

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING JOHN R. MILLER, HOUSE LAW REVISION COUNSEL, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to congratulate and thank Law Revision Counsel John R. Miller for his 28 years of service to the House of Representatives upon his retirement on May 3, 2004. During his time as Assistant Counsel, Deputy Counsel, and Law Revision Counsel, John's dedication, professionalism, and expertise have served the House well, and his important contributions will be missed. Overall John has given 33 years of service to the Federal Government, and I know he looks forward to a well-deserved retirement.

As the director of the Law Revision Counsel staff, John has been responsible for significantly improving the procedures for preparing and publishing the U.S. Code and for making the office self-reliant, a goal which goes back to 1975. Under John's leadership, the Office no longer requires outside assistance to produce the Code, and the staff continues to improve its efficiency. For almost three decades, John has played a pivotal role in meeting the mandate of the Office to accurately reflect the intent of Congress in consolidating and codifying Public Laws. While John will shortly no longer show up for work each day, we will remember his strong legacy. The House is a better and stronger institution because of the efforts of John Miller. We wish him all the best in retirement.

THANKING JOHN R. MILLER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to join my colleagues in honoring a true public servant, John R. Miller, as he begins the retirement he so richly deserves. For the past 28 years, John has belonged to that small but essential group of dedicated, nonpartisan professionals who quietly ensure that the House of Representatives functions smoothly and serves the people of the United States.

John has served as Assistant Counsel, Deputy Counsel, and, for the past eight years, as the Law Revision Counsel. The Law Revision Counsel supervises a staff of 12 attorneys who, along with several editors, administrative aides, and technical specialists, are charged with preparing and publishing the United States Code. The Code is a consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. It is

indispensable to legislators, lawyers, and anyone with an interest in the rule of law. Under the superb leadership of John Miller, the office has rightfully earned a reputation for excellence.

John's lifetime of service to our country should be a source of pride to him and his family. On behalf of the House Democratic Caucus, it is my pleasure to commend and thank John for his great career in the House of Representatives and to wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHN R. MILLER

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, John R. Miller is retiring on May 3, 2004, after 32 years of service working for the Federal government. He began his career in the Legislative Branch working on the staff of Representative William McCulloch of Ohio. Later, John became an attorney-advisor in the Office of General Counsel at General Accounting Office and worked there for 3 years. In 1975, when the Office of the Law Revision Counsel was established as an independent office in the House of Representatives, John was one of the first assistant counsels appointed. In 1994, John was promoted to Deputy Law Revision Counsel, and in 1996, he was appointed by Speaker Newt Gingrich as the Law Revision Counsel.

Throughout his 28 years with the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, John has played an integral role in the development and evolution of the Office. During his tenure as Law Revision Counsel, he has initiated and overseen a significant modernization and upgrading of the procedures and technology used to prepare the Code, thereby improving efficiency and accuracy.

Mr. Speaker, John has set high standards for the work of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel. His unwavering commitment to excellence has been instrumental in making the Code as accurate and reliable as possible. He will be missed.

IN HONOR OF NANCY PIPER

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this body could not function without the able assistance of our staff members. I wanted to bring to the attention of the House that the Small Business Committee will soon lose to retirement the services of the Chief Clerk,

Nancy Piper. Nancy will officially retire tomorrow on April 30, 2004 after over 28 years of unselfish, dedicated public service to Congress in various capacities—both in the minority and in the majority—to five Republican leaders of the House Small Business Committee. Nancy graduated from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and has a Legal Assistant Degree from George Washington University.

Nancy began her career on Capitol Hill in the Nation's bicentennial year of 1976 working for her Congressman, Jack Wydler, from Garden City on Long Island, New York. At that time there were only 145 Republicans in the House of Representatives. Starting in 1983, she began working for the Small Business Committee for the then ranking minority Member Joseph McDade in Pennsylvania. Since then, Nancy worked for four other Republican leaders of the House Small Business Committee, including Andy Ireland of Florida, Jan Meyers of Kansas, and Jim Talent of Missouri. She has certainly seen a lot of changes over the years on how Capitol Hill operates, including the pivotal year of 1994, when her role dramatically changed to a majority staff person.

Nancy is one of the many unsung staff members of the Small Business Committee that makes sure many of the administrative functions of the committee run smoothly. Without her service and her institutional memory, the committee simply could not function. Nancy makes sure that everything associated with a committee hearing or a bill markup proceeds without a hitch.

Mr. Speaker, Members who serve on the Small Business Committee or who have once served on the committee all experienced Nancy's professionalism and pleasant demeanor. While they will miss her, I know that they will want to join me in wishing Nancy all the best as she leaves the frantic pace of Capitol Hill to enjoy her well-deserved retirement. My wife, Freda, and I express to Nancy Piper our very fondest personal wishes to her and her husband, Chris, and her two daughters, Kate and Elizabeth, as she embarks on her new journey in life.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA COMMUNITY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise to recognize an outstanding member of the northwest Indiana community, Ms. Agnes Lynch. This incredible woman has been a life force for countless students and for her family. Her presence in our community has touched the lives of thousands and helped many become the leaders of today.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ms. Agnes (Ott) Lynch earned her B.A. in English

• 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.

at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. Two major events highlighted those college years. One was the once-in-a-lifetime experience of winning the national Tournament of Orators sponsored annually by the Hearst Newspaper chain. She was the only woman to ever win the national finals of that contest. The 1950 finals were held in Baltimore and Bishop Sheen was one of the judges. To that day, Agnes cherishes her kiss on the cheek from Sheen, at least as much as the cash prize that accompanied her first-place finish.

This other event, meeting her future husband, occurred while Agnes was working her way through college at the Milwaukee Public Library. John Lynch came into the library one night to check out a book. He was on his way home from the German bakery, just down the street from the library, where he was working his way through Marquette University. John and Agnes were married in Milwaukee just after graduation and moved to Gary, John's hometown.

After their third child was born, Agnes started her teaching career, first at Toleston High School and then, for 25 years, at Merrillville High School, where she was the English Department chairwoman, sponsor of the Thespian Society and director of the class plays. There are few people in northwest Indiana who didn't have Agnes for a teacher. In her spare time, she earned her M.A. from Valparaiso University. After retiring from Merrillville High School, Agnes taught for 3 years at Indiana University Northwest.

