

In 1982, Steckler stepped down as chief judge of this district, at the time having served the longest tenure of any active chief judge in the nation.

He remained on the bench initially as a federal judge and then as a judge of senior status.

Over the years, many lawyers and litigants undoubtedly took issue with Steckler's rulings. But most felt that he had granted them their day in court, had taken great pains to ensure that the judicial process worked and had agonized long and hard over the decision he had rendered.

Steckler had a full realization of the role of courts in society.

It is a legacy that he nourished and passed on to others in this district.

He will be greatly missed and long remembered.

CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY: SENDING THE WRONG MESSAGES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to take note of an article which appeared in the Albany Times Union on March 23. It is not hard to understand why Russia is not taking our concerns seriously about Chechnya and nuclear proliferation when the Clinton administration publicly threatens and criticizes Russia for its actions, yet continues to act as if it is business as usual by celebrating the 50th anniversary of V-E Day in Moscow. Based on these empty threats it is no surprise that the Russians intensified their military operations in Chechnya following the President's decision to travel to Russia.

The article follows:

AN UNTIMELY TRIP TO MOSCOW

The issue: President Clinton intends to visit Boris Yeltsin despite criticism.

Our opinion: He cannot escape the need to face up to Chechnya.

The Clinton administration continues to bet its chips on President Boris Yeltsin's regime in Russia, despite cautions from many sides that doing so is backing a horse fading in mid-race.

In agreeing to attend the Moscow celebrations on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, President Clinton overrode earlier objections, raised within the administration as well as by political opponents, to such a trip. The savage campaign by President Yeltsin to crush secessionists Chechnya was reason enough for the American president to abstain from a summit meeting.

Furthermore, the incompetent performance of the Russian army forced Mr. Yeltsin to further distance himself from the modernizing forces in Russia, which oppose the Chechnya war, and become more beholden to nationalist and Communist elements, who are for it.

The loser is the momentum to democratic reform. The United States' principal reason for strongly backing Mr. Yeltsin through several major crises was that he was the best instrument for developing democracy in Russia.

To entice Mr. Clinton to come to Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin made a couple of gestures. He permitted international rights monitors into Chechnya, and he agreed to downplay the military aspects of the May 9 observance in Moscow.

Furthermore, the Clinton administration did not wish to be indifferent to Moscow's argument that the Soviet people paid a fearful price—some 20 million dead—to help bring about the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Those actions and arguments notwithstanding, Senate Republicans Jesse Helms and Mitch McConnell outspokenly oppose Mr. Clinton's journey to Moscow. They have a point.

Specifically on Chechnya, the U.S. should have extracted more concessions from President Yeltsin, providing for ways to bring the civil war to an end. That would serve Boris Yeltsin most of all, and buttress those in Russia laboring for a more democratic society.

Having decided to go, Mr. Clinton is obliged to try to accomplish face to face what lower level diplomacy could not.

IMPACT OF RESCISSIONS ON ELDERLY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, we have heard time and time again that the opposition is determined to provide less Government and lower taxes, but for who?

Well, now we have the answer. The cuts before us clearly show that the intention is to provide less help to those who most need it, and lower taxes for those who have the most.

For those who fear the onset of winter, and the long and cold nights that it brings, these cuts will force a choice between heating and eating. My State of Rhode Island was supposed to receive \$8.8 million in energy assistance next winter. No more.

This bill turns its back on the 26,000 households, more than 59,000 individuals in Rhode Island, who rely on the little bit of help they get for energy assistance.

When the average heating bill in Providence is \$1,200 a winter, a grant of \$414 can make a world of difference.

To quote a couple from my State, writing about the assistance they received:

Thank you so very much from our hearts to yours. By your compassion we're touched. May God bless you * * * Not one day did we live cold * * *

Sixty percent of the households in Rhode Island who receive energy assistance are either elderly, on fixed incomes, or working poor. Most have household incomes between \$6,000 and \$8,000. A capital gains tax cut will provide little comfort to these people in the dead of winter next year.

This cut is indefensible, and I suspect that is why the majority would not even allow an amendment restoring this money to make it to the floor.

They will be able to avoid the pain of a vote today, but our seniors will be forced to feel the pain of their cuts tomorrow.

The cuts to housing again hit at those most in need. Forty percent of the housing cuts will strike senior citizens, threatening the very viability and quality of their housing by slashing operating subsidies and modernization funds—maintenance, necessary improvements, and security will be cut back.

