

Wojniak, Sr.—Beloved family man, World War II veteran, community leader, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Wojniak was born in 1919 in the St. Hyacinth area of Cleveland. As a young boy, he moved with his family to West Virginia where his father found work as a coal miner. Tragically, in 1935, Mr. Wojniak's father died in a mining accident. His family remained in West Virginia for a few years. After Mr. Wojniak graduated from high school, his family relocated to Pittsburgh. Soon after, World War II broke out. Mr. Wojniak enlisted in the U.S. Army 815 Engineers Corps, and fought in Italy and Northern Africa. He returned to Cleveland after the war, and enrolled in college at Western Reserve University. In 1951, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1954, he graduated with a Master of Science degree in Social Administration. During college, he met and married Jennie Pogroszewski.

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Wojniak raised four children. His life revolved around family, community, faith and heritage. His professional life was dedicated to helping others. For more than a quarter century, Mr. Wojniak worked on behalf of our elderly at the State of Ohio Department of Aging. His deep affection for his Cleveland community and his Polish heritage were clearly reflected through his civic involvement and volunteer spirit. Mr. Wojniak worked diligently to secure an official proclamation to name the Broadway-Forman area of Slavic Village as "Solidarity Square." Throughout his adult life, Mr. Wojniak was highly active in veterans' groups and Polish fraternal organizations, including the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress. Notably, Mr. Wojniak was the longest-serving President of Polish-Americans, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Edward John Wojniak, beloved husband of Jennie, beloved father of Barbara, Elizabeth, Edward and Michael; beloved grandfather of nine; beloved brother, and trusted and loyal friend to many. Mr. Wojniak's joyous life was defined by his deep dedication to family, and his exceptional service to community and country. His strong spirit, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the entire Cleveland community.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR
CUBAN OPPOSITION DAY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following Proclamation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners be included in the RECORD.

Whereas: As the Apostle of the Cuban Independence Jose Marti once said: "Liberty is very expensive and it is necessary either to resign oneself to live without it or to decide to pay its price;" and

Whereas: Realizing that Cubans are persecuted and exiled in their own land, deprived of their most elemental rights, fired from their jobs, subjected to a cruel and systematic hate campaign, and suffering defamation towards them and their families, the thousands of men and women, that for years

have confronted with civic activism that tyranny, deserve the admiration and support of all; and

Whereas: On Monday, May 13, 2002, coinciding with the 71st Anniversary of Pedro Luis Boitel's birthday, a Cuban murdered by the Castro regimen, a group of Cuban exile institutions have agreed to declare May 13th, "International Support for the Cuban Opposition Day;" and

Whereas: The efforts of these Cuban organizations are not only against the Fidel Castro dictatorship, but against all forms of oppression anywhere on earth, because the defense of human rights does not know boundaries of any particular nation, thus the representatives of these organizations invite Cubans, inside and outside the island, as well as those sympathetic to this worth cause, to join this noble effort; and

Whereas: It is fitting and proper that official acknowledgement be given to the organizers, and participants of these plethora of organizations, and wish them complete success in their quest for a Cuba with liberty and justice for all;

Now Therefore: Be It Resolved, That I, Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida, On Behalf Of The Board of County Commissioners And This Community, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 13, 2002, as International Support for the Cuban Opposition Day.

In Observance Thereof: I call upon the good people of Miami-Dade County to join me in recognizing the importance of this endeavor aimed to obtain the most laudable aspirations of the human race—to live in freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF 55 YEARS OF
ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that on May 7, 2003 the State of Israel will be celebrating its independence and fifty five years of statehood. Since its founding in 1948, Israel has served as a staunch ally on behalf of America's vital interests in the Middle East and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, being that the citizens of the United States and Israel maintain a deeply rooted friendship based upon a commonality of interests and shared core ideals, including a dedication to democracy and individual freedoms, I ask that we rise up in recognition of Israel's independence.

I would also like to recognize the special sister relationship that the State of New Jersey has forged with the State of Israel, through the New Jersey-Israel Commission. Israel has repeatedly proven itself as a valued partner in trade and mutual cultural exchange, and has earned the support of New Jersey's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize a special group of constituents from the 6th District of New Jersey who will be showing their support for this unique relationship by "Walking For Israel" on May 4th. I ask that my colleagues to join me in commending the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County for sponsoring such an event. It is my hope that America's citizens will mark this occasion and demonstrate their support for the US-Israeli relationship with similar events across the country.

HONORING FATHER EVAGORAS
CONSTANTINIDES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate Father Evagoras Constantinides for his numerous contributions to the citizens of Northwest Indiana. Father Constantinides has been a fixture of the community since 1969, and he will be honored at a dinner presented by Friends of Hospice on Friday, May 2, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Father Constantinides was born in Lapithos, Cyprus in 1918 and was educated in his village through his second year of high school, where he graduated with the Gold Medal Award for academic excellence. He entered Athens College in 1932, where he was accepted on a yearly scholarship with the school's science section. Father Constantinides had no trouble maintaining his scholarship for six years, and he graduated with honors while receiving the Delta Public Speaking Prize and the English Language Prize. This dedication and commitment to his studies exemplifies the hard work on which Father Constantinides prides himself.

After finishing his collegiate studies in Greece, Father Constantinides journeyed across the world to America to continue his studies and broaden his experiences. In 1938, he enrolled at Fenn College, which is now Cleveland State University, to study civil engineering. During his four years at the University, he served as a Greek teacher and as the Hellenic Board of Education Secretary for the Greek Orthodox Community of the Annunciation of Cleveland, Ohio. Although he enjoyed his time in Cleveland, his final year was interrupted by World War II. As a British subject, Father Constantinides entered the Canadian Army as a private in the fall of 1942. After completing his basic training, he was enrolled in the officer training program, from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps with proficiency in explosives, mines, and demolitions. His outstanding ability as a military officer, coupled with his excellent intellect, allowed Father Constantinides the opportunity to work for the United States Central Intelligence Group translating Japanese documents and the Greek Constitution into English.

After returning to the United States following his discharge in 1947, Father Constantinides began extensively studying theology, and on March 11, 1956 he was ordained into the priesthood. He was appointed pastor of the SS. Constantine and Helen parish in Gary on September 1, 1969, and his gracious presence has been felt throughout Northwest Indiana since his arrival. In 1971, Father Constantinides was instrumental in the construction of the Hellenic Cultural Center in Merrillville. His efforts also led to the design and construction of the SS. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, one of the ten largest Orthodox churches in the Americas, in 1975. It was during this time that Father Constantinides became deeply involved in the work of Hospice of the Calumet Area.

In addition to the many contributions within his own parish, Father Constantinides has