

TRIBUTE TO V.F.W. STATE  
COMMANDER CRAIG SWARTZ

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Craig Swartz, an outstanding individual and a fine soldier, who was recently installed as State commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Ohio.

A resident of Fremont for 45 years, Craig is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who was wounded three times in Vietnam. He has been active with the V.F.W. since 1983. Over the course of his service, he was elected commander of the Fremont Post 2947 in 1986 and served three terms in that capacity. In 1989, he was elected commander of Firelands County Council and was named all-State and all-American county council commander. He has now been honored six times as an all-American, an accomplishment that had never been achieved by an Ohio member.

I firmly believe that we can never thank our veterans enough for putting their lives on the line in defense of our Nation. As a veteran myself, I am aware of the tremendous service veterans organizations give to their communities and the country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Craig Swartz's distinguished military service is a model of patriotism and citizenship. His commitment to the V.F.W. continues this exemplary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Craig, his wife Cindy, and their children well as the Swartz family begins this new chapter in their lives.

May they fully enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom that Craig Swartz has so ably defended as a U.S. Marine.

NATO ENLARGEMENT  
FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit for the RECORD a statement by Peter Lucaci and Dr. Nicholas Dima of the Union and League of Romanian Societies of America concerning NATO enlargement and the position of American-Romanians. The Union and League of Romanian Societies of America is the largest Romanian-American organization in our country, and strongly supports expanding ties between the United States and Romania.

However, although I often agree with Mr. Lucaci and Dr. Dima's views about Romania, I do not fully share their certainty about Romania's eligibility to join NATO in the near term.

NATO, for the past 45 years, has been a cornerstone of our Nation's defense, and the bulwark of Western democracy and free-market economics. The success of the alliance is without question.

A major reason for that success has been the alliance's intolerance of authoritarian or undemocratic regimes within its ranks. Although democratic governments were overthrown by military juntas in Greece and Turkey, both countries joined NATO as democ-

racies and both countries have reverted to democratic governments. Spain was not permitted to join NATO until it demonstrated its commitment to parliamentary democracy.

It must also be recognized that NATO is not anti-Russian, nor is it even anti-Communist; rather, it is pro-democracy. NATO is, and always has been, a defensive alliance behind which democracy and free-market economies could flourish.

It is my unshakable conviction that NATO membership must only be granted to nations that make a fundamental commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free-market economies.

NATO membership must not be granted willy-nilly to nations that fail to make these commitments. Membership cannot be granted simply because certain nations fear their neighbors or believe that membership will enhance their prospects for democratic or economic progress or reform.

Some formerly Communist nations of Central and Eastern Europe—such as the Baltic States, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic—have clearly made the transition to free-market democracy and should soon easily qualify to join NATO.

Being half Romanian by descent, I am particularly committed to seeing Romania take its place among the other Central and Western European States with which they share so many political, economic, and cultural traditions. The stability and fate of Romania is vitally important to the peace and security of Europe.

However, I am concerned that many elements of Romania's democratic institutions are fragile and weak. Many veterans of the former Communist regime remain in positions of power. In addition, the government party's financial assets and dominance of the radio and television media give it an unfair advantage over opposition parties.

Thus, I am unconvinced that Romania's progress toward becoming a full fledged democracy with a free-market economy is guaranteed, or that Romania's government is genuinely committed to joining the Western community. For that reason, at this time I have deep reservations concerning Romania's efforts to become a full member of NATO. I now submit for the RECORD the views of Mr. Lucaci and Dr. Dima.

NATO ENLARGEMENT, AND THE AMERICAN-ROMANIAN  
POSITION

(By Peter Lucaci)

INTRODUCTION

NATO was created as a means of common defense against the Soviet threat and as a safe mechanism to prevent further wars among its own members. In time, the organization fostered political democracy, prompted economic prosperity, and led to the European Union. Almost five decades later, NATO is seeking enlargement for more or less similar reasons. Our premise is that although no longer openly admitted, Russia continues to represent a potential danger for the stability of Europe. Therefore, the enlargement of NATO should aim at containing Russia while cultivating better relations with it. But, more importantly, NATO should aim at expanding itself to strengthen Europe and the Atlantic Alliance.

