

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the Sesquicentennial celebration of St. Patrick's Church, one of Cleveland's foremost Catholic congregations. During its tenure, St. Patrick's has served as a foundation of faith and service for the religious community of our Ohio City neighborhood, and far beyond.

Irish immigrants founded St. Patrick's Parish on Franklin Street in 1853. The church was also home to the first Ursuline Community in Cleveland. In 1871, the cornerstone for a new church was laid on Bridge Avenue. A famine struck that year, which halted construction. Construction resumed, yet it was arduous and long. For two years, parishioners journeyed to Sandusky to obtain free quarry stone and deliver it back to the church site. Following six years of toil, focus and commitment, the new church was opened during the summer of 1877.

Since that time, St. Patrick's Church has stood as a monument of faith, hope and support for immigrants and generations of their descendants. Although the first wave of parishioners were mainly of Irish heritage, today, the fabric of St. Patrick's reflects a colorful blend of citizens descendant from all areas of the world.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute to and commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Church in Cleveland. St. Patrick's Church stands as more than a stately and vital historical structure; rather, the leaders and members of this parish, past and present, reflect a lasting monument of faith and hope that has sustained our families, our neighborhoods, our cities and our nation, for more than a century.

### THE WRONG WORDS

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article to be included in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 2003]

WHAT THE WORLD HEARS WHEN THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS; THE WRONG WORDS

(By Abdel Monem Said)

Probably no area of the world had a keener interest in President Bush's address on Tuesday night than the Middle East. And probably nowhere will there be greater disappointment. People in moderate Arab states will conclude that the president is

woefully misguided in his approach to the region's troubles.

First, the American government seems to have divided the Middle East into a set of separate problems, each in its own little box: Iraq, Iran, the Palestinians and the Israelis, fundamentalism, terrorism. To an Arab, these are all related issues. The United States should concentrate on the problem whose resolution would, ultimately, solve all the other problems. That problem isn't Iraq. In fact, tackling Iraq will worsen the situation in the Middle East. It is the Palestinian question whose resolution has the best potential for a positive impact on the region and beyond. Unfortunately, it received only a passing reference in the president's speech.

Second, Arabs do not agree with the rosy American view of an invasion of Iraq. Mr. Bush seems to believe that the Iraqi people will look at American soldiers as liberators. In three or four weeks Saddam Hussein and his cronies will be toppled. In a year or so, Iraq will be a shining example of a democratic and prosperous country.

Arabs have a drastically different view. Some Iraqis will look at Americans as new colonialists. Various Iraqi factions and ethnic groups will take the chance to settle old scores. Iraq will descend into chaos. Turkey and Iran will interfere. The fragile countries of the eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf will suffer. The Arab-Israeli conflict will become increasingly volatile as violence and fundamentalism cross national borders.

Third, Mr. Bush sees the war on Iraq as part of the global war against terrorism. In the absence of clear evidence of links between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda, Arabs see the Iraq campaign as a deviation and distraction from the real fight. Iraq, now greatly weakened, is incapable of threatening its neighbors. Terrorism remains a greater threat. By going after Iraq, the United States is taking the easy way out: a classic war where it can find a capital to bomb, a regime to overthrow and weapons to dismantle. The war on terrorism is a completely different one, with political and socioeconomic dimensions that call for patience and agonizing time.

The historical bond between the United States and the moderate Arab states and mainstream Arabs in general contributed to the stability of the Middle East. For half a century, the bond worked well—to thwart Communist expansion in the cold war, to contain the waves of Iranian Islamic revolution and to end in 1991 Saddam Hussein's radical and regional ambitions. Now, it seems for the Arabs, the major force for instability in the region is the United States itself, which is moving militarily to Iraq, ignoring the Arab-Israeli peace process, giving Ariel Sharon a free hand in Israel, and insinuating a radical program for change in the region without building strategic understanding for it.

REMEMBERING JOHN FERDINANDI, JR.