A widow since John's passing in 2000, Agnes now devotes her time to church, traveling and basking in the accomplishments of her children. Mr. Speaker, Agnes Lynch has given her time and efforts selflessly to the people of northwest Indiana throughout her long and illustrious life. She has given the gift of knowledge to thousands in our community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Lynch for her outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend Agnes for her lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING MR. VAL ROSE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding man, Mr. Val Rose, who on December 4, 2003 retired from the Genesee County Sheriff Department in Flint, Michigan after 20 years of dedicated service to the residents of Genesee County. On May 4, 2004, family and friends will gather to honor the career of Mr. Rose during a dinner to be held at the Ramada Inn located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Val was born in Flint, Michigan on October 20, 1951 to Dr. and Mrs. Frank (Florence) Rose. He graduated from Central High School in 1970. He attended Flint Junior College (Mott College) and majored in criminal justice. During his course of study he received an internship within the Flint Police Department. His first official assignment was with a police force in the State of Wyoming. Upon returning to the Great State of Michigan, Val sought po-

sitions that would allow him to continue in his commitment to defending human dignity. He served as one of the officers on the first internal Hurley Medical Center security team. Val began his tenure with the Genesee County Sheriff Department as a Deputy Sheriff in September of 1993. During his career Val was elected Steward and later Chief Steward of AFSCME Local 2259, a position he held until his retirement. He was also the coordinator of the special events within the Sheriff Department. Val chaired the Michigan Special Olympics "Law Enforcement Torch Run" for 3 years. He assisted with communications for the Special Olympics "Crim Races" for 14 years, and he rode his bicycle twice across Michigan in memory of fallen deputies and other law enforcement agents. He was an adviser/instructor for 10 years with the Forgotten Man Mission Training Program, which was established to assist individuals with becoming an assistant chaplain. Val's invaluable service to the community has not gone unnoticed. During his career he received numerous accolades, including the Sheriff's "Community Service" award for his commitment to volunteering and promoting safety. Aside from his law enforcement career, Val is the Commander of the Flint-Flotilla U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and most recently he became a member of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, Lt. Col. Keehn Composite Flint Squadron.

Val is not only dedicated to serving and protecting the community, he is also and foremost a devoted husband to his lovely and supportive wife of 26 years, Louise.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my good friend and constituent Val Rose, and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that there are 200,000 or more homeless veterans living on the streets on any given night. Other organizations dedicated to assisting homeless populations believe that that number is higher, closer to 300,000. Either number is far too high and a national travesty. For these veterans, access to VA benefits, specialized services and effective outreach are vital components to any hope of individual stability and improvement in their prospects.

With the passage of Public Law 107-95, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, Congress established the goal of ending chronic homelessness in the veteran population within a decade. Today, I am introducing H.R. 4248 along with Mr. EVANS of Illinois, the Committee's ranking member, that would extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue making grants to expand or modify existing programs for homeless veterans. The current authority for this program will expire in September 2005 without this legislation. VA also requested an increase in the grant and per

diem program spending limit from \$75 million to \$100 million, in its fiscal year 2005 medical care budget proposal. This legislation would authorize that spending increase along with extending the program authority through 2008.

The VA's Homeless Grant and Per Diem program provides competitive grants to community-based, faith-based, and public organizations to offer transitional housing or service centers for homeless veterans. Between grants and per diem-only awards, VA is contributing support for approximately 10,000 community-based supportive housing beds and services to homeless veterans in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Current recipients of these funds are contributing in very significant ways to the fulfillment of the objective to reduce homelessness among veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the homeless veterans who need these services and the programs that are achieving successful outcomes, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR JOHN VASCONCELLOS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing Silicon Valley, including Representatives STARK, LANTOS, LOFGREN, HONDA and FARR, I rise to honor California State Senator John Vasconcellos, one of the most highly respected legislators in California, who is retiring this year after representing Santa Clara County in the California Legislature for nearly forty years. Senator Vasconcellos will be honored on Friday, April 30, 2004 by the Santa Clara County Democratic Party for his extraordinary public service career.

John Vasconcellos is a graduate of Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose and the University of Santa Clara, where he was the first person in the history of the institution to graduate as Student Body President, Valedictorian and recipient of a medal given to the outstanding member of the senior class. After two years in the Army, he returned to attend Santa Clara University Law School where he again was Class President and a top student. He practiced law in San Jose and served in the Administration of Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown.

John Vasconcellos was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1966, where he served for 30 years before being elected to the State Senate. During his tenure in the Assembly, he served as the Chairman of the powerful Assembly Ways and Means Committee where he earned a reputation as a masterful negotiator and conciliator, and for the superior legislation he produced.

In 1996, John Vasconcellos was elected to the California State Senate, where he has served on the Budget, Public Safety, and Energy, Utilities and Communications Committees and as the Chair of the Committees on Education, Economic Development, Preparing California for the 21st Century, and the Internet Caucus. He founded the California Task Force to Promote Self Esteem and Personal

and Social Responsibility. He has been called "the conscience of the Legislature" and "the Johnny Appleseed of Self Esteem." He has made a commitment to recognizing California as the leader in the development of new technologies, the global economy, and to meeting the challenge of realizing the promise of our multicultural democracy, with every person being given the opportunity to fulfill her or his full potential his mantra.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud to call John Vasconcellos our friend and our colleague in public service. This pragmatic idealist and visionary is a source of great pride to the Democratic Party, to our mutual constituents, to all Californians and to our entire nation. We ask our colleagues to join us in honoring and thanking Senator Vasconcellos for his lifetime of extraordinary service to California and our country. Because of him and his distinguished service, we are unmistakably a stronger, better and more decent nation.

HONORING MR. GEORGE BOOMS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. George Booms. He is a hardworking advocate for America's senior citizens. On Thursday, May 6, 2004, the Region VII Area Agency on Aging will show their appreciation to George during their annual meeting to be held at Buck's Run located in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

George was born October 9, 1938, in Bad Axe, Michigan. He is a longtime resident and dairy farmer of Sanilac County, Michigan. George has made it his life's work to defend and promote human dignity for all senior and disabled Americans. He joined the Region VII Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors in 1993. The Area Agency on Aging, which was created by the Older Americans Act, partners with county organizations to service the needs of the elderly. During his tenure, George served as board vice chairman in 1998 and 2000. He served as board chairman from 2001 to 2004. Under his steadfast leadership, George was able to successfully, along with the help of various committees, secure a new and more spacious facility for Region VII Area Agency on Aging. George was also instrumental in leading the search for a new executive director. He has also dedicated numerous hours to advocating the MiChoice Waiver program for the elderly and disabled. George was the lead in guiding the agency to conduct a study on wages and approve equitable wage steps for all employees of Region VII Area Agency on Aging. Prior to George's service on the board, he was the township clerk for Sanilac County for 12 years and a Sanilac County commissioner for 12 years. He was also a member of the Sanilac planning committee and public and safety committee. Aside from his work with the agency, George enjoys participating in various related church functions and woodworking.

I know that George would want me to point out that the love and support of his family have immensely contributed to his overall success. He is a devoted husband to his lovely wife, Arlene. They have three sons, two daughters, and six wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from George Booms's experience and dedication. He is a man of moral character committed to improving the welfare and dignity of those in need. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating George Booms on a successful term and in wishing the very best in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION OVERLORD

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to recognize and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II. I am pleased that the ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. EVANS, has joined me as an original cosponsor of this measure. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution.

The well-known phrase "freedom is not free" perhaps never meant as much as it did on June 6, 1944. Over 6,500 American troops suffered casualties on that day. Our allies also suffered great numbers of killed and wounded. Many more observed horrible images that were burned into their memories for the rest of their lives. Sadly, this was the beginning of a campaign that would cost the lives of thousands of Americans in order to end the "Thousand Year Reich" hundreds of years prematurely. There are many concentration camp prisoners—and their descendants—alive today because of the price paid by thousands of young men.

