

He also was a voting member of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration advisory committee that influenced the way the agency reviews drugs during the approval process.

Most recently, he was involved in the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition, a national coalition of activists working to end HIV and AIDS by advancing research.

Mr. Martinez was born in Harlingen, Texas in 1953 to Luis and Teresa Martinez. He was salutatorian of the class of 1970 at Brownsville High School. A Rice University graduate, he earned a law degree from the Columbia University School of Law in New York in 1977.

He was an associate at Vinson & Elkins for six years before going into private practice in 1983. He re-evaluated his life after he was diagnosed with HIV in 1987. In the early 1990s, the focus of public information on HIV and AIDS was on prevention and not on treatment and research. Mr. Martinez set about to improve public information by making numerous presentations on HIV and AIDS and by writing many articles in English and Spanish on research and treatment of the disease. His significant influence on HIV and AIDS research and treatment helped so many people affected by the disease.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring Joel Martinez for his exceptional life and passionate activism. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends especially to Vann Vaughan, his life partner of twenty-two years, his mother Teresa, his sisters Rebecca and Zoe, and his brother Harry. Joel Martinez was a great American who fought tirelessly for those in need. His important work must continue until a cure for HIV and AIDS is found.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to create the position of Chief Financial Officer for the Government of the Virgin Islands. It is my hope and intention that by temporarily placing the reins of fiscal management of the Virgin Islands government outside of the political arena we will be able to end years of crisis management and place the islands on sound financial footing for the long term.

Mr. Speaker, my beloved community, has been plagued over the years and several administrations, by one economic or fiscal crisis after another. If allowed to continue or recur, they have the potential of forcing us into total fiscal collapse.

The factors which have caused these crises are numerous and include among other things: the decline in our tourism sector due to the demographic shift from cities of the Eastern Seaboard to areas in the West and Midwest; being hit by as many as 6 catastrophic hurricanes since 1989; and the fact that the territory's geography mandates a large government workforce and necessitates the replication of many basic services.

When the current administration of Governor Charles W. Turnbull took office in January of 1999, the territory was in a fiscal state of enormous and alarming proportions.

While Governor Turnbull is to be commended for his response to that crisis and the succeeding ones he has faced, because of the special and unique burdens we face, history informs that the necessary political resolve to put measures in place to address these problems, some of which will call for public sacrifice, is best found and sustained outside of the political process.

It is for this reason that I am introducing the Virgin Islands CFO Act today. The CFO will be empowered to oversee and approve all spending of the government of the Virgin Islands and be authorized by law to disapprove items of spending which would send the government into financial deficit. The CFO position would sunset after five years and while he or she would be appointed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands from a list of names selected by a search commission, and confirmed by the Legislature, he or she will not be an "at-will" employee of the government and could only be removed for cause.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an easy bill for me to introduce, but it is a necessary one at this time. It is an action that I feel is in the best interest of all of my constituents and the responsible course of action for me to take. I ask for my colleagues support.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD
ROBINSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Mr. Edward Robinson on his retirement from The Community Hospital in Munster Indiana, where he served as the Hospital Administrator for 37 years. Mr. Robinson has been a substantial fixture of the health care community in Northwest Indiana and he will be greatly missed.

Ed Robinson attended the University of Pittsburgh after receiving a highly competitive four-year scholarship from the American Legion. After the completion of his undergraduate college degree he was designated as a Distinguished Military Graduate by the United States Air Force in 1950, when he received his commission.

With his commission, Ed served as a Captain in the United States Air Force for three years and was stationed in Korea with the Fifth Air Force and was also a staff officer for the personnel at the headquarters of the Eighth Air Force, Strategic Air Command.

Knowledge has always been something valued by Ed. He holds a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the Graduate School of Public Health of the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the same institution. Mr. Robinson was awarded on Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Calumet College in May 1997.

Ed's career as a health care professional has been multifaceted and world-renowned. He has been published in numerous professional journals and received first prize in the "Hospital Topics" editorial National-wide competition for his thesis on "Nursing Staffing Pattern in an Intensive Care Unit." Ed is also a

Fellow of the Royal Society of Health in London, England. As a member of the program committee of the Atlantic Economic Conference, an international group, he has presented papers in Paris, Rome, Puerto Rico, Scotland, and Munich on various hospital economic topics. He has been a presenter at numerous seminars with John Goodman and Associates regarding Hospital Based Heart Centers.

Nobly, Ed has committed a life of service to Northwest Indiana through his work in the health care community. He has received the Meritorious Service Award from the Munster Board of Trustees and a Special Award for Outstanding Leadership from the Munster Medical Research Foundation. He is also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Community Foundation, Inc. and the President of the Board of Directors of Hospice of the Calumet Area. He has also shared his time with Board of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, as well as serving as Co-Chairman of the Community Veterans Memorial Park in Munster.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Robinson will be greatly missed at The Community Hospital by all of those who have served with this caring and compassionate man. At this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Robinson for an outstanding career, not only in health care, but also in service to his community. Ed's leadership and passion for his career are to be commended, and his professional absence from the Northwest Indiana community will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM (BILL)
LYONS, JR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Secretary William (Bill) Edward James Lyons, the V for his service to our Nation and to his community. Bill was born in Modesto, California to William, the IV, and Mary Lyons on July 4, 1950. He attended school at Modesto High School in Modesto, California. Bill then attended college at California State University, Chico where he received his bachelor's degree and secondary teaching credential.

Throughout his career Bill has become a well-respected leader in the field of agriculture and is consistently sought out for his expertise. Appointed by Governor Gray Davis and confirmed by the California State Senate, Bill Lyons, Jr. served as the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, from January 1999 to November 2003. As a rancher and businessman, Bill brought nearly three decades of leadership and business expertise to the department. As Secretary, Bill was responsible for a Department of 2,300 employees, and a budget of \$250 million. Secretary Lyons' key responsibilities included policy development and implementation of programs that support California's \$27 billion agricultural industry. He was responsible and successful in implementing the marketing campaign of the "Buy California" program in the state. While Secretary, Bill served as president