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a resident of my district

who has made an impact on me, my staff, as well as the city of Fresno. His name was John Ferdinandi, Jr.

John was born in Rochester, NY, the son of Italian Immigrants. In 1945, he and his family moved to Fresno, CA where John attended San Joaquin Memorial High School, Fresno City College, and California State University, Fresno, then known as Fresno State. He served for four years in the Air Force and married his wife Sally in 1952. He returned to Fresno in 1954.

After thirty years of family and individual business, John retired, but found retirement wasn't his strong suit. He began a new career as a Property Manager and worked from 1989 to 1999, where his last assignment was in Santa Cruz, CA. John retired again in 1999, when he and his wife, Sally, decided to return home to Fresno where their children and family live.

In September 1999, when a seven freight car derailment occurred on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks near the west end of Browning, John took up the challenge to get those tracks moved, which had been talked about for 83 years.

John put together a Board of Directors of community residents, secured over 42 supporting agencies, political representatives, businesses, individuals and petitioners now totaling over 6,000 supporters of rail consolidation. On January 14th, 2002, Fresno Mayor Alan Autry appointed John to head up his Mayor's Fresno Rail Consolidation Task Force.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors appointed John to be the county's representative on the Fresno County Council of Governments Rail Committee. John also was Chairman of the Mayor's Downtown Revitalization 3RC Committee (Research, Review & Recommendation). He was working to revitalize Downtown Fresno.

John was a loving man who liked to help out at church, enjoyed playing charades, loved to sail and collect lighthouse replicas. He enjoyed fragrant flowers and high school father-daughter dances. Additionally, my staff and I had the pleasure of working with John's granddaughter, Sadie, for four years. John passed away of cancer on January 26, 2003. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember John Ferdinandi and all of his efforts working on the Fresno Area Rail Consolidation. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering John Ferdinandi.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "BABES OF 1916" SENIOR CITIZENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the Twentieth

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Anniversary of the Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League, formed in 1983. I also stand in honor of the officers of the League: Gil Novak, Nick Gavanditti, Gus Bene and Paul Ristau, and I honor the members of the League who remain forever young, with a clear understanding that one is never too old to step up to the plate.

Over the years, the League has grown from thirty-one players to over one hundred and fifty. Every summer, the teams in the League play at well-attended events in ballparks across the county. Over the past twenty years, teams within the League have won several local and national championships, including their regular participation in the Senior Softball World Series.

The League members' sincere love and enthusiasm for life is clearly reflected in their love for the game—in every calculated pitch, in every outfield catch, in every throw to first, and in every swing of the bat. The players also extend their spirit and energy across our community, as they consistently donate their time to play for charitable and civic events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor, tribute, and celebration of the past and present leaders of the Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League, for their twenty years of uplifting our hearts and spirits with their great affection for America's favorite pastime. The players and leaders of the League are the guardians of the most beloved and historic game in American history, and because of them, our seniors have the opportunity to still experience the joy of fielding a ground ball, hitting the winning run, teamwork, and camaraderie. The Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League have given its youthful ballplayers much more than the love of the game. They've given seniors the chance to play at the ballpark, inspiring cherished moments and creating memories that reach back to childhood—from the early innings of their youth—to the bottom of the ninth, two down, tie score, bases loaded. Batter up.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DON PICKINPAUGH, MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Pickinpaugh's years of service to the Board of Directors of the Washington Township Health Care District. Mr. Pickinpaugh passed away on February 6, 2003 of heart failure at Washington Hospital.

The longest serving member of the hospital's Board of Directors, Mr. Pickinpaugh was first elected to the Board in 1976. He was elected Board president five times during his 27-year tenure, most recently in 2002.

During his time on the Board, Mr. Pickinpaugh provided leadership on many projects, but most notable are his work on the acquisition of Washington West in 1997 and the renovation of the hospital's sixth floor in 2002. This renovation added more than 29 beds to the hospital's capacity.