One of the reasons I feel strongly that Congress should debate and pass legislation such as this is that there are fewer and fewer original participants in the event, and our collective societal memory can become skewed and distorted. As the interval of time lengthens between our current understanding of a historical event, and when the event originally took place, its significance can sometimes become blurred or almost lost.

Many of us look back upon the Normandy Invasion at D-Day, June 6, 1944, and think of it as the beginning of Europe's liberation from the clutches of one of the most evil systems of government ever devised by mankind. In many ways, this understanding is correct. But sometimes I feel as if too many historical observers minimize the fact that the Allied victory at Normandy, and the subsequent liberation of Europe from Nazi and Fascist tyranny, was not inevitable. Many historians today are so obsessed with finding and identifying "fundamental historical trends" and isolating various factors and causes that they often overlook that much of history occurs by chance and by the sheer human will of key individuals.

On June 6, 1944, failure was possible. In fact, when you pause and consider the magnitude and scale of such an enormously complicated military operation waged by multiple nations, it sometimes seems amazing that the operation ever succeeded.

After all, roughly two years earlier, several thousand Canadian and British troops

launched an amphibious raid near the town of Dieppe, and this operation proved to be a complete disaster. Some of the highest casualty rates of the entire war were suffered during the operation. As a result of this military debacle, there were over 1,000 allied soldiers killed, and 2,000 prisoners taken by the Germans. The Allied raid failed because troops were inadequately prepared and lacked experience in battle, the plan was poorly conceived, overly complex, and lacked sufficient fire support from aircraft and artillery.

As planning for Operation Overlord was underway, Winston Churchill injected much needed caution and urged careful planning. Stalin was putting heavy pressure on Roosevelt and Churchill to move quickly and launch an invasion in 1943 to relieve the enormous pressure on the Soviets along the Eastern Front. Churchill worried that a 1943 invasion would fail, and feared that the beaches of France could end up "choked with the bodies of the flower of American and British manhood."

Fortunately, the Allies learned the bitter lessons of the 1942 Dieppe landing, and put these hard-won lessons to good use during the Normandy invasion. But there was nothing historically inevitable about the success of Operation Overlord.

The famed historian Stephen Ambrose put the significance of this operation in perspective:

You can't exaggerate it. You can't overstate it. [D-Day] was the pivot point of the 20th century. It was the day on which the decision was made as to who was going to rule in this world in the second half of the 20th century. Is it going to be Nazism, is it going to be communism, or are the democracies going to prevail? If we would have failed on Omaha Beach and on the other beaches on the 6th of June in 1944, the struggle for Europe would have been a struggle between Hitler and Stalin, and we would have been out of it.

It is also worth noting that General Dwight D. Eisenhower himself was not completely confident of victory. Prior to the launch of the great amphibious assault, he scribbled a brief note about what he would say to the press in the event that the invasion failed, and put it in his wallet. He later added it to his diary. The note read as follows:

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.

When the words of this note were first revealed to the American public, I thought how wise President Franklin Roosevelt was to pick a man of such character and humility as Dwight Eisenhower to lead the single most important military operation in American history.

Here was a man who was asked to oversee and execute the most complicated military plan ever devised, one in which so many things could have gone wrong that you could have blamed hundreds of different variables had it not succeeded.

A great invasion force stood off the Normandy coast of France as dawn broke on June 6, 1944: in all, there were 9 battleships,

23 cruisers, 104 destroyers, and 71 large landing craft of various descriptions, as well as troop transports, mine sweepers, and merchantmen. Combined, these forces constituted nearly 5,000 ships of every type, the largest armada ever assembled. Allied Air Forces flew 11,000 sorties to provide air cover, bomb beach-head fortifications, and most importantly, pin down the armored Panzer tank reserves that the Germans had available to counterattack and drive any Allied beachhead back into the sea.

Eisenhower had reasonable faith in his war plan, to be sure. He did not recklessly cast over 150,000 Allied soldiers into harm's way without taking every possible precaution to ensure success. But he was fully cognizant of just how badly things could go awry even if everything he could control went perfectly and on schedule. He was fully prepared to shoulder the entire blame himself if the outcome did not go well.

And there was much to be worried about. As the day of the invasion approached, the weather in the English Channel became stormy. The U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) reports that heavy winds, a five-foot swell at sea, and lowering skies caused General Eisenhower to postpone the assault from June 5 to June 6. Weather conditions remained poor, but when weather forecasters predicted the winds would abate and the cloud cover would rise enough on the scheduled day of the attack to permit aerial support, Eisenhower reluctantly gave the command.

Eisenhower also understood the awesome and heavy burden of leadership that comes with knowingly sending thousands of men to a place where many would not return home alive or uninjured. Planners had expected casualties of up to 80 percent among the airborne forces and glider troops. Eisenhower, knowing full well what was likely to face these airborne troops, traveled to an air base at Newbury, England to bid farewell to the members of the 101st Airborne Division before their tow planes and gliders carried them off to battle. The U.S. Army Center of Military History reports that a newspaper man who accompanied Eisenhower later told friends he had seen tears in the general's eyes.

Eisenhower's love and fear for his men was grounded in reality. Fewer than half of the gliders assigned to the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division ever reached their assigned landing zones on D-Day. Those that missed their targets either became stuck in hedgerows, struck German obstacles constructed specifically to counter glider troops, or were mired in swampy terrain. By midmorning of June 6, 1944, 4,000 men of the 82nd were unaccounted for, along with 60 percent of the equipment they had carried into battle.

Several of the beach landings went relatively smoothly and according to plan. But at the beach landing code-named OMAHA, many things seemed to go wrong all at once for the primarily American force. Naval and aerial bombardment of enemy mortar and artillery positions had failed to inflict substantial damage. As American infantry tried to take the beaches, they were pounded mercilessly by the German defenders. Allied rocket ships tried to bring additional indirect fire support, but they were launched at the outer limits of their effective range. When missiles fell short, they often hit Allied troops on the beach.

The high winds and strong currents blew many of the landing craft off course, making it

difficult to coordinate artillery support and leaving troops miles from their objective with useless maps. And where the Allied forces had appropriate maps, they didn't have the necessary radios with which to call in for fire support, reinforcements, or to coordinate their attacks. A lot of radios had gone to the bottom with their ships and landing craft. Many of those who landed were seasick or weary from the journey through choppy waters. Nearly half of the amphibious tanks accompanying the invaders sank, swamped by the high waves their design couldn't accommodate. Wreckage at the water's edge piled up and landing craft became hopelessly entangled in barbed wire and uncleared beach obstacles placed by the German defenders. Arriving at the battlefield during a rising tide, many landing craft became stuck on sandbars that were 50 to 100 yards from the waterline. Enemy machine guns, firing from heavily fortified bunkers, mowed down rank after rank of U.S. troops who had to wade to shore with fifty, eighty, or sometimes a hundred pounds of equipment through water that was often neck deep.

