

respected voice advocating its interests in Congress.

Our state's delegation will miss the insight and perspectives of this community leader. The Tri-Cities—and indeed all of Washington state—will always remember the commitment and dedication of Sam Volpentest.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall nos. 512, 513, and 514, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE THURGOOD MARSHALL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to please join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1433, the Thurgood Marshall Commemorative Coin Act to commemorate the life and legacy of the Honorable Thurgood Marshall, one of America's distinguished Civil Rights leaders and the first black Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and many more, Thurgood Marshall led a civil rights revolution in the twentieth century that forever changed the landscape of American society. Working through the courts to eradicate the legacy of slavery and destroying the racist segregation system of Jim Crow, he had an even more profound impact on race relations than many of his peers in the Movement. As the leader of Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Mr. Marshall won Supreme Court victories breaking the color line in housing, transportation and voting, all of which overturned the 'Separate but Equal' apartheid, which was the oppressive reality of American life for Blacks from emancipation to the 1960's. It was Marshall who was the mastermind behind the strategies which won the most important legal case of the century, *Brown v. Board* in 1954, which ended the legal separation of black and white children in public schools and initiated the dismantling of the legal framework which supported segregation. The success of the *Brown* case sparked the 1960's Civil Rights Movement.

Marshall's first major case in 1933 desegregated the University of Maryland and initiated his long and distinguished career as the most notable civil rights attorney in American history. Heavily involved with the NAACP, Mr. Marshall navigated through the court system a series of cases to legally challenge the laws that sought to legitimize the denial of constitutionally guaranteed civil rights to African Americans. He was even invited by the United Nations and the United Kingdom to help draft the constitutions of both newly formed Ghana and Tanzania.

As a result of the success of many of his Supreme Court challenges to state sponsored

discrimination, President John F. Kennedy appointed Mr. Marshall to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. As a Federal Court judge Thurgood Marshall wrote over 150 decisions including support for immigrants' rights, limiting government intrusion in cases involving illegal search and seizure, double jeopardy, and right to privacy issues. As U.S. Solicitor General, Mr. Marshall won 14 of the 19 cases he argued in front of the Supreme Court on behalf of the government. Through this position he represented and won more cases before the Supreme Court than any other American. Therefore it was befitting that in 1967 Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to the Supreme Court, making Thurgood Marshall the first African American to be a Supreme Court Justice.

Throughout his tenure as a Supreme Court Justice, Marshall was a strong advocate for equal rights under the law. He strongly believed that integration was the only route to achieving equal protection for all. Once individual rights were accepted, blacks and whites could rise or fall based on their own ability. However, Justice Marshall believed that the Constitution was inherently defective in its acceptance of slavery, and he made it clear that while legal discrimination had ended, there was more to be done to advance educational opportunity for people who had been locked out and to bridge the wide canyon of economic inequity between blacks and whites. Therefore he was a very strong advocate for programs such as Affirmative Action, preferences, set-asides and other race conscious policies.

Although Thurgood Marshall worked most of his life on behalf of the rights of African Americans, he built a structure of individual rights that became the cornerstone of protections for all Americans. He succeeded in creating new protections under law for women, children, prisoners, and the homeless. Justice Marshall "refused to acquiesce in outdated notions of 'liberty', 'justice' and 'equality,'" and worked to better them. Therefore, as we now experience the process of appointing a new Supreme Court Justice, let us remember the life and legacy of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. For his strength and struggle has contributed greatly to American history and his impact on the Supreme Court fully represents the true essence and purpose of our Constitution.

I believe it is most appropriate at this time in our national history to recognize and honor Thurgood Marshall in a special manner. That is why I have introduced a bill to authorize the minting of a special coin in honor of Thurgood Marshall. I submit the text of my proposal legislation for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and ask for the support of its early consideration and passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2005, I was unable to vote during rollcall votes Nos. 502 to 508 as I had to attend a funeral in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res. 470, H. Res. 388, and H.J.

Res. 68. I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 178.

Also, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3824, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 because in reality this bill is a threat to the recovery of endangered species in our nation. However, I would have voted "aye" on the Miller substitute to H.R. 3824.

HONORING ST. NICHOLAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WILKES- BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA, AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay special tribute to St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary on Oct. 16, 2005.

A century and a half ago, a small group of German immigrants joined together to form a church where they could worship in the traditions instilled in them by their ancestors and provide a religious education for their children and for the generations to follow.

Their effort took root and quickly flourished. Soon, a small wooden church appeared to provide a place to worship and then a school. Both structures filled quickly and the need to build even larger facilities was evident.

In 1883, the congregation started construction on a magnificent Gothic edifice that remains to this day and can accommodate up to 1,200 worshippers at a given service.

In 1913, anew, larger elementary parochial school was constructed to accommodate an ever growing number of students. A high school was incorporated in 1928, and an auditorium and gymnasium were built in 1930.

The Sisters of Christian Charity, organized in Germany, joined St. Nicholas Parish as the school teachers in the early 1870s and they remain in a leadership role to this day. A new convent was built to accommodate their needs in 1963.

The old church rectory was torn down in 1971 and a new residence was built and completed by June, 1972.

The parish steadily acquired adjacent properties over the years and, today, occupies nearly an entire city block bounded by Washington Street, Pennsylvania Avenue and the South Street Bridge.

Now home to more than 1,300 families, the parish maintains more than 40 thriving organizations that minister to all segments of the congregation and the larger community nearby.

Although in existence for 150 years, the parish has had only six pastors, including Monsignors Peter Nagel, Charles Goeckel, Cyriac Staib, Francis Schmitt, Joseph Meier and Joseph Rauscher.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating St. Nicholas Parish on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. A landmark in central city Wilkes-Barre for a century and a half, St. Nicholas Church is well known for much more than just a striking physical presence in the