

IN RECOGNITION OF KYLE RICHARD KELSON UPON ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Kyle Richard Kelson of Eagle Scout troop #204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Kyle Richard Kelson my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2005

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with my colleague from Indiana, Mr. PENCE, in introducing the Free Flow of Information Act, legislation which will advance the public's right of access to information of broad public interest.

Our measure addresses an increasingly common problem. Last year, 12 reporters were threatened with jail sentences in federal courts for refusing to reveal confidential news sources. Reporters rely on the ability to assure confidentiality to sources in order to deliver news to the public. The ability of news reporters to assure confidentiality to sources is fundamental to their ability to deliver news on highly contentious matters of broad public interest. Without the promise of confidentiality, many sources would not provide information to reporters, and the public would suffer from the resulting lack of information.

Thirty-one states and Washington, DC, currently have statutes protecting reporters from compelled disclosure of sources of information. It is time to provide similar protections in the federal courts.

I have long believed that the Freedom of the Press provision of the first amendment should be interpreted by the courts to empower reporters to refrain from revealing their sources. Since the courts have not found this privilege to attend the first amendment, a statutory grant of the privilege has become necessary.

In deciding to introduce this measure, I have concluded that the public's right to know should outweigh the more narrow interest in

the administration of justice in a particular federal case. In fact, in many instances the critical information which first alerts federal prosecutors to conduct justifying a criminal proceeding or first alerts civil litigants to facts giving rise to a private cause of action is contained in a news story which could only have been reported upon assurance of anonymity to the news source.

I commend my colleague Mr. PENCE for his leadership on this measure and look forward to working with him to obtain rapid approval of the bill in the House.

ON THE DEATH OF
LONGSHOREMAN MATT PETRASICH

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy occurred Monday at the Port of Los Angeles when longshoreman Matt Petrasich—a 40-year veteran of the docks—was killed as he supervised workers unloading cargo from a ship. The entire port community is stunned by this unexpected loss.

Mr. Petrasich was something of a Pied Piper at the port, a hatch boss beloved by younger workers who vied to work on his shifts and respected by his peers for his years of hard work, sparkling sense of humor and big heart. Just ask Danny Miranda, president of ILWU Local 94, who said, "Everybody on this waterfront is grieving. He was loved by a lot of people. . . . He was the life of the party. Just a wonderful person."

Work on the waterfront is often fraught with danger. The men and women who toil on the docks know the risks better than anyone else. But their around-the-clock contribution keeps Americans in work, business inventories full and our seaports more secure.

As best we understand the fatal accident, Mr. Petrasich was crushed by a container about 9:30 in the morning as he worked aboard the Panamanian-flagged Ever Deluxe ship. It was a crane operator who first spotted his body and notified port authorities.

It was also a crane operator, John Rivera of ILWU Local 13, who 3 weeks ago, on a Saturday night, noticed something strange. While moving cargo off a ship, he spotted from his perch high above the docks three people crawling out of a hole in the side of a container. Port inspectors opened the container and found inside 28 men and 4 male teenagers from China—illegal stowaways who had hidden themselves 10 days earlier at the Chinese port city of Shekou. The container manifest listed the contents simply as "clothing."

Mr. Speaker, in an era of terrorism and WMD proliferation, the threats against America emanate from the shadows, from underground black markets, from sleeper cells, and even from cargo containers in the Port of Los Angeles innocently labeled "clothing."

If not for Mr. Rivera, that container would almost certainly have made its way past port inspectors and into Greater Los Angeles. That cargo could have been a 32-man terrorist cell—13 more than the 19 terrorists who attacked us on 9/11. As ILWU Local 13 president Dave Arian rightly notes, "We are the eyes and ears of the port."

So as we mourn the sudden and shocking loss of Matt Petrasich, we should also celebrate the vigilance and dedication of the men and women who work day and night at the port—the supervisors, the crane operators, the shift workers and, of course, hatch bosses like Matt.

I offer my deepest condolences to Cathie Bjazevich Petrasich, his wife of 24 years, and to his family, his friends and co-workers. The Port of Los Angeles has lost a special man.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAZAR AND
FRANCIA PIRO

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to honor Lazar and Francia Piro on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Lazar Piro and Francia Yacou met in Beirut, Lebanon in the early 1960's and married soon after on January 31, 1965. They began a family in 1966 with the birth of their daughter Caroline. Their family quickly grew with the births of their two sons, George in 1967, and Serj in 1968. Ten years later, in July 1979, the Piros left Lebanon for Turlock, California where Lazar's brother and Francia's sisters resided. Shortly after arriving in the United States, the family moved again as Lazar took a job with a dental company in Des Moines, Iowa in 1980. The family resided in Iowa until 1985, at which time Lazar decided to start his own business and return to California. Twenty years later, Piro Trading International remains a thriving family business in Stanislaus County.

In addition to creating and maintaining a successful family business, Lazar and Francia raised three successful children. All three of their children obtained college educations, each having attended California State University, Stanislaus. Caroline, who now works with her father in the family business, currently resides in Turlock with her husband Sam and their 12-year-old son George. Serj also resides in Turlock, where he is a Territory Manager for a pharmaceutical company. George, a FBI agent, now lives in Herndon, Virginia with his wife Mona and their two sons Lazar, 12 and Marcus, 9.

Throughout the years, the Piros have been admired for their strong relationship, and respected for their commitment to the community. Francia has dedicated her life to her husband and family, as a devoted wife and mother of three. With her support and companionship, Lazar remains deeply involved in the community. Since settling down in Turlock, he has dedicated himself to the Assyrian community having founded an organization aimed at providing aid to those in need. He currently participates in many committees and boards throughout the County, including the Assyrian National Council of Stanislaus County.

It is my honor and privilege to join Lazar and Francia's family and friends in recognizing the very special and momentous occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Our community benefits greatly from the splendid example they have set. Marriages such as theirs form a sound foundation for our country, and contribute greatly toward making this a better