

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES H. CURLEY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's more dedicated and caring individuals, Charles H. Curley. Chuck is being honored as Marin Citizen of the Year for 1995. I wish that I could be with his colleagues, friends, and family tonight as we celebrate his remarkable accomplishments.

Chuck has been a devoted resident of Marin County since he moved here over 35 years ago. Chuck's work has come as both monetary support and as direct participation on task forces and focus groups. Serving as mayor of Larkspur, councilman, planning commissioner, president of the Police Commission, Chuck has spent countless hours working with community leaders in an effort to create a strong alliance throughout Marin. I wish to recognize Chuck for his commitment to the people of Marin County, and to thank him for his long record of public service.

The enthusiasm that Chuck has for both the arts and the environment is seen through his participation in various activities throughout the county. In addition to serving as president of the Marin Arts Council, Chuck is also a patron of the Marin Society of Artists. His effort and dedication has opened the door for numerous artists and has introduced young children to the world of art. Chuck and his wife Nancy were honored in 1994 for their outstanding contribution to the Arts of Marin.

Chuck is also committed to protecting our environment. He was vice-president of the Marin Conservation League, and is currently a member of the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory and the Sierra Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Charles H. Curley during this special evening at the Marin Civic Center. Marin County owes a great deal of gratitude for the tireless efforts of Chuck over the years. He has worked hard time and time again on behalf of many people and for many important causes. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Chuck and his wife Nancy for continued success in the years to come.

LET'S DON'T RISK THE AVOCADO INDUSTRY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, growers in my district produce the most and the best avocados in the world. In order to ensure that we remain competitive we need to make sure our crops remain the best in the world.

For that reason, I rise to urge the USDA to stop the rulemaking process that would modify the quarantine on Mexican Hass avocados. I ask Secretary Glickman, to prevent a rule from going forward which risks the entire avocado industry, especially when there is so much disagreement about the quality of the science underlying the USDA's determination.

As a member of the appropriations Committee, I worked with my colleagues to address

this issue in the fiscal year 1996 agriculture appropriations legislation. The bill, which the President signed into law back in October, expects the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use scientifically credible pest risk assessment and risk management before lifting the current quarantine on Mexican avocados.

During the appropriations process, we asked for the USDA to conduct an independent review of the science. Unfortunately, the Secretary turned us down and suggested that the avocado industry take the lead in this regard.

The Center for Exotic Pest Research at the University of California at Riverside reviewed the proposed rule and published an extremely troubling report. Their findings were strikingly different from those of the USDA and give me great cause for concern. UC Riverside found, and I quote:

The proposed rule's risk assessment contains undocumented assertions, highly questionable estimates, and improper methodology, and as a result, we find it to be invalid.

Free trade is the engine that drives a vibrant economy. I know that growers in my district will compete against any avocado grower in the world. However, the UC Riverside report gives credence to their fears that Mexican avocados coming across the border could carry infestation that could spread throughout the country. I certainly don't believe Secretary Glickman wants to usher in another disaster like the Mediterranean fruit fly.

I think it just makes sense to learn our lesson and take a cautious approach. I urge the Secretary to listen to the experts at UC Riverside and craft a rule that does not put the American avocado industry at risk.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE JUNETTE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary program that began in government but has for the past 20 years been supported by the private sector to the benefit of millions of children in this country and countries around the world.

Most particularly I wish to point with pride to the individual who has carried this splendid program forward from its beginning in a U.S. Justice Department agency in the 1970's to the worldwide anticrime program that it has become today. He is my constituent, Eugene Junette of Fresno, CA.

The program that Mr. Junette has spearheaded since 1976 is Play It Safe, a crime prevention program launched by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration [LEAA] Office of Public Affairs in 1974 by its director, Malcolm Barr. Mr. Junette has asked that Mr. Barr, who retired Feb. 3, 1996, as an Associate Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, following an illustrious 26-year government career, and other Federal Government officials who helped him—Wilbur Brantley, the late Cornelius Cooper, and Joseph Mulvey—share credit for this highly acclaimed program.

Play It Safe is, in fact, a simple coloring book, originally approved by the U.S. Justice

Department and various sheriffs, police, and juvenile justice organizations.

It began in Mr. Barr's office on a shoestring budget and was visualized and developed by Mr. Barr and his small staff. When funds ran out, Mr. Barr approached Kiwanis International which agreed to promote, print, and distribute the booklet among preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school children in the United States, at no cost to the Government. Eugene Junette was appointed chairman.

Under Mr. Junette's enthusiastic guidance, the Play It Safe program multiplied to all 50 States and into 61 foreign countries. The coloring book is translated into 31 languages. Thousands of volunteers now work with what has become Play It Safe International, Inc., whose address is 1289 N. Temperance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727.

Numerous service clubs and other nonprofit organizations are responsible for the distribution of some 26 million copies of the coloring book. Play It Safe, through Mr. Barr, used the nationally syndicated children's television program "Romper Room" in Baltimore, MD, to jump-start the project that I am told cost the American taxpayer no more than \$20,000. As a result, millions of young children have been effectively educated about how to minimize criminal opportunities against themselves and their friends.

Play It Safe volunteers have also helped develop a parent/teacher guide and home safety check list. Mr. Junette has dedicated the last 20 years of his life, often working 16 to 18 hour days, to help protect children from criminal activity. I join him in drawing attention to Mr. Barr, of Alexandria, VA, who he credits as the man with the vision to see the future possibilities of Play It Safe, not as a Government-sponsored project, but as a private sector program dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of children in this and many nations around the world. Mr. Barr described Play It Safe as a major accomplishment of his long Government career. I join his colleagues and friends wishing him well in his retirement.