Mr. Pickinpaugh's interest in health care developed when he served as a Navy chief hos-

pital corpsman. While in the Navy, he supervised the operations of an emergency room at a major Naval hospital and served as a chief laboratory and blood bank technician.

Deeply involved in the community, Mr. Pickinpaugh was a long-time real estate broker in the Fremont area, and was actively involved in the Boy Scouts, Alameda County's Highland Hospital Citizen's Committee, and the Alameda County Tax Assessment Appeals Board. He was also a reading mentor at a Fremont Elementary School.

I send heartfelt sympathies to Don Pickinpaugh's family, and I join his colleagues in mourning the loss of this true community activist.

### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE WALTER J. KRASNIEWSKI

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the day after Christmas 2002, The Honorable Walter J. Krasniewski passed from this life at the age of 73 years. He was surrounded by his family.

Judge Krasniewski served the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Ohio for 32 years, retiring in 1997. The author of more than 500 legal opinions, during his tenure many of his opinions established case law for the Sixth Circuit. At his retirement before a packed courtroom of judges, attorneys, family and friends there to pay him tribute, Judge Krasniewski was recognized as one of the ten longest-serving judges in U.S. history. A dedicated promoter of the noble profession of the law, Judge Krasniewski was mentor to many people he encouraged in the pursuit of a law career.

Walter Krasniewski graduated from Xavier University, then obtained his law degree from the University of Toledo. After a time in private practice, he was employed by the State of Ohio as an assistant attorney. In 1963, he was appointed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy as an assistant U.S. attorney. He began his long career as a bankruptcy court judge in 1965.

Devoted to his family, Judge Krasniewski also paid careful attention to his community. He was involved in many civic activities and fraternal organizations. His thoughtful countenance was as well known to his associates as it was to those who appeared in his courtroom. Always a gentleman, he was also a true statesman.

Walter Krasniewski was a man committed to family, his faith, his profession, and his country. Truly we will miss this man of vision and integrity. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife of 45 years, Mary Lou, his children Linda, Leslie, Laurie, and Lawrence, his brothers John and William, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY  
OF RONALD REAGAN

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Ronald Reagan on his 92nd Birthday. He is a great man and was a wonderful president. President Reagan stimulated economic growth, curbed inflation, increased employment, and strengthened our national defense. He cut taxes and government expenditures. It was during his term in office as President, the United States enjoyed its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression. President Reagan sought to increase defense spending, but also wanted to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor President Reagan and wish him a Happy 92nd Birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing President Reagan more years of good health.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
EDWARD E. KOTECKI, JR.

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Edward E. Kotecki, Jr., beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend to many.

As the retired CEO of century-old Kotecki Monuments of Cleveland, a company founded in 1896 by his grandfather, Mr. Kotecki combined his sharp business abilities with his great artistic talents to create exquisite, critically acclaimed shrines and sculptures displayed in churches, religious centers and cemeteries in Cleveland, and around the world.

With a commitment to the highest level of artistry, Mr. Kotecki traveled in search of the finest master sculptors. His search took him to Italy, Poland and Romania, and he personally sponsored each artist during their stay in the United States. Additionally, Mr. Kotecki blazed the trail for a new process of creating sculptures. From his European counterparts, Mr. Kotecki introduced to America a sculpting machine that created three-dimensional sculptures in a fraction of the time it would normally take.

During his tenure, Kotecki Monuments created a symphony of granite along the terrace of the Cleveland Museum of Art; assisted in the polishing of the Hubble Telescope; and worked alongside Cleveland steel mills in fabricating granite skid caps. Moreover, Mr. Kotecki consistently displayed a generous spirit and kind heart. He directed the Cleveland Police Officers Peace Memorial, and had the names of fallen officers inscribed at no charge to families. Additionally, Mr. Kotecki regularly donated labor and materials for the restoration of damaged Cleveland cemetery monuments.