

IN HONOR OF CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, 2006

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as an original sponsor of H. Con. Res. 71 and Ranking Member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I rise to pay tribute to the designation of June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I also congratulate Rep. BARBARA LEE (D-CA) for her successful leadership in ensuring unanimous passage of H. Con. Res. 71 in both the House and Senate, and extend my thanks to the numerous bipartisan cosponsors who helped make passage possible. Caribbean-American Heritage month honors the tremendous contributions of Caribbean-Americans to our Nation's fabric, and recognizes that our nations are bound together by cultural ties, social and economic links, and common values.

People of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union, including large populations, in New York, and have been contributing to our Nation's success since the American colonies. My constituents of Caribbean heritage have contributed to our great country in the fields of education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other areas, and help illustrate the ongoing contribution of immigrants and their descendants to our Nation's fabric and success. Caribbean-Americans enrich and strengthen our society.

I encourage all citizens to participate in the celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage month and to learn more about the contributions of Caribbean-Americans and our strong ties to Caribbean nations. I also congratulate and join Caribbean-Americans in their celebration of their rich heritage.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, The Columbia Star reported on June 16, 2006 an article highlighting the 100 year Birthday Bash to celebrate 100 years of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Columbia, South Carolina, occupying its present building on Assembly Street. Jennifer Miskewicz, an anchor from WIS News 10 and member of St. Peter's, presided over the day's events.

St. Peter's Church is the Mother Church of the Midlands of South Carolina being established in 1821.

A brief history of the church is a testimonial to the importance of the church to the citizens of South Carolina.

The earliest record of Catholics in Columbia, South Carolina, is in association with Father James Wallace who in the early 1800's became Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at the newly-formed South Carolina College. It is said that during his tenure Fr. Wallace celebrated Mass for the small but growing community of Catholics in the Midlands. (He is buried in St. Peter's churchyard.)

In 1820 the Diocese of Charleston was established. It included all of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. Early in 1821 the newly-appointed Bishop John England sent Father Dennis Corkery to pastor and attend the welfare of a group of Irish immigrants working on the Columbia Canal. This was the beginning of St. Peter's Parish. By 1824 work began on a small brick church designed by renowned architect Robert Mills. The cornerstone of that building can still be seen in the vestibule of the present church.

Since it was the only parish in the Midlands and Upstate in those early years, the pastors of St. Peter's traveled by horseback to serve small groups of Catholics throughout that vast territory. For the most part, Catholics in the South at that time were of humble circumstances, many operating small farms, some retail stores and a fraction of them employed at some of the developing state institutions. Few commanded positions of influence. This changed gradually, and by 1852, the construction of the State House and other public buildings brought additional Catholics to Columbia. Among these was John R. Niernsee, a native of Austria who became the architect for the State House. (He is buried in St. Peter's churchyard.)

AN EDUCATIONAL MISSION

As Columbia established itself, St. Peter's Parish grew and began to focus attention and energy on an educational ministry. In 1848 Father Jeremiah O'Connell became pastor of St. Peter's and soon founded St. Mary's College for young men and the Academy of the Immaculate Conception for young women. In 1859 the Ursuline sisters began teaching in these institutions. That same year, the church was renovated and enlarged to almost twice its original size.

The Civil War quickly put a halt to this progress, and on February 17, 1865, Union troops entered the city. Fire then destroyed not only much of Columbia but also the college and academy, along with the rectory and parish records. The church was damaged but not destroyed. The schools continued in operation from various locations initially through the efforts of General William T. Sherman and later through the hospitality of other churches and residents of Columbia. A rectory was eventually provided through the aid of the newly established Catholic Association of Columbia. In 1872 St. Peter's Cemetery was begun on land donated near the public cemetery on Elmwood Avenue. The parish then remained in steady operation to the end of the nineteenth century despite the difficulties associated with the years of the Reconstruction Era.

A NEW BUILDING AND GROWTH

The beginning of the twentieth century found the old church in such deteriorated condition that the parishioners decided to build a new and enlarged one. Frank P. Milburn, a prominent architect working at the time on the construction of the State House dome, was engaged to design and oversee the project. The cornerstone for a new English Gothic style church was laid in 1906. It was dedicated by Bishop Northrup on January 17, 1909. The total cost of the church including all its furnishings was \$60,506.64. The pastor, Father Thomas Hegarty, inspired and guided the community throughout the project. (He is buried in a side chapel in the vestibule of the church.) That same building continues to serve the community as its place of worship now into the twenty-first century.