According to some estimates, barely one-third of the first wave of attackers ever reached dry land. Few heavy weapons made it to shore in the first wave at OMAHA making it extremely difficult to take out the mortars, machine gun emplacements, and artillery batteries that were raining death upon Allied forces. Some were killed the moment the landing doors dropped, as was so poignantly captured during the memorable film, "Saving Private Ryan." Those who were wounded and unable to move sometimes drowned as the tide moved in. Making matters worse, the force opposing them were seasoned German veterans from the 352nd Infantry Division.

Only sheer bravery and the monumental effort of human will posed against impossible odds carried the day at OMAHA beach. About 2,500 men were killed or wounded at OMAHA alone.

By the end of the day, the total tally of dead and injured topped 9,000. The American share was about 6,500. Among the American airborne divisions, about 2,500 became casualties. Canadian forces experienced about 1,100 casualties and another 3,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded. Approximately one-third of the casualties were killed in action.

At roughly 10 p.m., June 6, 1944, Eastern Standard Time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt broadcast a radio address to the nation, and led a prayer for the many thousands of soldiers committed irrevocably to battle that day:

Last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know

that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence of war. . . .

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom. . . .

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

Incredibly, the high casualties suffered were less than Allied planners had actually expected. There were many who feared that Hitler would order the use of chemical weapons to prevent the Allies from gaining a toehold on the European mainland. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Eisenhower's chief surgeon, Maj. Gen. Albert W. Kenner, and the Chief Surgeon of the U.S. Army's European Theater of Operations, Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley (who later served with distinction as the chief medical officer of the VA), had prepared their staffs to process at least 12,000 killed and wounded in the First U.S. Army Division alone.

Despite the losses, and the unspeakable hardships endured by so many, the invasion succeeded. More than 100,000 men and 10,000 vehicles had come ashore that day, the first of millions who would hammer the final nails into Nazi Germany's coffin.

The skilled German Commander of Army Group B, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, was quoted before the battle as saying "If we do not succeed in our mission to close the seas to the Allies, or in the first 48 hours, to throw them back, their invasion will be successful. . . . In the absence of strategic reserves and due to the total inadequacy of our navy and of our air force we will have lost the war." Rommel's assessment was ultimately to be proven right. Less than one year later, Nazi Germany would be beset on both sides by victorious Allied armies and surrendered.

Mr. Speaker, our nation must never forget or take for granted the sacrifices that were made to liberate Europe and put an end to Nazi tyranny. We must never turn our backs on the veterans who scaled the cliffs of Normandy against overwhelming odds.

As long as I have the privilege of serving as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will make it my highest priority to ensure that those who risked everything for the sake of our freedom, are honored and served appropriately by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATOR BYRON D. SHER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members representing Silicon Valley, including

Representatives FARR, HONDA, LANTOS, LOFGREN and STARK, I rise to honor California State Senator Byron Sher, one of the most highly respected legislators in California, who, after representing San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties in the California State Legislature for nearly a quarter century, will retire. Senator Sher will be honored on Friday, April 30, 2004 by the Santa Clara County Democratic Party for his career of extraordinary public service.

Byron Sher graduated from Washington University, St. Louis, and earned a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1952. He held academic teaching positions in law at Southern Methodist University, the University of Southern California, Harvard Law School, Stanford Law School, and was a Fulbright Research Scholar in New Zealand. His elective public service spans from serving on the Palo Alto City Council with two terms as Mayor, to service on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Committee on Environmental Quality for the National League of Cities, and the League of California Cities.

In November, 1980, Byron Sher was elected to the California State Assembly where he served with distinction as the acknowledged leader of environmental policy for over fifteen years. In 1996, he was elected to the California State Senate in a special election to represent the 11th Senate District which currently spans three counties and stretches from San Carlos in the north to the City of Santa Cruz in the South, and which borders on both San Francisco and Monterey Bays.

During his tenure in the California State Legislature, Byron Sher expanded his reputation as the foremost expert on environmental issues. He is the first Chairman of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, as well as the author of landmark laws to protect our environment and serve as legislative models for the rest of the nation. Among the laws he has authored are the California Clean Air Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. He has strengthened the State's timber regulations with his Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and he has been at the forefront of computer recycling programs to ensure that the dangerous byproducts of the information age, such as mercury, don't contaminate our landfills and water supplies. Senator Sher also authored the Nation's first law to prevent toxic contamination of water supplies from leaking underground storage tanks. Virtually all his legislation is considered the gold standard for environmental conservation and protection laws in our country.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud to call Byron Sher our friend and our colleague in public service. This quiet, humble, decent and brilliant man is a source of great pride to the Democratic Party, to our mutual constituents, to all Californians and to our entire Nation. We ask our colleagues to join us in honoring and thanking Senator Sher for his lifetime of extraordinary service to California and our country. Because of him and his distinguished service, we are unmistakably a stronger and a better Nation.

ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NAVY'S DEPARTURE FROM VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, 1 rise today to commemorate the one-year anniversary, this Saturday, May 1st, 2004, of the U.S. Navy's departure from the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Puerto Ricans have played a pivotal role in the national defense of the United States. The people of Vieques, Puerto Rico, in particular, bore over 60 years of bombing with everything from napalm to depleted uranium. In the 1940's, about two-thirds of their land was occupied by the U.S. Navy to make way for a bombing range on the eastern part of the island and a weapons depot on the western part of the island.

The movement to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques was in existence for many years. But the tragic death of Viequense David Sanes Rodríguez on April 19, 1999 as a result of two stray bombs dropped on the Observation Post in Vieques, contributed to galvanize the movement beyond partisan affiliations and political ideologies. That struggle reached its fruition with the U.S. Navy's departure from Vieques on May 1, 2003. It is important to note that the Navy has recently indicated that the replacement training scenario for the Atlantic Fleet is as good if not better than the training conducted on Vieques. This realization is well received by those who called for the cessation of training on Vieques.

The victory in Vieques is a victory first and foremost of the Viequenses. Yet it is also a victory of Puerto Ricans in the Island, in the U.S., and of many non-Puerto Rican elected officials, civic, community, labor and religious leaders and activists who participated in the struggle, organized marches, rallies, and lobbying initiatives. Many were arrested for peaceful civil disobedience in support for peace in Vieques.

I am proud to say that many of my fellow Members of Congress participated in this important initiative for peace in Vieques. For instance, on March 8, 2001, 110 Members of Congress signed a letter to President Bush calling for the immediate and permanent cessation of military practices in Vieques.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the March 8, 2001, letter from these 110 Members of Congress to President Bush into the RECORD at this time. On behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, I thank these Members of Congress for their support for peace in Vieques, and I urge them and my other colleagues to join me in working towards finishing the inconclusive agenda for the people of Vieques. The immediate task at hand is ensuring the adequate, full and prompt clean up and decontamination of the lands and surrounding waters of Vieques.