Currently, Eastern Europe is undergoing a radical transformation. If coopted by NATO and the European Union, it could become democratic, prosperous, and stable. In our opinion, this is chiefly what makes so many

countries of the region eager to join the two institutions. Another reason is the continuous fear of its powerful neighbors. Eastern Europe was dominated throughout most of this century by Germany and Russia. While Germany was crushed in 1945 and completely changed its attitude afterwards, Russia did not. Even after the recent dismemberment of the Soviet Union, Moscow is still harboring resentments toward the West and designs over the East. This is another reason that makes Russia's neighbors look for security in an alliance with the West.

In the nutshell, the Romanian-American position is identical to the interests of the Romanian nation. It coincides with the American interests in the area. And to a certain degree, it overlaps with the position of the current government of Romania. We simply believe that (a) it is in the interest of Romania to join NATO; (b) it is in the interest of the United States; and (3) it is in the interest of Europe.

If Russia does not share this sentiment, it is because Moscow did not make a political commitment to become a normal member of the international community. In addition, from an economic point of view, Russia is far from offering any model of development capable of attracting other countries. Thus, one can bring stability to Eastern Europe either by changing Russia, or by linking Eastern Europe with the West.

APPROACH TO NATO ENLARGEMENT

Ideally, Russia itself should be coopted into the North Atlantic Organization, but as a culture and mentality, the Russians are not ready to join it. The Russians love their status as great power and the present generation does not appear willing to change this mentality. As a second best, NATO should bring Ukraine into its ranks. However, for the same reasons Moscow would not accept it, and Kiev does not want to challenge Russia. Consequently, if the West wishes to foster more security in this region, the best bet is to coopt as many countries as possible, and make Romania an advanced outpost of NATO.

In this light, from an American-Romanian point of view the best Western approach to any enlargement of NATO would be to bring some countries in on an individual basis if necessary, and to bring others together. If coopted together, Romania and Hungary for example, will be compelled to a more rapid mutual reconciliation, will greatly enhance the stability of the area, and will strengthen NATO position.

ROMANIA'S POSITION

According to several polls, almost the entire population of Romania, and most of its political parties and leaders, agree that Romania should strive to become a full member of both the European Union and the North Atlantic Organization. This will guarantee Romania's security and will consolidate its new democracy, market reforms, and economic development. And Romania is willing to join NATO as soon as possible.

Romania in turn will bring into NATO one of the largest medium-size European countries, an unshakable willingness to be part of Europe and to serve the organization, new resources and markets, and a very useful geo-strategic position at the eastern end of the continent. Romania is at the center of Eastern Europe and it borders the Black Sea, where it has one of the best port facilities of southern Europe. Romania also controls a long stretch of the Danube River, its main navigable channel, and a man-made canal linking the great river with the Black Sea. With this location, Romania makes one of the best links between Europe, southern Russia, and Asia Minor.

From an ethno-cultural point of view, the Romanians are a homogeneous nation of

about 23 million people. Except for politics, there are no internal divisions. In addition, there are over three million Romanians living in the present Republic of Moldova. When this former Romanian province will decide to reunite with the country of origin, Romania will become even a stronger NATO member.

In Romania, the only sizeable minority that occasionally expresses dissatisfaction, is the Hungarian minority of Transylvania. It is sad that historically the two nations have had a bitter relationship because visitors perceive both Hungarians and Romanians as very hospitable and very friendly, and because individually, they get along rather well with each other.

From another point of view, the Romanians have their linguistic roots in Rome, have deep cultural affinities with Western Europe, and have developed almost exclusively under the influence of the West. The Romanians also have great admiration for America and in recent decades have had high expectations from it as well.

#### A NEW RUSSIAN GEO-POLITICAL THEORY

Historically, Romania suffered tremendously at the hands of the Russians. The Romanian lands have been invaded twelve times by the Russians, and the last occupation of 1944 brought along the darkest era in modern Romanian history. This era ended in December 1989, but in spite of the significant changes that followed, the economic, moral, and spiritual ruin caused by the Soviet Union, by the Russians, and by communism, is still having devastating consequences.

It is this disaster and the collective memory of the nation that make even the former communists look toward the West for help and inspiration. And what continues to worry Romanians is the new Russian geopolitical attitude and Moscow's stubbornness with regard to the old question of Bessarabia.

