

few that stand out in particular are well-deserving of being honored tomorrow at the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

I want to thank them for their commitment to improving their communities and the lives of their fellow veterans. At a time of an all-volunteer service, it is critical that we have folks like these out there making sure that this Nation respects and honors and provides all the assistance to the 1 percent of the people who stand up to defend our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ARCHBISHOP BLASE JOSEPH CUPICH AND CARDINAL FRANCIS GEORGE OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Blase Joseph Cupich as the ninth archbishop of the archdiocese of Chicago and to thank Cardinal Francis George for all of his years of service to the archdiocese. Archbishop Cupich is being installed today at a mass at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

After many years of study in the U.S. and in Rome, including a doctorate at Catholic University, in August of 1975, Blase Cupich was ordained to the priesthood. In his first assignment, he served as associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary Church and as an instructor at Paul VI High School in Omaha.

From 1981 to 1987, he served as secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See to the United States here in Washington, D.C.

Cupich was appointed bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, by St. Pope John Paul II on July 6, 1998. Pope Benedict XVI appointed Cupich bishop of Spokane on June 30, 2010, and he was installed as the sixth bishop on September 3, 2010.

Cupich has served as chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Protection for Children and Young People since 2008. He has remained a strong advocate for children, saying that the Catholic Church needs to put children first and foremost. In March 2013, he began a 3-year term as chairman of the National Catholic Education Association.

In addition to his dedication to Catholic education, Archbishop Cupich is committed to Catholic social teaching of reaching out to help the poor and others at the margins of society. Yesterday, at the Rite of Reception, he spoke of the challenges that await him, including immigration reform, violence in the streets, drug problems, and staying connected to the real lives of people.

I look forward to working together with our new archbishop as he addresses these issues and other challenges that we face.

Archbishop Cupich is succeeding Cardinal Francis George, who has been archbishop of Chicago for 17 years. Cardinal George was ordained to the priesthood in 1963 at his home parish of St. Pascal Church in Chicago, Illinois. His older sister, Margaret, remembers a young Cardinal George holding pretend masses in his bedroom as a child.

After earning several degrees, including his masters in theology from the University of Ottawa in 1971, Cardinal George embarked on a journey across the globe as a student missionary. From 1974 to 1986, he served as vicar general of the oblates in Rome.

In this position, he led numerous priests and brothers as they journeyed across the world. Cardinal George then went on to earn two doctorates. In 1997, he was appointed by St. Pope John Paul II as archbishop of Chicago, and in 1998, he was elevated to cardinal.

Despite being diagnosed with polio at age 13 and battling cancer currently, Cardinal George has never slowed down. "Even illness can be a gift in some way," Cardinal George has said.

His spirited demeanor is well-known to Catholics. Bishop Francis Kane has said, "He's involved on so many levels. He's involved nationally. He's involved in our whole archdiocese, and then he loves to go out to individual parishes."

Cardinal George's outreach goes beyond the Catholic community. He is known to convene interreligious discussions and shows deep respect for other faith communities, and he is deeply committed to social justice that reaches to all corners of our society.

On a personal level, the more that I had the opportunity to get to know Cardinal George, the more I have admired him. He is an intellectual powerhouse who has a special ability to communicate great truths in a simple manner.

Every time I hear him speak, I learn something that enriches both my mind and my faith, but his intellect is not a distant intellect of a philosopher in an abstract world, but it is well-grounded in an understanding of the everyday life of his people, and as someone who appreciates straightforwardness, I have always liked his directness. Maybe that is because Cardinal George and I both come from Chicago.

I will never forget the time he took my wife, Judy, and me 2 years ago in Rome on the eve of the installation of Pope Francis. He truly is a remarkable man and a great shepherd.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in welcoming Archbishop Cupich and honoring Cardinal Francis George. I offer both men my prayers as they enter into a new phase of their new calling by God and the Catholic Church to the service of others.

VETERANS' ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe, in the inner sanctum of

my soul, that we are the home of the free because we are the land of the brave.

I salute those who are willing to serve their country, who are willing to go to distant places, and who don't always return home the way they left. I highly commend them, and I believe that those who serve us in our military, the men and women who serve us, should always be appreciated for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that we spend a huge amount of money—about \$1 trillion in one circumstance—to put them in harm's way. I believe that if we can spend \$1 trillion to put them in harm's way, we can spend whatever it takes when they return home to make sure they have got the best health care, they get the best housing, and that they get good jobs.

I also believe that we have a responsibility and an obligation in the Congress of the United States of America to make sure that their needs are met. This is why I have introduced certain pieces of legislation to deal with the issues that are confronted by our veterans.

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I would like to mention a few pieces of this legislation today. And I rarely use the personal pronoun "I," but in my business, if you don't use the personal pronoun, somebody else will.

I would like to talk about H.R. 384, Homes for Heroes. This piece of legislation would place a person in HUD, who would have the responsibility of filing a report with Congress annually on the status of veterans and who would be there to look out for veterans. There is currently a person there, but the person is not there in a legal capacity such that it would continue beyond this President or ad infinitum.

I also have sponsored H.R. 2362, Transportation for Heroes. We have veterans who need to get to jobs and who need to get to the VA who cannot afford public transportation. I believe that we need to make sure that they get the same opportunity to take a public transportation system, to utilize it, that persons who are senior citizens have and persons who are disabled have. We have to provide a means by which veterans can get to those places that can be a benefit to them.

This is why we have also sponsored H.R. 3876, Burial with Dignity for Heroes. This piece of legislation would allow those veterans who die in poverty, who have family members who are in poverty, who cannot afford to send them to a tribal cemetery once they die in some place that is distant from a tribal cemetery or a State facility—if you can't send them currently, you have to try to scrape the money up as best you can—I think this country ought to be grateful enough to make sure these veterans cannot only get to these places where they may be buried, but also they should get there and have