Although the Navy has left Vieques, much remains to be done before the residents of Vieques have the peace and justice they deserve. When the Navy left Vieques and transferred the lands on the eastern part of Vieques to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a year ago, the people of Vieques finally were free of the bombings that so disrupted and af-

fectured their peace, health, well-being and livelihood. That achievement is a testament to the resilience and perseverance of the Viequenses and their allies. That resilience and perseverance is now needed to make sure that the lands are fully and promptly cleaned up and decontaminated. The legacy of contamination and health crisis in Vieques must end.

The Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Sila Calderón, has requested that Vieques—and the island of Culebra—be included in the National Priorities List under the Superfund law. That request is currently under consideration by the Office of Management and Budget. Once the relevant areas are designated for clean up and decontamination, the necessary funds must be appropriated to make sure that the clean up and decontamination is conducted fully and promptly. Unnecessary delays in the clean up process and insufficient funding would only exacerbate the health crisis suffered by Viequenses.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Navy's departure from the beautiful island of Vieques, we are proud of the victory achieved by the Viequenses and their allies in a peaceful struggle for peace and justice for the close to 10,000 residents of Vieques. At the same time, we are mindful that the agenda for complete peace and justice in Vieques is still inconclusive. We will continue to work towards completing this agenda. I am counting on my colleagues' support in doing so.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, March 8, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,

President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: For the last 60 years the U.S. Navy has been conducting military operations in two-thirds of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. From the beginning, such operations have caused concern because of their consequences on the people, the environment, and the economy. The tragic death on April 19, 1999 of David Sanes-Rodríguez, a Vieques resident, during a training exercise, brought to the forefront of the Puerto Rican national and international communities the health, environment, and the violation of human and civil rights of the residents of that Island.

The People of Vieques have a mortality rate 40 percent higher than that of Puerto Rico, a 27 percent higher risk of dying from cancer, and a 70 percent higher risk of dying from diabetes. At the same time, Vieques' natural resources and environment have been seriously damaged by the continuous bombing and shelling, which have left heavy toxic metals in the environment. The island's economy has also been affected because Vieques has not been able to develop to its full potential as a direct result of the U.S. Navy's presence. In sum, the situation of Vieques has become an issue of health, environmental protection, and human and civil rights. In spite of all of these concerns, the U.S. Navy is determined to continue using Vieques for bombing exercises.

This issue has transcended political party and ideological lines in Puerto Rico. Leaders from all sectors of society agree that the bombing and shelling must end. At the same time, in the United States, the Senate of the State of New Jersey, led by the Republicans, approved a resolution, by unanimity, requesting the immediate cessation of the bombings. Governor Donald DiFrancesco (R-NJ), and Governor George Pataki (R-NY) have also stated their support for this effort.

Today, the vast majority of the Puerto Rican society favors the immediate and permanent cessation of the bombings and shellings. Past Presidents of the United States, under similar circumstances, have ordered the immediate and permanent cessation of military operations in other locations. For instance, in 1975, President Gerald Ford, by an Executive Order, terminated the use of the island of Culebra for military purposes. Likewise, President George Bush, on October 22, 1990, directed the Secretary of Defense to discontinue the use of the island of Kaho'olawe for bombing and target practice.

Your fellow Americans are seriously concerned about the ailing health, the violation of human and civil rights of the Viequenses, as well as the impact on their environment and natural resources. Under the Constitution of the United States, you have the authority to call for the immediate cessation of the bombing and the shelling that are affecting these rights. Therefore, the undersigned urge you to order an immediate and permanent end of the bombing in Vieques.

Respectfully,

Anibal Acevedo Vilá (D-PR), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Jose Serrano (D-NY), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), George Miller (D-CA), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Patsy Mink (D-HI), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Bobby Rush (D-IL), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Edward Markey (D-MA), Hilda Solis (D-CA), Major Owens (D-NY), Mike Honda (D-CA), Sam Farr (D-CA), Elliot Engel (D-NY), Cynthia McKinney (D-GA), Carrie Meek (D-FL), Eva Clayton (D-NC), Louis Slaughter (D-NY), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Nita Lowey (D-NY), John Larson (D-CT), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Brad Carson (D-OK), Mark Udall (D-CO), Tom Udall (D-NM), Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX), Donna Christensen (D-VI), Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Albert Wynn (D-MD), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Joe Baca (D-CA), Robert C. Scott (D-VA), Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-GA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), Robert Underwood (D-GU), Rod Blagojevich (D-IL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Karen McCarthy (D-MO), David Phelps (D-IL), Nick Rahall (D-WV), Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), David Bonior (D-MI), Howard Berman (D-CA), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), William Jefferson (D-LA), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Sen. John Corzine (D-NJ), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-IL), Bob Filner (D-CA), William Lacy Clay (D-MO), Ted Strickland (D-OH), Lane Evans (D-IL), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Robert Brady (D-PA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), John Olver (D-MA), Lois Capps (D-CA), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Melvin Watt (D-NC), Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Jerrald Nadler (D-NY), James E. Clyburn (D-SC), James McGovern (D-MA), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), John Conyers Jr. (D-MI), Martin Meehan (D-MA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Barney Frank (D-MA), Jerry F. Costello (D-IL), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Michael McNutty (D-NY), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Gene Green (D-TX), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Earl Hilliard (D-AL), Maxine Waters (D-CA), James Oberstar (D-MN), Janice Shakowsky (D-IL), Nick Lampson (D-TX), Bill Delahunt (D-MA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), William Lipinski (D-IL), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Thomas Allen (D-ME), Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), John LaFace (D-NY), Lynn Rivers (D-MI), Robert A. Borski

(D-PA), James A. Barcia (D-MI), Chaka Fattah (D-PA).

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF
PHIL LELLI

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Phil Lelli, a good friend of mine and a great leader of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union from Tacoma, Washington.

Philip M. Lelli was a born longshoreman; he began his career on the Tacoma, Washington waterfront in 1949 and retired in 1993. He was President of the Tacoma Longshore Union Local 23 from 1966 to 1993, and I recall quite well the advice and counsel he freely gave to me and to other political leaders throughout his tenure of Union leadership. Afterward, he remained deeply engaged in community affairs in the Puget Sound area, serving as a Port of Tacoma Commissioner and the Harry Bridges History Chair Trustee at the University of Washington.

Today in the House of Representatives, I would like to express my sincere wishes of sympathy to the Lelli Family, Mr. Speaker, and to extend my thanks and the appreciation of a grateful community for the many contributions that Phil has made. I would also like to include in today's RECORD the notice that was printed in today's News Tribune newspaper from Tacoma, Washington.

[From the News Tribune, Apr. 28, 2004]

(By Philip Lelli)

HANGS HIS HOOK

Longshore leader Philip Martin Lelli was born December 4, 1929, in Edgewood and passed away April 25, 2004, in Puyallup. He was the son of Martin and Mary (Baller) Lelli and attended Fife schools and Pacific Lutheran University. He married Joanne Williams April 18, 1953, in Fife. Phil and Joanne were the proud parents of five sons: Jay (Judith E. Peterson), Marty, Dean (Susan), Vance (Kimberlie) and Ross, and grandparents of Janelle, Jayson A. (Jennifer), Paula, Rori, Scott, Mathew, and Marina. There are three great-grandchildren, MacKenzie, Kailee and Ryan. Also surviving is his brother Tom (Phyllis) Lelli. One son, Ross, and a sister, Jeanne Retallick, preceded him.