In 1911, a lot on the corner of Assembly and Taylor Streets was purchased and a new rectory was built. With the assistance of the Knights of Columbus a new school building was erected in 1919. In 1920, St. Peter's helped establish a new parish in the Shandon area first known as St. Francis de Sales, later renamed St. Joseph. Monsignor Martin Murphy, a beloved pastor for over a quarter of the last century, helped found St. Martin de Porres Parish, Providence Hospital, and St. Patrick's Chapel.

TOWARD A NEW CENTURY

In 1964 the parish received its first American-born pastor, Monsignor William Croghan. During those same years many of the reforms initiated by the Second Vatican Council were introduced and implemented in the parish. St. Peter's witnessed increased lay involvement in the parish. St. Peter's witnessed increased lay involvement in the work of the church, particularly in ecumenical activities, outreach projects for the poor, and efforts for justice and peace. The interior of the church was remodeled during these years, but its more modern design proved to be inconsistent with the architectural style of the building. In later years it was again restored.

Since 1985 Monsignor Leigh Lehocky has been pastor of St. Peter's. On September 11, 1987, the parish had the great privilege of receiving Pope John Paul II where he greeted over 550 representatives from parishes throughout the diocese. The Pope's visit to Columbia also included an ecumenical dialogue with leaders from some twenty-six other Christian churches. Monsignor Lehocky, as diocesan Vicar for Ecumenism, has continued the spirit of the Pope, involving the parish in the work for Christian unity. On January 14, 1996, St. Peter's welcomed Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, himself a child of the parish, to celebrate its 175th anniversary. In 1992, Bishop David Thompson dedicated the new parish school.

The history of Catholic Christians at St. Peter's touches into three centuries. Its life in Christ Jesus makes it ever ancient and yet always new.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSHUA MARC JACOBSON

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a young man from Greenwood Village, Colorado, Mr. Joshua Marc Jacobson. Joshua recently earned a Congressional Award Gold Medal.

The Congressional Award program challenges talented young men and women to be active in their communities, develop leadership skills, and challenge themselves physically and to go on expeditions domestically or internationally.

Josh completed over 400 hours of community service with the most rewarding project being a food drive that he organized as the chapter president of Future Business Leaders of America. His personal development goals were achieved through part-time work with local businesses. There he was able to develop skills in leadership that he will be taking with him as an intern for a U.S. Congressional

Campaign this summer. Josh completed his physical fitness requirements by playing varsity tennis in high school, after years of hard work to achieve his goal. Josh also took a six week long trip to Israel and Poland to complete his expedition requirements.

Josh should be commended for his commitment to community and his desire to become a future leader. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING IN NEVADA AND SEMIPALATINSK: SHARED LEGACY, SHARED LESSONS

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the symposium, Nuclear Weapons Testing in Nevada and Semipalatinsk: Shared Legacy, Shared Lessons, Ambassador Saudabayev and I expressed our concern over the continuous proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world, and therefore, declare the following:

During the cold war, in the second part of the 20th century, the lands of Nevada and Kazakhstan became sites for nuclear weapons testing by the United States and the Soviet Union, and many of our citizens became victims of the radioactive fallout and other contaminants that resulted from the testing. These people tragically came to know the destructive force of weapons of mass destruction. As a result of 928 nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site, along with more tests at other U.S. proving grounds, and 456 nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Test Site, many thousands of innocent Americans and Kazakhs suffered. Many continue to this day to suffer the consequences of nuclear testing.

In 1991, the people of Kazakhstan, under the leadership of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, permanently shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and took the courageous decision to voluntarily renounce the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal. Kazakhstan has so far remained the only country to make such a decisive and wise move which showed the way to a safer world. The United States, at the direction of both Democratic and Republican presidents, has maintained a moratorium on nuclear testing, has reduced its nuclear arsenal, and has aided in decommissioning nuclear weapons abroad.