In Pawtucket, RI, the cut in modernization funds could mean that a planned central security station will have to be eliminated. What

protection will the seniors living in Burns Manor derive from the big business loopholes in the tax package?

Is this the right way to begin cutting the budget? I do not think so.

When it comes to cutting the budget, let us start with the programs that are the weakest and not the programs for the weakest.

CELEBRATING TUFTONIA'S WEEK

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this spring marks the 11th consecutive year in which alumni from Tufts University will celebrate their special relationship with their alma mater by participating in Tuftonia's Week and Tuftonia's Day activities.

This holiday for the 85,000-plus alumni of Tufts derives its name from the title of a venerable Tufts football fight song written by E.W. Hayes who graduated from the university in 1916.

The theme of this year's celebration is Tuftserve which focuses on Tufts alumni who volunteer in their community. These alumni enhance the quality of life in their communities. They help make our shared community a better place for all to thrive in.

Tuftonia's Week is recognized wherever Tufts has a campus. In addition to a formal proclamation ceremony on campus hosted by the president of Tufts, local observances through the years have ranged from small gatherings in restaurants or clubs to champagne receptions in museums, art galleries, and private homes.

Tufts graduates are a proud people who enjoy gathering to think Tufts, thank Tufts, and toast Tufts. This year, alumni will be honoring fellow graduates who also serve in the name of Tufts.

As Tufts University alumni celebrate Tuftonia's Week this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the university and the alumni a successful celebration.

MARYLAND'S MED-EVAC PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIRST 25 YEARS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago this week, the Maryland State Police made its first medical evacuation flight, transporting a patient to the University of Maryland's hospital in Baltimore. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System for their outstanding achievements since 1970. That year, a total of 197 medical transport flights were made with an 88 percent survival rate. Today, I want to recognize this maiden flight by Cpl. Gary Moore and Trooper First Class Paul Benson which started one of the Nation's first airborne medical evacuation programs. Maryland's Med-Evac program, operated by the Maryland State Police,

has since established itself as a leader worldwide in performing this mission.

I want to share with my colleagues why Maryland's Med-Evac program has become the envy of other units throughout the world with the same mission. Since that maiden flight in March 1970, this unit has transported over 62,000 patients, delivering them to a hospital system that includes the University of Maryland Hospital at Baltimore, where Dr. R. Adams Cowley pioneered his principle of the Golden Hour, the critical time following trauma when a patient's life is most vulnerable. Maryland's Med-Evac program is unique because it uses a multimission approach carried out by the Maryland State Police Aviation Division. This unit provides law enforcement, search and rescue, and medical evacuation, providing a high quality service for the least cost.

Working with other local officials, I was pleased that former Gov. William D. Schafer agreed to upgrade the State's helicopter fleet to provide state of the art helicopters at each of the 8 bases throughout Maryland. In October 1994, a new American Eurocopter Dauphine began operating from its base in St. Mary's County for the southern Maryland area, making Maryland the only State that provides 24 hour per day Med-Evac coverage for its citizens, with the ability to fly in most weather conditions. This service has become an intricate, high-technology link in the statewide emergency medical services system, utilizing a sophisticated communications system to incorporate a systematic approach to interface with all licensed medical care institutions in an effort to match the needs of the patient with the most appropriate treatment center.

The significant achievements of the aviation division have not come without sacrifice. Six pilots have been killed while performing three separate missions. Following each tragedy, actions have been taken to upgrade the equipment and training needed to conduct this important mission.

Today, Major Johnny Hughes is the commander of the 144-person unit which operates 11 helicopters from the 8 sites throughout Maryland. All Maryland State Police flight paramedics are nationally registered EMT-paramedics, possessing emergency and critical care skills with the ability to function as complete pre-hospital practitioners.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments of the Maryland State Police Aviation Division and the excellent continuous service they provide, along with the emergency medical services community in our great State. I ask that my colleagues join with me to commend them for this extraordinary record of service to the people of Maryland for the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE IHM SISTERS:
SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE
HEART OF MARY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday, March 26, 1995, the IHM Sisters in my home State of Michigan, are celebrating their 150th anniversary.