Phil Lelli was a dominant figure on the Tacoma waterfront from the moment he lifted his first 180-pound sack of wheat in 1949 until he retired as a gearman in 1993. He was a born longshoreman: a practical physicist who could come up with the most effective method of moving any size or weight of cargo; a leader of men in times of great technological change; and a stalwart ally who won hundreds of friends in ports all over the world.

His mentor was T. A. "Tiny" Thronson, a veteran of the Great Strike of 1934. Thronson's advice, "Do a hard day's work and you'll get rewarded with more opportunity," was Phil's guiding principle as President of Tacoma Longshore Union 23 from 1966 until 1983. He never abandoned his belief that port-union cooperation would result in a Golden Age. He teamed with Port Executive Director E. L. Roy Perry, Union Business Agent George Ginnis, and Port Commissioner Robert Earley to raise Ta-

coma from a backwater log port to become the fifth largest container port in North America.

During his 55 years on the waterfront, Phil served as Port of Tacoma commissioner, Propeller Club president, Tacoma Longshore pension club president, and University of Washington Harry Bridges History Chair trustee. The Propeller Club awarded Philip its highest honor, Master Mariner, in 1982. The Harry Bridges Chair designated him its Distinguished Supporter in 2003.

After Phil and Joanne's youngest son died in a waterfront accident in 1989, the Propeller Club created the Ross E. Lelli Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Phil Lelli learned the meaning of community service from his father, Martin, who taught his son to care for other people, especially the poor. In the 1980s Phil and Father William Bischel S.J. organized the Hospitality Kitchen to serve hot lunches to the Tacoma homeless. Phil rescued a stove from the old Knights of Pythias Temple. Longshore workers trucked the stove to the Kitchen, took out a wall, installed the stove, and rebuilt the wall. The longshore union continues its support of the Kitchen, which serves 450 meals a day.

Visitation will be from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Saturday, May 1 (International Workers Day), followed by the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrews Catholic Church, 1401 Valley Ave., Sumner. Rosary services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at St. Martin of Tours Church 2303-54th Avenue East, Fife. Grave-side services will be at Gethsemane Cemetery, 37600 Pacific Highway, at noon May 1. The Longshore Union will honor brother Phil with an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. There is an online guest book at www.mountainviewtacoma.com

Arrangements are by Mountain View Funeral Home, 253-564-0252. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the name of Philip Lelli to the Ross E. Lelli Memorial Scholarship, PO Box 453, Tacoma, WA 98401, or the Hospitality Kitchen, 1323 S. Yakima Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405.

REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who lost their lives and those who are suffering the aftereffects of the world's worst nuclear accident—Chernobyl, April 26, 1986.

The suffering extends outside Ukraine's borders to Russia, Belarus and beyond. I ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor those innocent lives that will be forever changed by such a horrific event.

I applaud the efforts of the United States Department of Energy, the International Atomic Energy Association, and other donor nations in remediation and containment efforts in Ukraine. Estimates indicate that these projects may last at least 100 years. Our commitment must remain firm.

I am including for the RECORD an article highlighting some of the challenges ahead and devastation many have already faced.

[From CBS News, Apr. 26, 2004]

REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

Across the former Soviet Union, people lit candles, laid flowers and held demonstrations Monday to mark the 18th anniversary

of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which spread radiation over much of northern Europe.

In all, 7 million people in the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine are estimated to suffer physical or psychological effects of radiation related to the April 26, 1986, catastrophe, when reactor No. 4 exploded and caught fire.

An area half the size of Italy was contaminated, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to be resettled and ruining some of Europe's most fertile agricultural land, the United Nations said.

Hundreds of Ukrainians filled the small Chernobyl victims' chapel in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, at 1:23 a.m. Monday (6:23 p.m. Sunday ET), the exact time of the explosion. Later, they laid flowers and lit candles at a small hill where marble plates are inscribed with the names of hundreds of victims.

Nearly 1,000 mourners gathered Monday afternoon at Kiev's memorial to Chernobyl victims, a soaring statue of five falling metallic swans. Some placed flowers and photos of deceased relatives at its base.

"Nothing can be compared with a mother's sorrow," said Praskoviya Nezhlyvova, an elderly retiree clutching a black-framed photograph of her son, Viktor. She said he died of Chernobyl-related stomach cancer in 1990 at age 44.

Volodymyr Diunych, a driver who took members of the hastily recruited and inadequately equipped cleanup crews to the site, recalled watching as residents were evacuated "in an awful rush" days after the disaster. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union's traditional May Day celebrations went ahead in Kiev, 80 miles south of Chernobyl, only five days after the accident.

Soviet authorities had withheld much information on the world's worst nuclear accident, both from its own people and from the rest of the world. Only last year, Ukraine's security service declassified secret files documenting malfunctions and safety violations at the plant that caused the release of small doses of radiation from time to time long before the explosion.

Ukraine shuttered Chernobyl's last working reactor in December 2000, but many problems remain.

Ukrainian experts say that the concrete-and-steel shelter that was hastily constructed over the damaged reactor needs urgent repairs, but authorities claim that there are no serious safety threats. Meanwhile, many people injured or displaced because of the explosion complain about inadequate government support.

Sergei Shchvetsov, the head of Russia's Chernobyl Union, said that 40,000 people disabled in operations to clean up the blast live in Russia and the "volume of benefits to which (they) are eligible is narrowing every year," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Greenpeace activists held a small protest outside Russia's Department for the Inspection of Radiation Security, carrying signs that read "No more Chernobyls."

Meanwhile, in the Ukrainian town of Slavutych—built to house Chernobyl workers displaced by the accident—people held a solemn memorial meeting early Monday to honor the memory of their relatives, friends and colleagues.

The accident occurred after officials put the reactor through a test in which power was reduced and some safety devices were disabled.

More than 2.32 million people have been hospitalized in Ukraine as of early 2004 with illnesses blamed on the disaster, including 452,000 children, according to Ukraine's Health Ministry. Ukraine has registered some 4,400 deaths.

The most frequently noted Chernobyl-related diseases include thyroid and blood can-

cer, mental disorders and cancerous growths. The United Nations said in a statement that in some areas of Belarus, thyroid cancer among children has increased more than 100-fold when compared with the period before the accident.

Two years ago, the U.N. reported that 200,000 people still live in highly contaminated areas and 4.5 million residents in three countries are receiving financial help—draining national budgets.

The explosion and fire at Chernobyl's No. 4 reactor contaminated 23 percent of Belarus, 5 percent of Ukraine and 1.5 percent of Russia, according to the report. It also spewed a radioactive cloud across Europe.

CONSIDERATION OF S. 1904, WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following newspaper articles from the Miami Herald and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following my statement:

[From the Miami Herald, April 29, 2004]

U.S. HOUSE OKS BILL NAMING NEW FEDERAL COURTHOUSE FOR LATE JUDGE WILKIE FERGUSON

(By Larry Lebowitz)

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday unanimously passed a bill that would name the new federal courthouse in downtown Miami after the late U.S. District Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. and sent it to the President for his signature.

