINSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Francis Scott (Frank) Cwiklinski, U.S. Military Academy graduate, Persian Gulf War veteran, executive editor of the Cleveland State Law Review, and trusted friend to many.

Following his graduation from Valley Forge High School in 1985, Mr. Cwiklinski attended West Point Academy, and graduated in 1989. Following his college graduation, he served in the Army as a First Lieutenant during Operation Desert Storm. Mr. Cwiklinski worked on renovating rental properties in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood prior to attending law school.

Besides writing for the Law Review, Mr. Cwiklinski was a columnist for The Gavel, the official newspaper of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He was ranked in the top ten percent of his class, and was scheduled to graduate this December.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cwiklinski's endless energy, quick smile, and friendly demeanor greatly enriched the lives of all who knew him, especial his family, friends and colleagues, and though he will never be forgotten, he will be greatly missed.

SERIOUS CRIMINAL DEEDS MUST
BE PUNISHED

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the massive suffering being inflicted on millions of employees and investors by corporate thieves is still difficult to comprehend. Members of Congress have a duty to clarify the murky "infectious greed" scenarios unfolding everyday. Stealing by very sophisticated means is still thievery. When an executive is granted a 400 million dollar loan, there is no way to explain it as a rational business decision. Congress must confront this dirty business by pushing harder for the confiscation of stolen money. We must establish a system for restitution to swindled employees, current and retired. And Congress must push for greater criminal penalties.

The very rich insiders must be forced to confront their crimes. Deprivation of liberty by

sentencing corporate crooks to prison is a necessary step to foster deterrence and restore confidence in our financial systems and markets. Already our constituents are ahead of the lawmakers in demanding justice. Those members who are soft on white collar crime will pay at the polls. It is the Great American Middle Class that is now being victimized. The following RAP poem summarizes their sentiment:

MESSAGE TO THE REPUBLICAN MOB

Before you merely mauled welfare mothers,
But now you're messing with
The Great American Middle Class;
We'll kick your rear!
Grandfathers are full of fear,
New anger after every tear,
Our pensions down the drain,
No shelter from old age rain;
O say Newt can you see
Pain and suffering you contracted for me?
Chisel swindle in the great greed spree,
Criminals still strutting free,
Lock up that mugger
With the 400 million dollar loan,
Tell the crook building that
Multi-million dollar home
You'll shoot if he lays another stone.
Stage a raid
On all the board room whores
Hiding behind fancy carved doors;
Bring out the hand cuffs,
Shine bright lights in haughty faces,
Drag them through drug pusher paces;
Grill Martha and the Hamptons crowd,
Make them confess
Early and loud.
Special prosecutors to the front lines.
In 2002 we have real crimes,
Whitewater was just kid stuff;
Let's play Harkin and Halliburton bluff:
At each turn
Take ten million and run—
Insiders have all the fun,
A tax break bonus
For each step you mount,
Ordinary dumb investors
Can't follow the count.
Chisel swindle in the great greed spree,
O say Newt can you see
Pain and suffering you contracted for me?
Before you merely mauled welfare mothers,
But now you're messing with
The Great American Middle Class;
At the November showdown
We'll be kicking your elephant (bleep)!

THE FINANCIAL MARKETS, SECURITIES AND ACCOUNTING INDUSTRIES HAVE CAUSED AMERICAN TAXPAYERS AND INVESTORS TO LOSE \$4 TRILLION SINCE 2000

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, before Enron Corporation's bankruptcy filing in December 2001, the firm was widely regarded as one of the most innovative, fastest growing, and best managed businesses in the United States. With the swift collapse, shareholders, including thousands of Enron workers who held company stock in their 401 (k) retirement accounts, lost tens of billions of dollars. It now appears that Enron was in terrible financial shape as early as 2000, burdened with debt and money-losing businesses, but manipulated its accounting statements to hide these

problems. Now, WorldCom, the nation's second-largest long distance telephone company has been charged with fraud by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Reports have revealed that WorldCom defrauded investors by improper accounting practices for \$3.9 billion in expenses during 2001.

We are discovering that publicly traded companies have contributed to bilking the American investors and taxpayers out of about \$4 trillion since 2000 due to unaccountable financial filings, accounting errors, misinformation, and mismanagement of funds that has caused the financial markets to become unstable. Where are our watchdogs? They were nowhere to be found when it comes to integrity.

In order to ensure corporate accountability, we need to establish under the jurisdiction of the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) ways to regulate accounting firms that audit SEC registrants (publicly trade firms). This type of structure could be empowered to charge registrants with annual fees to pay for the cost of staff to carry out the suggested plan of surveillance of auditors. This concept would intervene between a registrant and its auditor before, during and at the end of an audit, it would be more effective than the current regulatory system in achieving:

An early warning of potential financial disasters such as Enron and WorldCom;

Requiring a change in auditors when the SEC deems it appropriate;

Require pre-approval of consulting engagements for a registrant to be conducted by its auditor;

And, improve the format and content of financial and the auditor reports by including information about labor relations, research and development, marketing programs, and new products.