As the Play It Safe program completes its 20th year of private sector sponsorship, I wish to particularly salute my constituent Mr. Junette, and all the thousands of volunteers who have helped in furthering the Play It Safe project, and to point to this amazing display of volunteerism that I am proud to say has emanated from my congressional district for two decades.

ACADEMY REVIEW BOARD

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy peacoats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than any other district in the country. But this is nothing new: our area has repeatedly sent an above average proportion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise

their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve?

In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of the Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was and is one further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerrit Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of nine local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse background and professions, they all share a common dedication to seeing that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on this board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In mid-December, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

Last year, the board interviewed 41 applicants. Nominations included 20 to the Naval Academy, 10 to the Military Academy, 6 to the

Air Force Academy, and 1 to the Merchant Marine Academy (the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional Nomination process). The Board then forwards their recommendations to the academies by January 31, where recruiters review files and notify applicants and my office of their final decisions on admission.

It is both reassuring and rewarding to know that many of our military officers hail from our hometowns or close by. When we consider the role of these officers in peace or war, we can rest easier knowing that the best and brightest are in command. Wherever they are sent, be that Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, or Vietnam, many of these officers have academy training.

And while a few people may question the motivations and ambitions of some young people, the academy review process shows that the large majority of our graduates are just as highly motivated as the generation before them. They still seek guidance from loving parents, dedicated teachers, and schools, and from trusted clergy and rabbis. Indeed, every time I visit a school, speak at a college, or meet a young academy nominee, I am constantly reminded that we as a Nation are blessed with fine young men and women.

Their willingness and desire to serve their country is perhaps the most persuasive evidence of all.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 1995, 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

NAME, HOMETOWN, HIGH SCHOOL, AND ACADEMY
Justin White, Basking Ridge, Ridge, Naval.
Robert Vuolo, Morris Plains, Delbarton, Naval.

Renuka Vijayanathan, N. Caldwell, West Essex, Naval.

Kevin Orisini, Sparta, Sparta, Naval.
Meghan Neumann, Succasunna, Roxbury, Military.

John Eure, Rockaway, Morris Catholic, Naval.

Michael Kester, Bridgewater, Bridgewater/Raritan, Naval.

Patrick Nelson, Hackettstown, Bridgeton Academy, Naval.

Brian Fitzgerald, Mendham, West Morris Mendham, Naval.

Daniel Figenshu, Madison, Delbarton, Naval.

Richard Evans, Flanders, Mt. Olive, Naval.
Robert Poggio, Long Valley, West Morris Central, Naval.

Cory Winer, Wharton, Choate Rosemary Hall, Military.

Anthony Bruno, East Hanover, Hanover Park, Naval.

Louis Amorosa, Somerville, Immaculata, Naval.

Jason Corbisiero, Rockaway, Morris Catholic, Naval.

Andrew Gassman, Chatham, Oratory Prep, Naval.

Damon Finaldi, Florham Park, Hanover Park Regional, Naval.

Frederic Haeussler, Florham Park, Choate Rosemary Hall, Naval.

John Neuhart, Chatham, Ohio State ROTC, Naval.

Mary Faulkner, Long Valley, West Morris Central, Air Force.

Brent Krueel, Dover, Randolph, Air Force.
Jeffrey Melitski, Bernardsville, Bernardsville, Air Force.

Hunter Lonsberry, Morristown, Morristown Beard, Air Force.

Timothy Larkin, Long Valley, West Morris Central, Merchant Marine.

James Wong, Randolph, Randolph, Military.

Scott Magaziner, Randolph, Randolph, Air Force.

Mark Chiarvallotti, Rockaway, Penn State USMA Prep., Military.

Victor Camaya, Pompton Plains, Pequannock, Military.

Andrew Moan, Far Hills, Pingry, Naval.

Louis Kuo, Parsippany, Parsippany, Military.

Michael DeCicco, Raritan, Bridgewater/Raritan, Military.

David Esposito, Caldwell, James Caldwell, Military.

Joel Tompkins, Chatham, Chatham, Military.

Tatiana Kazdoba, Denville, Villa Walsh Academy, Naval.

Shane Rowe, Dover, New Mexico Military Institute, Military.

Thomas Rogers, Rockaway, Morris Knolls, Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Siddhartha Shankar Ray for serving with distinction as India's Ambassador to the United States for the past 3½ years. During his tenure, relations between the United States and India have reached a new plateau of strength, friendship, and understanding. The United States has become India's largest investor, and India has been named by the Department of Commerce as one of the key emerging markets for United States business for this decade and the next century.

There are many reasons for this dramatic improvement in relations between our two countries. However, I believe it is clear that no one has made a greater contribution or played a more central role in this transformation than Siddhartha Shankar Ray. He has worked tirelessly with the Congress and the executive branch as well as State and local officials around the country to help ensure that our Government fully understands India's needs and concerns. He has been a bridge builder between the United States business and investment community and the Indian private and public sector. He has been a sought after speaker and commentator in the academic community here, along with numerous important think tanks and private foundations. Finally, Ambassador Ray has been an ambassador "par excellence" in the Indian-American community. He has travelled to almost every State and city with an Indian-American population reminding Americans of Indian descent and of the important economic reforms unfolding on the subcontinent, while urging Indian-Americans to be active participants in the transformation of the Indian economy.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Ray has greatly impressed many of us in the Congress with his artful diplomacy, his keen logic and his persuasive skills. He has taken the thorniest issues in the Indo-United States relationship and presented them to decision makers in the United States in a manner which has been both convincing and reassuring. It is obvious to anyone who has worked with him during the past several years that Ambassador Ray's skills as an imminent India barrister have