

MAYOR LOUIE VALDEZ

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Louie Valdez who was recently elected mayor of Nogales, AZ. At the age of 23, Mr. Valdez has been recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors as the youngest mayor of an incorporated city currently holding office in the United States.

Mr. Valdez graduated from Nogales High School in 1989 and later attended Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ. He is currently a senior at the University of Arizona studying political science. In 1992, he was elected to the Nogales School Board and on January 3, 1995 he was sworn in as the 32d mayor of the city of Nogales.

While being the youngest mayor in the United States is certainly an impressive accomplishment, serving as the mayor of Nogales will be even a greater challenge. Nogales, a city with a colorful and proud history, is home to approximately 20,000 citizens. Its uniqueness stems from its location. Nogales shares its border with its sister city in Mexico, Nogales, Sonora: Los Ambos Nogales, as the two cities are often called, share much in common. Families, friends, and cultures crisscross the border and create a truly unique international community. Unfortunately, Nogales, AZ is often impacted by numerous environmental and immigration problems that originate in its sister city.

With his dedication, skills, and abilities, I am confident that Mayor Valdez will succeed in leading Nogales to unparalleled growth and prosperity. I wish him luck in his new undertaking.

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH F. PERUGINO
HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, our community will gather to pay tribute to my good friend, Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Perugino, to acknowledge his many accomplishments—most recently his appointment as commanding general of the 28th Infantry Division (mechanized) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

General Perugino was born in Wilkes-Barre where he attended and graduated from local schools. Joe received his bachelor's degree in business from Cumberland University in Tennessee. His military career began in 1955. He was commissioned a second lieutenant on June 12, 1966, upon his graduation from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard Officer Candidate School. As he rose through the ranks in the National Guard, he successfully completed all of the required courses for artillery staff officers. Joe served as assistant adjutant general of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Fort Indiantown Gap, from August 1988 to 1991; then commanded the 28th Infantry Division Artillery, Hershey, PA. In 1992, Joe was made major general while he was

deputy State commander and in 1994, was appointed commanding general of the 28th Infantry Division. Joe's outstanding service has been rewarded with many medals and ribbons, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Ribbon with four silver stars, and the Pennsylvania 20-year Service Medal with two silver stars.

General Perugino's service to our Nation is well documented. He also deserves recognition for his dedication to our local community. Professionally, Joe serves as vice-president of the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Co., marketing and gas supply division and as president of Pennsylvania Energy Resources, Inc. He serves as a member of the advisory board of Penn State Wilkes-Barre; chairman of the Luzerne County Community College Foundation; trustee of the Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley Veterans Hospital fund. Joe is also a member of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, National Guard Reserve Officers Association and the Association of the United States Army. He served in a leadership capacity for the Family Service Association, Greater Wilkes-Barre Jaycees, Kingston Businessmen's Association, Kingston Lions Club, and Leadership Wilkes-Barre. In 1982, General Perugino was named a Distinguished Pennsylvanian by the William Penn Society.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Perugino has proven himself to be an outstanding leader. It is only fitting that his many achievements and contributions to our country and northeastern Pennsylvania be recognized. I am honored to participate in our community's tribute to him.

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL
SECURITY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on January 10, the Defense Department testified before the House Judiciary Committee on the balanced budget amendment. The Defense Department's testimony should set off alarm bells for anyone who cares about America's Armed Forces.

According to the Defense Department's Comptroller, a balanced budget amendment which all but ends the congressional ability to even modestly increase revenues would force defense spending cuts over the next 7 years of between \$220 billion in the best case to \$520 billion in the worst case. The \$220 billion reduction is projected if entitlements are not exempt from cuts. But if Social Security and Medicare are shielded from reductions, the defense share of necessary spending cuts grows close to the half trillion dollar figure.

To put the magnitude of these cuts into perspective, the GAO tells us we are already \$150 billion short over the next 5 years in paying for the severely downsized force structure and modernization plan set in place by President Clinton. What does it mean for America's security if we are to double, treble, or even quadruple the size of this problem? How will we come up with an additional quarter or half trillion dollars in domestic program cuts just to maintain our current force? What if we can't?

Defense Department officials say life under the cuts this version of the balanced budget

amendment would mandate would be characterized by a hollow, demoralized force which cannot be modernized and which quickly loses its technological edge. It would mean further base closings, further personnel cuts, and further hardships on our remaining troops. It would certainly change our ability to project force globally and would leave a potentially dangerous vacuum around the world.

Everyone agrees we must move toward a balanced budget and proceed with deficit reduction. We can and we must do this through careful thought-out proposals that are fully debated in Congress. But to force further draconian cuts on our Armed Forces through an inflexible balanced budget amendment risks our troops' ability to defend our Nation, risks our standing in global affairs, and risks the entire defense structure of the United States.

During my 20 years in Congress I've consistently worked with Members on both sides of the aisle to make sure we didn't have a hollow force.

My advice now is to slow down and think carefully about what the balanced budget amendment will do to our national security.

At the very least, the impact of a balanced budget amendment on the Armed Forces should receive full hearings in the House National Security Committee and House Budget Committee. But if we vote before these hearings take place, I hope every Member of the House will carefully consider how the implementation of a balanced budget amendment would affect our Armed Forces and the most important duty we have as Members of Congress—protecting the national security of the United States.

KEY DOCUMENTS PROVE INNOCENCE OF JOSEPH OCCHIPINTI

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, as part of my continuing efforts to bring to light all the facts in the case of former Immigration and Naturalization Service Agent Joseph Occhipinti, I submit into the RECORD a document I received from the Drug Enforcement Administration in response to a Freedom of Information Act request I filed last year for all DEA documents related to the Occhipinti case. The document is a memorandum written by a DEA special agent on April 16, 1991.

On April 5, 1991 Special Agent [deleted] met with Investigators [deleted] in the Southern District of New York at the request of [deleted]. The 12 p.m. meeting was arranged in order for [deleted] to meet with the two Assistant U.S. Attorneys and above investigators handling the impending trial after indictment of Immigration and Naturalization Service Special Agent Joseph Occhipinti. He was charged with various counts of violating civil rights through illegal searches and theft of money found during certain searches.

[Deleted] arrived for the interview and met with [deleted] who was alone in the eighth floor office. He explained that [deleted] and the two assistants were involved in other business at that time. [Deleted] obtained a copy of the twenty five page indictment and