The Sisters, servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were founded in 1845. One of

the founders was Theresa Maxis, a member of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. She was an educated and deeply spiritual woman. Another founder was a young Redemptorist priest named Louis Florence Gillet. He was a missionary experiencing difficulty in recruiting religious women to educate young girls. Along with Oblate Charlotte Schaaf and Theresa Renaud, a young woman from Fr. Gillet's Mission, they formed the new religious institute.

Maxis was the daughter of a Haitian woman and a British Army officer. As a woman of color, she was subject to the racism that pervaded civic and ecclesial society. Discrimination against people of color and women was the norm. In many ways, the founders of the IHM's were visionaries who were ahead of their time. Together, they began an on-going mission of educating and advocating for spiritual and psychological development—and, social justice.

As a former seminarian, I feel a close affinity with the Sisters and their commitment to develop an understanding of the structural causes of injustice. This is not merely an academic exercise, but an attempt to alleviate oppression and provide the tools to critique and transform its causes.

The IHM's pursuit of this endeavor lead to the founding of Marygrove College in 1910. Moved from Monroe to Detroit in 1927, the Sisters of IHM continue to respond to the religious, intellectual, moral, and social well-being of men and women in our rapidly changing society.

The devotion the IHM Sisters have displayed to their faith and the community is an inspiration. Although they are a congregation of women in the Roman Catholic tradition, people of all faiths and denominations around the world have benefited from their work. Their social and spiritual contributions are many and they deserve our gratitude for their compassion and leadership.

As the Catholic community prepares for an afternoon of celebration and song, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Sisters for their many contributions. May the next 150 years be a continued fruitful ministry.

A SALUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION
MICHIGAN COMMANDER WILLIAM
F. MILLER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we all owe a great debt to the many veterans of America's Armed Forces. Many of them have sacrificed greatly to protect our freedoms and to help make our Nation the greatest in the world. I know that our veterans who respect and revere true leadership also feel that a debt is owed to those individuals who lead our veterans' organizations, helping to gain public recognition of the contribution of veterans and the needs of many of their legion.

This weekend American Legion Post 18 is honoring William F. Miller, the Commander of the Department of Michigan of the American Legion for his years of service to his Legion, and to our Nation. Commander Miller will be completing his term as State Commander this July and is being recognized for his devotion

to his beliefs. A Korean war veteran from Bay City Post 18, State Commander Miller has served the American Legion in many capacities, including both Commander of Post 18 and 10th District Commander. He also set new records for membership as the Department Membership Director, and then served as Department 4th Zone Vice Commander and as Chairman of the Vice Commanders.

Commander Miller's presence is well known throughout the Bay area and the State of Michigan. Having served as President of the local Chamber of Commerce, the Chairman of the Board for the Bay County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and as Director of the Bay County Growth Alliance, he has done all that he can to help promote his own community. He has done all of this while being a self-employed electrical contractor for more than 21 years.

Perhaps one of the greatest achievements is having been able to do all of these things with the strong support of his wife, Darlene, because we all appreciate that the demands for time often force us to make choices that ask others to make a sacrifice. Darlene has been a source of essential support having served herself as Past President of Unit 18 and the Auxiliary's 10th District.

It has been my great pleasure and honor as a Member of Congress to work closely with a number of veterans who have served their Nation well. In some cases the attention and assistance of Members of Congress is needed, but in more cases the representation of effective veterans' organizations like the American Legion and leaders like Commander William Miller is essential. I invite all of our colleagues in thanking Commander Miller for his services to our Nation and to the Legion, and wishing him the very best with the many new activities in which he is sure to excel.

TRIBUTE TO COL. NORME FROST

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable individual, Col. Norme Frost, of Tryon, NC. Earlier this year, Colonel Frost turned 99 years of age, and his local newspaper, the Tryon Daily Bulletin, briefly recounted a few of Norme's many contributions to our Nation. Norme is especially renowned in the field of aviation, where he was an early pioneer, and flier in both world wars.

Mr. Speaker, Norme has an equally outstanding wife, the former Betty Doubleday. Betty is related to Abner Doubleday, who is credited with inventing our national pastime, baseball. Betty met Norme overseas as a Red Cross executive during World War II. Today, Betty continues her charitable efforts by assisting many of the local charities in Tryon. Betty is also Tryon's unofficial town historian. I am sure that Norme owes much of his success to his lovely wife.

Mr. Speaker, Norme was not only a witness to history, he was also an active participant in making the history that has preserved and enriched our Nation. I congratulate Norme for his