"His career is an inspiration to hundreds of young attorneys, and his honor and integrity make him a symbol of fairness on the federal bench," said Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Miami. "... Naming the new federal courthouse after Judge Ferguson is an honor that will reinforce his legacy for decades to come." Only seven U.S. courthouses nationwide have been named for black jurists, none of them in Florida. The Senate version, introduced and co-sponsored by Florida Democratic Sens. Bob Graham and Bill Nelson, passed on March 12.

The \$163 million courthouse, which will feature two 14-story towers connected by a mammoth atrium, is located at 400 N. Miami Ave. It is slated to open in late summer 2005.

[From the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Apr. 29, 2004]

MIAMI FEDERAL COURT BUILDING TO BE FIRST IN STATE NAMED AFTER AFRICAN-AMERICAN
(By Ann W. O'Neill)

Congress unanimously approved legislation naming Miami's newest courthouse after the late U.S. District Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr., making it the first federal court building in Florida to bear the name of an African-American.

The bill, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Kendrick B. Meek, was approved Wednesday by a 406-0 vote.

"Now, that's consensus," Meek said of the unanimous roll call vote. "People in South Florida seeking justice can see an example of a man who stood tall."

Meek, D-Miami, and other backers said naming the building after Ferguson shows how South Florida has evolved from a segregated society where, a generation ago, some courthouses housed blacks and whites in separate holding cells.

The \$137 million Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. United States Courthouse, going up at 400 N. Miami Ave., will be completed next year. Only seven federal courthouses across the country are named after African-Americans.

Ferguson, who was 65 when he died last year of leukemia, earned a reputation as an even-handed jurist who championed the underdog. His friend, Miami civil rights attorney H.T. Smith, eulogized Ferguson as "the judge for the least, the last, the lost, the looked-over and the left out."

In his most resonant federal court ruling, Ferguson was credited with improving the lives of thousands of disabled Florida residents. In 1999, he held the state in contempt of court, forcing it to increase funding for home nursing care and other services. The move allowed thousands of disabled people to live at home rather than in institutions.

Ferguson was born in May 1938 in Miami, where his father, Wilkie Sr., was founding pastor of St. Andrew's Missionary Baptist Church in Opa-locka. The elder Ferguson died last year at age 94.

His first landmark case came as a Miami-Dade Circuit Court judge, when he ruled blacks had been systematically excluded from a jury. He served on the state's Third District Court of Appeal in Miami from 1980 to 1993, when President Clinton appointed him to the federal bench.

Ferguson heard most of his cases in Fort Lauderdale.

The new courthouse bearing his name is taking shape as one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings to appear on Miami's skyline in years. It consists of two 15-story glass towers connected by an atrium. When completed and landscaped, it will resemble a ship afloat on a wavy sea of grass.

The bill was backed by 19 South Florida Congress members; U.S. Sens. Bob Graham and Bill Nelson; the Dade County Bar Association; the former Black Lawyers Association, now known as the Wilkie D. Ferguson Bar Association; the Caribbean Bar Association; the Haitian Lawyers Association; the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners and the city of Miami.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOMAS A. ARCINIEGA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Tomas A. Arciniega for his 20 years of distinguished service as the president of California State University-Bakersfield. His retirement in July 2004 concludes a remarkable career noted for his leadership in the development of CSU-Bakersfield as a major regional university. Throughout his career, Dr. Arciniega has been a tireless advocate for expanded access to higher education for low-income and minority students in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Arciniega was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and earned a bachelor's degree in teacher education from New Mexico State University and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of New Mexico. His early career included military service as an officer in the United States Army and an appointment by the United States Foreign Service as a human resources advisor in the Dominican Republic during the late 1960's.

Dr. Arciniega's teaching career began in El Paso, Texas and later he served as Dean of Education at San Diego State University and as Provost at California State University-Fresno. His appointment as the third president of CSU-Bakersfield in 1983 ushered in an era of steady expansion and achievement at the university. As a result of Dr. Arciniega's leadership, the university's multi-cultural enrollment has more than doubled and its budget has more than tripled.

CSU-Bakersfield's success has been due in large part to Dr. Arciniega's efforts to focus public attention on the needs of low-income and minority students, who form the country's fastest-growing school-age population. Many of Dr. Arciniega's peers have credited him with helping to make higher education a reality for thousands of students for whom college would have been impossible a generation ago. He is a widely published expert on higher education administration, bilingual education, and multi-cultural education. During his distinguished career, Dr. Arciniega also served as a technical consultant to the Ministries of Education in Honduras, Bolivia, Panama, and Guatemala.

Dr. Arciniega is a highly respected community leader in the Central Valley and continues to inspire young people around the country to pursue higher education as a means to improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Tomas A. Arciniega for a highly successful career on the occasion of his retirement as president of CSU-Bakersfield. I wish him the best of luck and continued success.

THE LEGEND AWARD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this year the Franklin and Williamson County Chamber of Commerce gave three of our friends and neighbors the "Legend" award.

All three have worked to make our community a better place and they deserve thanks and recognition.

Louise Lynch has dedicated countless hours to saving the county's archives and preserving a historical record of Williamson County. Because of her many years of efforts, the Williamson County Archives is recognized not only as one of the best in the state but in the nation. Married to County Commissioner Clyde Lynch for 50 years, Mrs. Lynch is a sixth generation Williamson Countian. She previously earned the "Lady of the Year" award from Beta Sigma Phi; the Williamson Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award, and the Jane Langston Service Award for her preservation efforts.

Ronald Ligon has never wanted any credit for his work on behalf of Williamson County. While he would rather "remain in the background," we could not fail to recognize him. In 1959 he established Christus Gardens of Gatlinburg and served as vice chairman of the board at Harpeth National Bank. His extensive volunteer community service includes Boy

Scouts, Franklin Rotary Club, and Williamson Medical Foundation.

Roy Barker was awarded a Purple Heart as a result of his military service in the Battle of the Bulge. Upon returning to Williamson County after World War II, he entered the insurance and real estate business and gained respect as a business and community leader. He served in the Tennessee Constitutional Convention and the Tennessee House of Representatives.

These friends and neighbors are the reason Franklin and Williamson County are such wonderful places to live and work. We honor them for their dedication to our community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICOLAS R. SINCORE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor a truly patriotic and courageous American, who through his military and public service has come to exemplify true commitment to one's nation and community.

Born in Homestead, FL, Mr. Nicolas R. Sincore graduated from Coral Shores High School in Tavernier. A proud American, Mr. Sincore served his country in various capacities, spending from 1948 to 1952 on active duty, and serving in the 11th Airborne Division, the 31st Infantry, and the 7th Division in Korea. After completing his tour of duty, Mr. Sincore enrolled at John A. Guppton College in Nashville, TN, where he excelled and earned a degree in Mortuary Science in 1959.