Unfortunately, the age of nuclear weapons development has not ended. To the contrary, the specter of nuclear weapons is spreading. Today, the aspirations of a number of countries, and of international terrorist organizations, to acquire nuclear weapons are becoming ever more threatening to the future of humankind. Against this background, we are grateful to Kazakhstan for its outstanding contribution to global security. Kazakhstan's leadership and its cooperation with the United States to advance the cause of nonproliferation should serve as an example for other countries. The victims of nuclear testing in Nevada and Semipalatinsk are eternal reminders to the nations of the world to reject developing nuclear weapons, the modern Sword of Damocles

that has imperiled humanity for too long, and to join together to rid the world of the threat of nuclear holocaust.

We are most pleased to report that today's Symposium in Las Vegas, Nevada is another step toward further empowering the people of the United States and Kazakhstan to lead all people away from the threat of nuclear weapons, and redress the consequences of earlier nuclear testing. We pledge to work together to strengthen international cooperation to achieve nonproliferation, as we recognize this is the only path we can take to make our planet safe for all nations to pursue a better future for their people.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER LUKE PALUMBIS

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor of welcoming Father Luke Palumbis to offer the Morning Prayer in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives. Today marks the first day of summer and indeed the sun is shining down upon the Capitol as we open the morning hour, as we do each day the House of Representatives is in session, with a prayer to express our tremendous gratitude and to instill the strength to act resolutely and with sound judgment with the day's proceedings.

I am pleased to have Father Palumbis here to give thanks and prayer to the proceedings of the House. He has taken the time to fly from Stockton, California, where he serves the Greek Orthodox community of Saint Basil. This is a historic occasion as it is the first time an Orthodox clergyman from the west coast has given the Morning Prayer, and I am pleased he comes from California's 11th Congressional district.

A canonically ordained priest of the Eastern Orthodox Church, Father Palumbis graduated from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in Brookline, MA, with a Master in Divinity in 2003, and is currently enrolled in a Master in Theology Thesis program at the same institution. Previously Father Palumbis attended the University of Portland, in Portland, OR, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and was a member of the university's intercollegiate basketball team.

Father Palumbis is married to his wife Eleni Palumbis and they are awaiting the birth of their first child next month. I wish them both the very best of health and happiness back home in Stockton.

CONGRATULATING BUD FAYE

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my good friend, Bud Faye of Groton, Connecticut for his being recognized as the 2005 Connecticut Small-Business Champion by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). I have long consid-

ered Bud to be a shining example of what an American small business owner should be, so I am glad that NFIB has recognized his successful career with this prestigious award.

For 22 years, Bud has owned Pop and Mum's Restaurant-Car Wash-Laundromat and Dry Cleaning in Groton. Here, one of his proudest innovations was establishing a link between the gas dryers used in his laundromat and the hot water supply for this car wash. As a result, on a busy day he can rely on the excess heat from the dryers in use to heat the hot water for the car wash operation.

When he is not running his business, Bud is active in the community, co-chairing the Groton Business Association and the Military Community Council. He was the driving force behind the formation of the NFIB/Connecticut Southeastern Area Action Council—a group of active small-business owners in southeastern Connecticut. Bud even worked to make computers at a local high school available so residents of a local retirement home can e-mail friends and family. These efforts have consistently helped make southeastern Connecticut a better place not only to do business, but to live.

In addition to his work in these areas, the people of Connecticut and in fact the entire nation will long be indebted to Bud for his tireless efforts to help save the Groton-New London Naval Submarine Base from closure. First in 1993 and again in 2005, Bud helped to form and lead a group of local business owners and community leaders who lobbied against the base closure plan—a plan that would have led to the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and removed billions of dollars from Connecticut's economy. Bud's efforts clearly demonstrated deep local support for the base, which was an important factor when the decision was made to keep it open.

Each year, NFIB singles out a small-business owner in all 50 States for special recognition and honors them with its prestigious Small-Business Champion award. Bud Faye is a worthy recipient of this award, and I am proud to add my voice to the countless others that have thanked him for helping make Groton a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you, Bud, and congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER S. MEIER

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a distinguished American, Roger S. Meier, who died on June 5, 2006 at the age of 80.

Mr. Meier, a fourth-generation Oregonian who lived most of his life in Portland, was a descendant of the founders of the Meier & Frank Company. He graduated from Yale University and married Laura Schwartz of New York City in 1952. He worked at Meier & Frank as a director and vice president until the store was sold to the May Company in 1965.

Mr. Meier was the president and chief executive officer of AMCO, Inc., a privately owned investment company for more than 30 years. The Governor of Oregon appointed him to the Public Employees' Retirement Board in 1970,