

Noemi Figueroa Soulet, a New York actress who produced "The Borinqueneers," understands why people were upset with Mr. Burns. But she set her sights on a different battle, in more ways than one.

"Why should we be begging Ken Burns for a few minutes in his series?" she said. "We have other guys we can cover ourselves. I really felt there was enough there to tell our story in a full program."

The idea came to Ms. Figueroa Soulet in the late 1990s, after she saw the film "Saving Private Ryan" and around the time she learned that her husband's uncle had been wounded in Korea.

"I started thinking, what about the Puerto Rican experience?" she said. "I would see a war movie or documentary and I would look for the Latino faces. I always want to see how we are represented. Historically, I knew we served in the military, but you wouldn't know it."

Though she had never made a documentary before, she set out to chronicle the Puerto Rican military experience. In time, she zeroed in on the 65th Infantry's campaigns in Korea.

The regiment, she said, was founded in 1899 as an essentially Puerto Rican unit, including a fair share of island-born officers, led by mainland, or "continental," officers. The group also served in both world wars, though it was in Korea where it was hardest hit.

The regiment's bravery earned the admiration of no less than Gen. Douglas MacArthur, as well as a disproportionate share of casualties when compared with mainland regiments.

One of its continental officers said the unit "got every dirty job that came up," while another said it was so feared by the enemy that "I was very glad the Puerto Ricans were on my side."

But in 1952, scores of soldiers in the regiment were arrested and court-martialed after refusing to fight in battles where untested and poorly led replacement troops were sent to take hills without artillery or medical support. The refusals came after a battle that left hundreds wounded or dead. In another case, they would not follow an officer they knew had no clue where he was trying to lead them.

Some of the men were sentenced to 10 or more years in prison. Outcry over the trials eventually resulted in the Army pardoning them and commuting sentences.

Ms. Figueroa Soulet set out to tell a story that placed the regiment's history in context, rather than let it either be forgotten or reduced to the ignominy of the trials. She said that some Latino organizations that she had thought would be natural allies in her quest to finance and make the film were turned off by the inclusion of the trials and did not support her, while some veterans groups declined to back a project about Puerto Ricans.

She persisted, and was joined by Raquel Ortiz, a producer with many years working in public broadcasting who had produced "Mi Puerto Rico," a well-received documentary on Puerto Rican cultural and political identity.

"Not very many people would have given a first-time producer the amount of time I gave her," Ms. Ortiz said. "I did it because the subject was important to me. She was so committed, too. When I saw the interviews, stock footage and photos, I said 'Wow!'"

The film took nine years to complete and involved interviewing 275 veterans. Ms. Figueroa Soulet has had special showings in various cities, often sponsored by local Puerto Rican and veterans organizations, which have helped spread the word despite the lack of an advertising budget.

It has struck a deep chord in men like Jose Cintron, a retired longshoreman and a Viet-

nam veteran, who was moved to tears when he saw it.

"I was so proud," he said. "For the first time, I did not have to hear about John Wayne. My people took part in this. For once, we get recognized."

Members of the regiment hold on to vivid memories of those who served with them on freezing hillsides, dodging bullets and mortars. Mr. Quevedo still talks about Master Sgt. Angel Ocasio. At the start of an enemy offensive, the sergeant was killed after he had gone around distributing ammunition to Mr. Quevedo and his comrades. Another sergeant—Iglesias was all he could recall—was shot dead when he went searching for Sergeant Ocasio.

"Those two were sent by God," Mr. Quevedo said. "You think of him and the others. They died young. They never had the chance to get married. To be grandfathers. To get to my age. We are the ones who are left."

His friend, Jaime Lopez, sat with him in the living room. He, too, served in the regiment, though they became friends stateside. Mr. Lopez is trim at 77, with a swagger to his step and an unfiltered cigarette in his hand. Mr. Quevedo jokingly calls him "Lee Marvin," which only fuels Mr. Lopez's eagerness to banter.

Mr. Lopez enlisted after high school, saying the military was one of the few options he had as a small-town boy with no money. In Korea, he earned two Bronze Stars, including one for risking his life to wade into a river and rescue wounded comrades while under fire.

He recalled one fierce encounter, when they took a hill, only to find themselves under attack for 12 hours.

"There were dead and wounded everywhere," he said. "Everything was destroyed. Everything. Boy."

He bolted up from his chair, turned away and sobbed. He steadied himself against the dinner table. The only other sound was a clock chiming "Twinkle, Twinkle" at the hour.

"Korea was not easy," was all he said, slowly composing himself.

Since the documentary's completion, the two men have made public appearances together, talking to audiences about their experiences. After years of being footnotes to a forgotten war, they are glad to let others know they were there when they were needed.

"This documentary is something historic," Mr. Lopez said. "You see it from beginning to end and learn that Puerto Ricans fought in World War I, World War II and Korea. The truth is there."

The support of the old veterans, men who came home and settled into uneventful, but blessed, lives is what helped Ms. Figueroa Soulet stick with her project when others would not even return her calls.

