

CONGRATULATING MAYOR FRANK PAGANO UPON BEING NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Village of Fredonia Mayor Frank Pagano, a colleague and a friend, whose leadership has recently earned him the position of President of the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).

At NYCOM's recent annual meeting in Saratoga, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer administered the oath of office as Mayor Pagano was sworn in to lead the Conference of Mayors.

Founded in 1910, NYCOM's mission is to collaborate and advocate on behalf of the municipalities across New York State. Originally composed of 42 mayors, the group's membership has grown to include 570 small cities and villages.

Mr. Speaker, for years Mayor Pagano has been delivering outstanding public service to the residents of Fredonia and all of Chautauqua County. The Mayors and residents of New York State will be well served by having Mayor Pagano as an aggressive activist and leader in the New York Conference of Mayors. It is an honor to recognize him here today and it will be a privilege to work with him to fight for the best interests of cities and villages in New York State.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOSE PROTACIO RIZAL AND THE ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL, CLEVELAND CHAPTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal and the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Cleveland Chapter. The accomplished life and works of Dr. Rizal remains a great source of inspiration for the people of the beautiful island of the Philippines. His heroic and poignant writings and efforts continue to inspire and energize the people of the Philippines, and Filipino Americans as well.

During the 1800's Filipinos began expressing their anger and frustration over colonial rule. Intellectuals, poets, artists and writers became the spiritual leaders in the Filipino quest for freedom and independence from Spain. It was the vital works by an unknown, young doctor from Lugana Province, Jose Rizal, which set fire to the independence movement. Dr. Rizal's explosive first novel, "Noli Me Tanere," (Touch Me Not), shattered the facade of colonial rule and shed light on the destructive limitations forced upon the Filipino people. The novel, though immediately banned by the Spanish rulers, was disseminated underground with other highly charged passages by Dr. Rizal and others.

In Manila, 1892, Rizal founded the independence movement, Luga Filipina. By 1898,

an armed struggle for independence had begun, and government officials accused Dr. Rizal of leading the charge. Following the circus-like spectacle of an unjust trial, Rizal was found guilty. On the evening of December 30, 1896, Dr. Rizal was executed by firing squad in what is now known in Manila as Rizal Park. The night before his scheduled execution, he wrote 'Mi Ultimo Adios,' a heartrending and poignant poem as a last offering to the country and people he so loved.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the influential life of Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal. Dr. Rizal rose from the quiet life of a village doctor to become a beloved and courageous national hero of the Philippines—a man whose words blazed a trail of freedom throughout the Philippines. I also want to honor and recognize the leaders and members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, Cleveland Chapter, for keeping the significant spirit of Dr. Jose Rizal alive for each new generation to know and understand. The life of Dr. Jose Rizal reflects an innate quest for freedom for all people, and highlights the ideology that despite the seemingly endless struggle, justice and liberty will rise.

AN AFRO-CARIBBEAN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM THE JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the advice of a wise individual in international relations and a champion of the issues of Afro-descendant groups across the world—the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Mr. P.J. Patterson. He is the leader of the Jamaican People's National Party and the longest-serving Prime Minister in Jamaican history.

Prime Minister Patterson is an individual with a unique history that speaks directly to many of the problems of the developed and developing worlds. As a proud Jamaican, he knows the struggles of individuals of African descent and is pioneering ways of overcoming those challenges. Campaigning on a platform that stressed recognition of minority rights and government responsibility, Prime Minister Patterson has built a coalition of national support that has popular appeal and speaks to the hearts and minds of the Jamaican people.

Throughout his life, he has seen the challenges of poor families and individuals in rising above their economic position and achieving prosperity. He thus has used his positions in government to champion actions to the benefit of the poor. Jamaica, like much of the Caribbean and Latin America, has struggled to overcome the effects of a global hegemony and the scourge of slavery on its people. It has seen the fights of the poor, the uneducated, and the disenfranchised for an equal chance in society. Prime Minister Patterson has worked to address the harmful and devastating effects of poverty, HIV/AIDS, and globalization on the tiny, but proud, island-nation of Jamaica.

Under the leadership of people like Prime Minister Patterson, Jamaica has stood as a

principled defender of justice and equality for all individuals. He is currently the chair of Group of 77 and leads its efforts to expand debt relief for poor nations. He is profoundly concerned with creating a fair system of international governance for all countries. His actions in government and behavior in life demonstrate this commitment and concern.

Mr. Patterson is an important voice on global affairs and the importance of a global commitment to justice. His advice is often wise and insightful and it is important that this Congress hear the advice of this noble gentleman on the challenges of Afro-descendant populations in the Caribbean.

I therefore submit for the RECORD a Caribbean News op-ed written by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, P.J. Patterson on his views of the connection between slavery and globalization and the exploitation of the Afro-descendant populations.

FROM THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY, RACISM AND COLONIALISM TO HIV/AIDS SCOURGE AND ADVERSE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION

JUNE 21, 2005.—For almost 500 years, the Atlantic slave trade forcibly removed over 100 million Africans to destinations in the Americas.

This mass relocation has wreaked permanent and enormous damage to our ancestors and their descendants on every continent bordering the Atlantic. It led to the depopulation and stifling of African creativity and production, and was the genesis of a dependency relationship with Europe.

The resulting negative perception of persons of African ancestry is one we are still struggling to overcome. Undeniably, the slave trade was the first step toward modern Africa's current status as a region where development has lagged far behind that of the more industrialized nations. We in the Caribbean also suffer from this legacy.

When slavery was eventually abolished, authoritarian regimes were structured to keep us still in bondage so as to maintain and increase wealth for the colonial and imperial masters. The shift in Europe toward industry during the late 18th century heralded new and increasing challenges for continent and Diaspora alike.

Movements such as Pan Africanism grew out of our need to overcome these obstacles.

We cannot overlook the seminal contributions of Marcus Garvey whose concern for the problems of Blacks led him to found the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in 1914. Its main objectives were to promote the spirit of racial pride, to foster worldwide unity among people of African descent and to establish the greatness of the African heritage. The inspirational teachings of this influential Black leader in the 1920s were a springboard for the success in securing civil liberties for Blacks worldwide.

We cannot speak about African liberation without reference to one of the greatest sons of South Africa and a towering spirit of our times. I refer to Nelson Mandela, who for decades was engaged in resistance to the evil system of apartheid. Like Mahatma Gandhi, his unwavering resolve made it possible for a nation to throw off the shackles of oppression. He is a living lend for human compassion and the capacity to forgive. He reminds us of another truly great African who lived many centuries ago—St. Augustine.

I, for one, am proud of the contributions of Jamaica and the Caribbean region to the struggle against colonialism and apartheid in Africa through the works of our writers, musicians, orators, and artists. The music of Bob Marley, of Peter Tosh, and Jimmy Cliff has inspired Africans and non-Africans alike to not only recognize the continuation of the