

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ST. STEPHEN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the accomplishments of an outstanding institution. St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, located in Paterson, NJ, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Wayne Manor on Sunday, October 12, 2003.

As a lifelong resident and former mayor of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that has meant more to the community than St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church. For the past 100 years, the men and women of St. Stephen's have given generously of their time, talents, and energy, and have made an indelible mark on countless people's lives. I feel that it is only fitting that St. Stephen's be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

The history of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church is a long and colorful one. Incorporated "in abstracto" as St. Stephen's Polish Roman Catholic Church on December 14, 1903, the first vespers service was held in the basement of St. Michael's Church in Paterson. One year later, St. Stephen's pastor, Rev. Joseph Zielinski, purchased the former Methodist Episcopal Church on Beech Street together with 12 nearby lots with the intention of building a permanent structure for the Church and surrounding outbuildings. The building project was not undertaken, however, until 1909—a year after a terrible fire destroyed the Beech Street church and all of its contents.

In the aftermath of the fire, St. Stephen's built a combination church and school, as well as a rectory on their property, adding a convent for teaching sisters seventeen years later. Over the years, the parish grew exponentially, and numerous improvements were made as the property and the church underwent numerous renovations. On November 15, 1962, tragedy struck when a disastrous fire completely destroyed the church and school building. For the next 6 years, services were held in various venues until, Easter Sunday, April 14, 1968, when the first Mass was celebrated in the new St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church.

Throughout its history, the work of the congregation of St. Stephen's has been inextricably intertwined with the history of the city of Paterson. As the needs of the community surrounding the parish have changed, St. Stephen's parish has shown a remarkable ability to adapt to reflect its needs.

Originally founded as a church to serve the Polish people of Paterson, St. Stephen's has gradually evolved into a multicultural parish that welcomes the cultural diversity of its congregation. Celebrating masses in Polish, English, and Spanish, St. Stephen's has played an integral role in the lives of all of the members of its community: it has reached out

to local children by permitting the Head Start Program to use its school building for classes, it offers a nutritional center and leisure club to the senior community who reside at the nearby Governors Towers, and it has turned over the occupation of its convent to Straight & Narrow—a local drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the men and women of St. Stephen's epitomize the noble spirit of community service and volunteerism that we all strive to achieve. The sense of altruism and spirit of humanitarianism demonstrated daily by the congregation of St. Stephen's is living proof of the difference that a handful of people can make in the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a U.S. Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the members of exceptional institutions such as St. Stephen's. I ask that you join our colleagues, the people of the city of Paterson, and myself in recognizing the men and women of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church for 100 years of ministry to the community of my hometown, Paterson, NJ.

HONORING MILDRED A. O'NEILL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to mark the passing of Millie O'Neill, the beloved wife for 52 years of our late, and also beloved Speaker, Tip O'Neill. At the same time, I am honored to stand before you to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman, who was widely admired for her warmth, her unbiased honesty and her uncommon sense of perspective.

Tip O'Neill dedicated his autobiography, *Man of the House* to her: "For Millie—The Speaker of My House." And she was. She had such a strong sense of family. Together they had five children and many more grandchildren, and no one doubted where her priorities lay. Millie never failed to make the point to members and their spouses that while the all-encompassing work that we do here is significant, it is our families to whom we owe our first loyalty and responsibility. She lent that critical perspective to new members. It was good advice, and it was greatly appreciated.

It was common knowledge that Millie was her husband's equal in political judgment. She was his eyes and ears, always in touch with the politics back home, providing advice and helping him become the immensely popular and effective Speaker that he was for so many years. As the *Washington Post* pointed out, "She scouted the opposition and reported on the grassroots. In 1966, she hosted a tea for 800 and ran 120 women volunteers on shifts for a phone bank." She was a very good judge of character, and more than a political

wife, she was her husband's political partner ensuring his success throughout their long and remarkable marriage.

But it is important to point out that Millie O'Neill followed her own compass. She had her own set of priorities about how government should serve the needs of people—and that was recognized by the people who knew and worked with her. She graciously volunteered her time on behalf of people less fortunate, and served as chairman or executive board member for the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, the International Club and an organization called So Others Might Eat. She was the chair of the Ford's Theatre and was awarded the theatre's Lincoln Medal in 1984 for her fundraising efforts.

Millie O'Neill was not one to be taken for granted, least of all by her powerful husband. As the *Washington Post* reported in her obituary, "She kept her own counsel about voting. Her husband made a habit, on Election Day, of asking his wife for her vote as they left the house for the polls. She always replied, 'I'll give it every consideration.'"

One measure of a legacy is the family that one leaves behind. Her children Susan, Rosemary, Tommy, Kip, and Michael before he died—all succeeded and achieved in their own right. They carry the family name, and the solid values instilled by their strong and loving mother.

Millie O'Neill was a role model on so many levels—as a wife, a mother, a politician, a manager and a volunteer. She led a life of fulfillment and she was an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, during floor votes 535, 536 and 537, I was unavoidably detained meeting with representatives from Fort Hood. Fortunately, these bills were passed overwhelmingly, but had I been here to vote, I would have voted "aye" on each.

RECOGNIZION MR. JACK RYAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 74 OF THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Ryan on the occasion of his retirement as president of Local 74 of the Service Employees International Union. Jack Ryan is a revered and respected leader of the labor movement who throughout his life has

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