Following a strong desire to fulfill his civic duty, Mr. Sincore was first elected to the city of Homestead's City Council in 1971 as vice mayor/councilman, and re-elected as vice-mayor/councilman again in 1975. One year later, Mr. Sincore was appointed Mayor and re-elected to that position until 1981. He was elected again in 1983, and was re-elected as councilman until November 2003. Mr. Sincore's commitment and dedication to serving the citizens of Homestead, is a testament of his great devotion and affinity towards the community.

In addition to holding elected office, Mr. Sincore has served the city of Homestead through his leadership as the city's representative at both the Florida League of Cities and as a board member of the Florida Municipal Electric Association. Furthermore, Mr. Sincore has served as past commander of the American Legion Post 43, director of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce and director of the Senior Citizens Club of Homestead.

Mr. Nicholas Sincore's dedication and commitment to serving his community, his state, and his country deserves the highest praise and admiration. For many generations to come, the people of Homestead will continue to reap the benefits and rewards of Mr. Sincore's unparalleled devotion to his community. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Sincore before this body of Congress for his

more than 30 years of service to the citizens of Florida and the city of Homestead.

10 NEW NATIONS OF EUROPE WILL ENTER THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 1, we will witness yet another historic event in the evolution of the European Union. On that day 10 new nations of Europe will enter the European Union. This enlargement will represent the largest expansion ever undertaken by the EU.

It is clear that a strong and mature transatlantic relationship is critical to the long-term political, economic and security interests of the United States. It is also clear that one of the central ingredients to a successful transatlantic partnership is a stable, integrated and dynamic Europe.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the 10 newest members of the European Union. I hope that the addition of these new members will help continue to strengthen our enduring friendship and critical partnership with the countries of Europe and the European Union. As the U.S. chairperson of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, I look forward to meeting and working with the Parliamentarians of these newest members who will soon take their seats in the European Parliament.

HONORING AMBASSADOR C.J. CHEN OF TAIWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in bidding a fond farewell to Ambassador C.J. Chen of Taiwan. He will be returning to Taipei next month. During the last four years, he has been the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, DC.

A great advocate for his country, Ambassador Chen has helped us understand difficult issues such as Taiwan's peace referendum and the just concluded Taiwan presidential elections. At the same time he has helped his people better understand American values and strengthened the relations between Taiwan and the United States.

On Capitol Hill Ambassador Chen, known to many as simply "C.J.," is widely respected. Many of us admire his high intellect and industry as we have been privileged to see the personal depth within this very public man. Indeed, we have been enriched in having had this opportunity to get to know him and his lovely wife, Yolanda Ho.

As Ambassador Chen leaves Washington for Taipei, we can be sure that both our countries shall benefit from his efforts for years to come.

PERMANENTLY EXTENDING INCREASED STANDARD DEDUCTION, AND 15-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET EXPANSION, FOR MARRIED TAXPAYERS FILING JOINT RETURNS

SPEECH OF

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4181. It will permanently get rid of the marriage penalty. I voted for this tax cut as a matter of equity and fairness. I do not believe couples should be penalized for getting married. The standard deduction for a single person should simply be doubled when a couple gets married. This measure does this and makes it permanent. Under current law, relief from the marriage penalty ends in 2010.

In our current economic climate, families across our country deserve tax relief from the time they are newlyweds to the time they are parents with children to the time they are enjoying their golden years. This move is a good first step to help all families.

But, I am disappointed that the Republican leadership brought this bill to the floor without a plan or a means to pay for it. This move will add to the deficit. I believe the U.S. House of Representatives has a responsibility to fund this cut. We can no longer cut taxes and increase the deficit. We are borrowing against our children and grandchildren's future.

I supported the Democratic Alternative that would have permanently eliminated the marriage penalty while not adding to the deficit. Here on Capitol Hill, we should provide tax relief but at the same time we must exercise fiscal restraint.

The Republican leadership intends to bring more tax cuts to the floor and I will consider each on a case by case basis. We must find the right tax cuts for the right time. Our children and grandchildren deserve it.

STATEMENT ON OVERTIME PAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Today, the White House and Department of Labor issued the final regulations to end overtime pay for as many as 10 million Americans.

Millions of hard-working American police officers, fire fighters, first responders, nurses, and veterans will see their paychecks cut.

The regulations are the result of a White House initiative to help employers lower the costs of doing business by cutting employee pay and benefits.

On Oct. 2nd of last year, I voted to block these controversial changes. We succeeded by a vote of 221–203, but the Republican Congressional leaders quietly reversed that decision at the White House's urging.

The Bush Administration, despite Congressional opposition, is still cutting the pay of American workers.

Over 2 million workers have lost their jobs under this Administration while millions more are working at McJobs with no benefits. You can't feed a family on minimum wage and leftover happy meals.

Congressional Republicans and President Bush are letting millions lose their unemployment benefits.

Congressional Republicans and President Bush think it's a good idea to ship American jobs overseas.

And now, Congressional Republicans and President Bush show that they believe the best way for America to compete with the third world is to pay Americans third world wages.

We don't know the exact number of people affected without more time to analyze the details. But here's what we do know: in March of 2003 the Administration planned to end overtime pay for 8 million people, but claimed it only hurt 600,000 people.

Now they claim that only 107,000 people will be hurt. Please forgive me if I don't believe them.

President Bush's initiative to cut the pay of hard-working Americans that work overtime is unconscionable, and must be reversed. This will hurt many of the people that deserve the pay the most—the police that patrol our streets and nurses that care for our sick.

I wonder, what's next on the Bush agenda—canceling Christmas?

I urge my colleagues to rally in defense of overtime pay so we may overturn President Bush's misguided policy to export American jobs and import third world wages.

HONORING BILL AND MAGGIE KAPLEN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to Wilson and Margaret Kaplen, known as Bill and Maggie to their family and friends, for their dedication to community service and philanthropy. The Kaplens are life-long New Jersey residents, currently living in Tenafly. I have had the privilege of knowing the Kaplen family for many years.

In acknowledgment of Bill and Maggie's many contributions and devotion to the community, the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center will recognize Bill and Maggie Kaplen at the Medical Center's annual black tie gala on May 8, 2004 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The Kaplens will be the first recipients of the Touchstone Award from the Medical Center, an award that has now been established in their honor.

In 1963, Bill established the Kaplen Foundation, and with the assistance of Maggie and their children, the Kaplens have given their time, hard work, and resources to endeavors including healthcare initiatives, civic projects, education and youth programs, social services, the arts, and Jewish organizations. The Kaplens have been given numerous awards for their charitable endeavors, including the Torch of Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the Chaver Award from the Jewish Community Center of the Palisades (JCC) in Tenafly. Bergen County residents have honored the Kaplen family name at the Kaplen Family Field of Dreams in Teaneck and the Michael F. Kaplen Red Cross Service Center, named in loving memory of their son, Michael.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bill and Maggie Kaplen for their commitment to making our community a better place for all people. The Kaplens represent the best of the human spirit and serve as a true source of inspiration to us all. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Wilson and Margaret Kaplen for their contributions to our community, and in wishing them continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.