

the individual, this concept of responsibility must be applied to the nation as a whole.

Prior to the Second World War, the United States tried to remain isolated from the conflicts that engulfed Europe. The United States only joined these wars after it was impossible to do otherwise. Little by little, though, our country has learned to heed the warning presented by Martin Luther King Jr. that, "A threat to freedom anywhere is a threat to freedom everywhere." Freedom and oppression simply cannot coexist.

Why, though, are Americans now so willing to fight for such an abstract idea as freedom? Perhaps it is because we have beheld the horrors of the Holocaust, the terror of the Khmer Rouge, and the stranglehold of the Taliban. This loyalty to freedom, though, lies more likely in the essence of the American spirit, that every-gnawing hunger for fairness, justice, and the righteousness of the Golden Rule. A long line of Americans fighting on foreign soil have justified the war to themselves by reasoning that they have liberty because someone they never knew paid the price for it, and it is only fair that they, in their state of freedom, be willing to do the same for another.

It is our duty, as partakers of freedom in this part of the world, to be defenders of freedom throughout the world. Abraham Lincoln stated this obligation best when he surmised; "In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free, honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve." By the freedom that has made our own nation great, we must humble ourselves, and share the wealth with which we have been so mightily blessed.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
FATHER WILLIAM GULAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Father William Gulas, beloved Pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Slavic Village and beloved mentor, leader and friend of many.

For nearly a decade, Father Gulas gently led his flock at St. Stanislaus Parish, offering spiritual and emotional guidance to every parishioner. Moreover, Father Gulas reached out, with caring and compassion, to residents of Slavic Village and neighborhoods beyond, providing a helping hand or kind counsel whenever needed. Father Gulas was ordained as a Franciscan priest in 1961. He was head of the Franciscan Order for the Assumption Province, which spans several states, including Ohio. His service to our Cleveland community began in 1993, when he joined the parish of St. Stan's as pastor. Reflecting a strong desire to connect with parishioners, Father Gulas learned to speak Polish to be able to communicate with every parishioner.

Father Gulas was an articulate and graceful liturgist. His sense of timing and wit, combined with his kindness and warmth, defined his ministry. Father Gulas leaves behind a rich legacy of a life dedicated to spiritual guidance, leadership, and helping others. For our Cleveland community, Father Gulas leaves behind a legacy of healing and uplifting our Slavic Village neighborhood, which radiates throughout his congregation, and resounds throughout our entire community. Father Gulas was instrumental in the renovation of the historic St.

Stanislaus church. His dedication to restoring this magnificent, century-old structure equaled his dedication and success in restoring the heart and soul of this Cleveland neighborhood—one struggling family at a time, one lonely neighbor at a time, one troubled child at a time.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in tribute and remembrance of Father William Gulas, whose compassion, understanding and inspiration, through his words and his deeds, kept hope and faith alive in everyone he knew. His presence among us was a gift, and he will be deeply missed by the countless lives he touched, including ours. We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Father Gulas, to the parishioners of St. Stanislaus, and to the entire Slavic Village community. Throughout his tenure along Fleet Avenue, Father Gulas was deeply committed to helping those in need—young and old, black and white, believers and non-believers. Father Gulas was a living light for everyone in this community, and as deeply as he loved the people of Slavic Village, they in turn, loved him. Most significantly, the love and light that Father Gulas gave so freely to the people of St. Stanislaus and streets beyond, will be a guiding force within our community always, and will live within our hearts forever.

INTRODUCING THE FILIPINO
VETERANS FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act in commemoration of Corregidor Day, and all the Filipino veterans who fought against the Japanese Imperial Forces in defense of America.

Sixty-one years ago today, in the island fortress of Corregidor, Philippines, approximately 15,000 American and Filipino troops fought the four-months long resistance against the Japanese forces.

In the early days of World War II, these Filipinos fought alongside Americans as they were battered by constant shellfire and aerial bombardment.

Corregidor Day evokes memories of how these valiant soldiers disrupted the Japanese conquest of the South Pacific, allowing valuable time for the United States to recover from Japan's initial onslaught.

After the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, they also attacked and defeated Hong Kong and Singapore, our allies in the war. The one bright spot in those dark days was in the Philippine Islands where Americans and Filipinos made a stand in Bataan, Corregidor and the southern islands of the Philippines.

At the conclusion of World War II, there were more than 400,000 Filipino veterans. Only 50,000 Filipino veterans are living today and approximately 13,000 of them reside in the United States.

I pay tribute to these magnificent Filipino soldiers, loyal and dedicated to the war effort, who distinguished themselves in the four months of combat. With their fiber helmets and canvas shoes, they were armed with little more than personal courage. These valiant

men deserve no less than recognition of their military service and fairness under the law.

Proper recognition and honor of the military service of these Filipino veterans is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to remember Corregidor and to support the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act. My bill mirrors Senator DANIEL INOUE's S. 68 and also guarantees Filipino veterans' representation in the Center for Minority Veterans, and ensures they receive the same social benefits like education, housing loans, vocational rehabilitation and job counseling as available to the American soldiers with whom they fought side by side in Corregidor.

FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate Joanne C. Benson—a woman of integrity, principle, love and passion for helping others. As a Member of the Maryland State House of Delegates since 1991 and an educator in the Prince George's County School System for forty years, Joanne Benson has touched the lives of thousands in her service to people. On this very special occasion of celebrating her retirement we must all give great thanks for the difference she has made in carrying out her life's work.

Having known this extraordinary woman for all my years of public service, I have seen first hand her compassion and unfailing love for children, family and community. Her motto, "If not now, when? If not us, who?" exemplifies her tireless efforts in being a voice for the voiceless, a power for the powerless and a fighter for those who have given up the fight.

Born in Roanoke, Virginia, the daughter of Reverend and Mrs. William Claybon, she is one of six children. After graduating from South Hagerstown High School, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Bowie State University and later achieved a Master of Arts Degree from Catholic University. Her career in education began as a teacher in Calvert County and soon thereafter she began to work for the Prince George's County School System, where over the years she has served in a number of capacities including teacher/facilitator, master teacher, instructional support specialist, human relations specialist, Principal and parent involvement specialist. And throughout this long tenure there is one thing she has always been—one of the strongest and most ardent activists for improving the quality of life and the quality of education for our children.

Joanne is a caring individual. Story after story can be told of her purchasing shoes and coats for children in need; bringing food to a hungry family; accessing free health and dental care for children; and finding shelter for the homeless. It was her work while she was Principal of John H. Bayne Elementary School that started the first after-school program in which teachers, parents and community leaders volunteered to work. She began a clothes closet and food pantry and started adult education classes for parents. And she was an early advocate of school uniforms, recognizing that if a child looks good, they feel good.