These are the kinds of things that must be done. Therefore, I have introduced on today a bill to establish an Office of Audit Review within the Securities and Exchange Commission to ensure the audits of certain public companies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday, July 22, 2002, and missed rollcall votes No. 324, and No. 325. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on roll call No. 324, and Aye on roll call No. 325.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S.S. "SIERRA" VETERANS ASSOCIATION'S RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR OUR WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the U.S.S. *Sierra* Veterans Association for their patriotism and support of our President, the Congress, and our

armed forces as we wage our war against terrorism.

At the 14th Annual Reunion on September 28th 2001, the U.S.S. *Sierra* Veterans Association passed a Resolution expressing their anger at the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001 and voicing their support of the President and Congress taking appropriate action in combating terrorism. In addition, the association expressed their condolences for the destruction and loss of so many innocent lives following those barbaric attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and over the skies of Pennsylvania.

It is important for us to recognize individuals and organizations that are expressing their patriotism, for just as we appreciate their support of our efforts to protect the American public, they must know that we appreciate their steadfast resolve towards fighting terror in their hearts and minds.

Accordingly, it is my privilege to present the house with the U.S.S. *Sierra* Veterans Association Resolution in support of our war against terrorism and assure them that their message has been received and that we will work diligently and act decisively to protect innocent American lives.

The Domain Of The Golden Dragon (Ruler Of The 180th Meridian) Invaded September 7, 1944

U.S.S. *Sierra* (AD 18) VETERANS ASSOCIATION

"THE SHIP WITH THE HELPING HANDS"

A RESOLUTION

Whereas: We of the U.S.S. *Sierra* [AD-18] Veterans' Association have gathered inn Portsmouth, Virginia on September 28, 2001 for our 14th annual reunion.

Whereas: We, United States Veterans, are very angry and disturbed over the terrorists' attacks on the United States which occurred on September 11, 2001 with the resulting destruction and loss of so many innocent lives.

Be it resolved that we, U.S.S. *Sierra* Veterans, encourage and support our commander-in-chief, the United States Congress and those so delegated in all efforts to locate those individuals and groups responsible in any way for the tragic disruption of our security and freedom and to impose appropriate punishment in a timely and thorough manner.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday, July 25, Puerto Rico celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution as a Commonwealth. This Constitution established a unique relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, which has enabled Puerto Ricans to preserve and promote our cultural identity, while guaranteeing our United States citizenship and protecting the values of liberty and justice that we share with all Americans.

This Constitution established a republican form of government, and provided for a broad Bill of Rights that followed both the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. This Constitution also provided

for the election of all members of the legislature by the free will of the people. The ratification of the constitution by the people of Puerto Rico is the most significant democratic achievement for Puerto Rico in the 20th Century.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico already had a strong sense of nationhood and had achieved a high degree of autonomy under Spanish colonial rule. However, the initial U.S. rule on the Island, did not automatically bring democracy and progress for Puerto Rico. For decades Puerto Ricans continued to strive for autonomy and democratic rights. In 1917, the United States granted Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship, but very little was provided to increase Puerto Rican participation in local government. In the 1940's, a new generation of Puerto Rican leaders sought a transformation in the relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico, in order to provide the necessary democratic tools for the economic, social and political development of the Island.

Leaders like Luis Muñoz-Marín, Antonio Femos, Jaime Benitez, and others, worked to pave the way for a new relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States.

In 1950, the U.S. Congress responded to Puerto Rico's claim to autonomy, by approving Public Law 600, which recognized the right of the Puerto Rican people to write and adopt their own constitution as a compact between the two nations. A Puerto Rican Constitutional Convention drafted the new Constitution, which was signed into law by President Truman and subsequently ratified by the overwhelming majority of Puerto Rico.

The Commonwealth is the result of a great generation of Puerto Rican and American leaders driven by a progressive vision and commitment to democratic values. President Harry Truman said: "The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will be a government which is truly by consent of the governed. No government can be invested with higher dignity and greater worth than one based upon the principle of consent. The people of the United States and Puerto Rico are entering into a new relationship that will serve as an inspiration to all who love freedom and hate tyranny."

The Commonwealth is based on the free will of the Puerto Rican people who have supported the commonwealth status in all 3 plebiscites celebrated on the issue to date. The majority of Puerto Ricans prefer commonwealth over statehood and independence because it is the only status that allows them to preserve and promote their cultural identity, while maintaining the benefits of their political relationship with the United States.

Commonwealth is the only political and legal arrangement that harmonizes two central aspirations of the Puerto Rican people. On the one hand, Puerto Ricans will to preserve their autonomy and promote their distinct national identity, and on the other, their desire to preserve their U.S. citizenship and ties with the United States. Both aspirations are realized under the commonwealth. Moreover, the pro-commonwealth movement represents the Puerto Rican center, accommodating two radically conflicting political forces: independence and statehood.

The Commonwealth is based on four pillars: (1) common U.S. citizenship, (2) common defense, (3) common currency and trade; and (4) fiscal and political autonomy.