"Those guys are my troops," she said. "I look at the long list of organizations who protested the Ken Burns thing and say, 'Gee, none of them contributed to my project.' Some of them would not give me the time of day."

She paused. Being an actress, she knows a thing or two about timing.

"Now," she said, "they're all calling."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANTHONY
TERESI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Anthony Teresi, a life-

long public servant of Chautauqua County, New York, and a truly remarkable man. Mr. Teresi is one individual who truly touched the lives of everyone he met. The impact he made in the city of Jamestown and the county of Chautauqua will forever bear his name and legacy. This article found in the Jamestown Post Journal demonstrates what an amazing man Anthony Teresi was. We will forever feel his presence through the lives of his family.

ANTHONY TERESI DEAD AT 84

(By Patrick Fanelli)

OCT. 10, 2007.—Shortly after hearing the news that his old friend Anthony Teresi died early Tuesday at WCA Hospital, County Legislator Joe Trusso Jr. evoked the Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis," or "Always Faithful."

From Teresi's service in the Pacific theater of World War II to his 16-year career on the Chautauqua County Legislature, Trusso remembers his old friend as someone who was always faithful to his loved ones and to the county he called home for nearly all his 84 years of life.

But considering his role as patriarch of the city's most prominent Democratic family and his long career as one of Jamestown's elected representatives on the County Legislature, Teresi for the most part stayed out of the spotlight, Trusso recalls.

"Tony was never in it for the glory," said Trusso, a Democrat who represents District 16 in the city and served beside Teresi for 16 years. "He was in it to serve."

Teresi's health had been deteriorating the last couple years, but it took a turn for the worst in recent days and spent the past week or so at WCA Hospital in and out of the intensive care unit. As of Monday, his son, Mayor Sam Teresi, expressed his concern that his father would not recover as he had done in the past.

"I couldn't believe it," said Trusso, who heard the news during an Audit and Control Committee meeting in Mayville early Tuesday. "I don't know what happened. That's just the way it goes, I guess."

Teresi's death has brought with it a brief pause in his son's re-election campaign against Republican candidate and former city clerk Shirley Sanfilippo, who offered her condolences to the Teresi family Tuesday and canceled a news conference scheduled for today out of respect for their loss.

In addition, the mayor delayed the meeting scheduled for Tuesday at which his 2008 budget proposal was to have been unveiled, though he says he plans to go forward with it today.

A MAN OF CHARACTER

According to County Legislator Fred Croscut, R-Sherman, the elder Teresi can best be remembered as "a man of character" and "a sincere individual." Croscut also remembers him as a politician whose friends and admirers were not limited to members of the Democratic Party to which he belonged.

"He was a man I don't even think planned on getting into politics," said Croscut, who served with Teresi for eight years. "He was a person who was admired on both sides of the aisle."

Teresi had only just retired after a long career managing various local supermarkets when he was chosen in 1989 to run for the seat long held by former legislator Joseph Nalbene. In turn, he held onto that seat for 16 years until he lost the 2005 election against Conservative Party challenger Tina Hallquist.

Democrats differ on why Teresi lost his 2005 re-election bid. James Ventura, a retiring City Council member who is hoping to replace Trusso in District 16, believes Teresi

lost because he failed to win the all-important Independence line on the ballot. Trusso believes new district boundaries made it tougher for Teresi to win, and Teresi's inability to go door-to-door like he used to because of his health made it worse. And the younger Teresi believes his father lost in 2005 because he was facing an especially tough challenge from a qualified candidate.

Whatever the reason, Mrs. Hallquist said both she and her former opponent soon became friends.

"I only knew Mr. Teresi for a short time, and was blessed because of it," Mrs. Hallquist said, describing him as a gentle, powerful and inspirational man. "When he said 'thank you' and smiled, it inspired one to run out and accomplish more. To say that he will be greatly missed is the understatement of our community."

Ironically, some say this would probably have been his last term in office since his health had already begun to fail and he would not have been expected to run for reelection again this year. Richard Van Hise, who became friends with the elder Teresi through their work on the county Parks Commission, said his break from politics was well-deserved.

"I felt bad," Van Hise said, "but I talked to Sam (his son) and I said, 'It's just as well. Tony deserves to take a break and relax,' because the legislature was a lot of strain on him. And Sam agreed."

BEHIND THE SCENES

While serving on the Chautauqua County Legislature, Teresi was chairman of the Public Facilities Committee, and he is often credited with taking the politics out of decisions regarding what roads would be repaired at a time when politics reportedly played a big part in that process.

He is also credited with the early days of the proposal to construct a methane-fired power plant at the Chautauqua County Landfill, as well as his work on the project that resulted in the county taking over responsibility for all the bridges from French Creek to Hanover.

"People didn't hear too much about Tony, but he was the driving force in a lot of these projects that people don't know anything about," said Trusso, who frequently ate breakfast with both Teresi and their good friend, the late Fred Cusimano, a former county legislator who died in February 2006.

Teresi was also praised for his dedication to Chautauqua County parks, working on the Parks Commission beside Cusimano and Van Hise even after his legislative career came to a close.

In fact, less than two weeks ago, Van Hise was to preside over a ceremony during which a plaque was to have been dedicated in honor of Cusimano, after whom the Fred Cusimano Westside Overland Trail is named. A rainstorm forced Van Hise to reschedule the event, but Trusso and Teresi didn't get the message. They went out anyway, viewing the plaque by themselves and remembering their old friend.

County Legislator Richard Babbage, R-Bemus Point and another close friend of Teresi's, believes that may have been the last "official" act Teresi carried out.

"I've missed him the last two years," said Babbage, who was the ranking member of the Public Facilities Committee during Teresi's tenure as chairman. "Now that he's gone completely, I'm really going to miss him."

SPIRIT AND DEDICATION

Teresi was born in Sicily and emigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of 4, later graduating from Jamestown High School. In 1942, he hitchhiked to Buffalo and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, soon fight-

ing in the Pacific theater and returning to service during the Korean War, according to Trusso.

"That's the kind of spirit and the kind of dedication he had," said Trusso, himself a U.S. Air Force veteran. "He had public service in his veins. I guess he transferred that to his son."

Speaking with The Post-Journal by telephone late Tuesday, the younger Teresi said that he would never have expected his father to run for office back in 1989, believing his mother, the late Rose Teresi, would have been a better fit for politics.

"He wasn't a politician," the younger Teresi said of his father. "You could have knocked me over with a feather that night when he called me and told me he was going to run for the County Legislature."

After he left the service, the elder Teresi went to work managing various supermarkets like the former Loblaw's on East Second Street, and his son says that he was tougher then, better resembling the ex-Marine that he was.

"He made me and a lot of people better because of his high standards and expectations," the younger Teresi said.

But in later years, he could best be described the same way Mrs. Hallquist described him—as "gentle," according to County Legislator Sally Pullano, D-Fredonia.

"He was so very gentle—a gentleman in every sense of the word," she said.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Teresi was a man who fully understood how to live life to its fullest. He knew what the bonds of family meant and how to keep them strong and healthy. Mr. Teresi will be missed by his family and the people of Chautauqua County.

THE CENTENNIAL OF RIVIERA, TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my constituents in the south Texas area from Riviera, Texas, to Baffin Bay—including Vattmann and Loyola Beach—on their centennial anniversary on November 10, 2007.

Baffin Bay is one of the most celebrated—and secret—fishing spots along the Texas gulf coast. And Riviera is so named for the vision of its founder—Theodore Frederick Koch—who saw in it a similarity to the Riviera of France in the early 20th century.

When the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway was completed in 1904, this bit of south Texas land came on the market and caught the eye of Theodore Koch, a visionary land developer, who had immigrated from the Netherlands. The over-20,000 acre parcel of King Ranch land stretching from the railroad to Baffin Bay inspired Koch, who imagined a getaway in South Texas similar to the French Riviera.

Koch's plan was to develop two enclaves: Riviera and Riviera Beach. The two were first connected by a dirt road, then later by a boulevard from the town site 10 miles to the bay front, modeled after those in Pasadena, California, with the center planted with trees and colorful flower beds. The remnants of the Boulevard still stand today.

By 1910 a new bank building and a telephone system came online in the area. In

1912 Koch had a railroad line extended from Riviera and the futures of both Riviera and Riviera Beach looked bright. The train ran several times per month, bringing prospective land buyers and future residents.

But 1916 would bring both beauty and destruction. That year Riviera Beach had a park designed by a florist. The resort's infrastructure was excellent, but a 7-year drought put a major damper on the area's growth. A hurricane on August 16, 1916, nearly wiped Riviera Beach off the map. They rebuilt, but things were never the same.

Yet, Riviera was populated by survivors—whose ancestors had settled the American West. The families who remained built a future for their children and a legacy for future generations.

Like much of Texas, the soil was rich and artesian wells were plentiful in the area, so crops flourished and an extensive network of agricultural, fishing and vacation areas developed in and around the area.

One of my favorite restaurants, the world famous Kings Inn—where many of my colleagues have joined me for meals over the years—is located at Loyola Beach.

There is no small town in America today that better exemplifies victory of the American spirit over adversity, than Riviera to Baffin Bay, Texas. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the communities of Riviera, Riviera Beach, Vattmann and Loyola Beach, as they celebrate their centennial on November 10, 2007.

HONORING 4-H CAMP CLOVERLEAF ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf of Highlands County, Florida, on their 50th anniversary and commend them for all they have done over the past 50 years to educate Florida's children.

Since the camp was dedicated on June 19, 1957, more than 125,000 campers have learned the values of Florida's 4-H Foundation at the camp.

Organized by the Cooperative Extension System under the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, Florida's 4-H program encourages our youth to become active in their communities and teaches them leadership skills.

Campers at Camp Cloverleaf learn these skills and build lifelong friendships through various activities including team building, plant identification, canoeing, crafts, archery and other exercises and activities.

I would also like to honor the many dedicated volunteers, who have mentored Camp Cloverleafs youth over the past 50 years. Their knowledge and guidance helped make the camp a success.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf on their 50th anniversary.