The Russian heavy-handed involvement in the non-Russian republics started immediately after the break-up of the Soviet Union. This made some researchers conclude that everything was orchestrated by Moscow, which later announced a new geopolitical and military doctrine, known as "The Far Abroad" and "The Near Abroad." Once in place, even those leaders who were considered liberals and democrats subscribed to it. For example, referring to the Near Abroad, the former Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, spoke of the danger of "losing geopolitical positions that took centuries to conquer." And during the armed conflict in Yugoslavia, another leading Russian official made it clear that any action in the Black Sea or Danube basin required prior agreement from Moscow because these are areas of "traditional Russian interests." Such aggressive statements and threats abound these days.

In spite of its new policy, for its neighbors Russia has remained the same threatening power as before. The Republic of Moldova, for example, was the victim of an internal war in 1992 and Moscow was fully behind the Russian rebels in the Trans-Dniestr area. It was a reminder that a possible reunion of former Bessarabia with Romania would come at a very expensive price. Romania could not do much, and the war was not at all reassuring.

To conclude, there is a new beginning in Romania and there is a new beginning in Eastern Europe. This is the time when the United States and Western Europe can make a significant difference.

Romania and the other Eastern European countries should be integrated into the North Atlantic Organization. They should be brought back to Europe where they belong

for the benefit of peace and security of the continent, and for the best interests of the United States in this part of the world.

ALEXANNA PADILLA HEINEMANN

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I honor today a fellow New Mexican, good friend and great American, Alexanna Padilla Heinemann.

Alexanna Padilla Heinemann is a fifth-generation New Mexican. Her father, Alex Padilla, now deceased, was a respected and committed Santa Fe City councilman, who was a courageous advocate for the common citizen. Alexanna is continuing in the family tradition of responding to the needs of those whose circumstances have placed their lives in harm's way. She has been especially attentive to the troubled conditions of young children by serving as a founding member, committee chairman and board member of the acclaimed Buckaroo Ball, an annual event held in Santa Fe, NM, that aids children at risk.

In its 3-year existence, the Buckaroo Ball has donated a total of \$1.3 million to charitable entities. Only the 11-year-old Santa Fe Opera annual fund-raiser in Santa Fe rivals the financial success of the Buckaroo Ball. Alexanna Padilla Heinemann recently served as cochairman of this June 22 event, and a lion's share of the credit can be given to her for its success. Her leadership, combined with tireless, dedicated and skillful efforts, resulted in a \$500,000 net profit. The funds will be donated to painstakingly chosen programs and agencies that provide food, clothing, shelter, protection and love to children in jeopardy.

I am including an article which was published in the Santa Fe New Mexican on June 27, 1996, in order to provide my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives additional information about the Buckaroo Ball.

In addition, I am sharing a July 1, 1996 commentary by Alexanna Padilla Heinemann, which was also published in the Santa Fe New Mexican. I provide it to my colleagues because it demonstrates Alexanna's unselfish spirit and altruistic philosophy toward all those who are fortunate enough to be associated with her.

I am extremely proud and grateful to know Alexanna Padilla Heinemann. I respectfully invite all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in giving tribute to this esteemed New Mexican.

NEWCOMERS, NATIVES BOTH HAVE THE SOLUTIONS

(By Alexanna Padilla Heinemann)

Santa Fe. A place of astonishing beauty and startling anger, with plenty of printed space locally and nationally, devoted to both. Stories abound about the divisions between races and classes, between native and newcomer, with almost celebratory coverage given to this purported fissure. But there is a seed of change being planted in Santa Fe and I have seen it up close and personal.

On a clear, starry night, June 22, the citizens of Santa Fe had reason to cheer. The plight of children at risk mobilized this community and a committee of 80 women volunteers to produce the third annual Buckaroo Ball. The count came in a couple of days

later: the Buckaroo Ball had netted \$500,000, which it would hand over to meticulously researched children's programs and agencies.

As Buckaroo Ball co-chair this year along with Elizabeth Smith, I can be proud of a committee and grateful for a community that could make it possible to pour this unprecedented amount into a cause that desperately needs it. But there is a subtle dynamic at play here, no less profound than the splashy party or abundant funding the Buckaroo Ball affords.

As a fifth-generation New Mexican with a father who was a city councilman and an uncle who designed the state license plate, my regional roots are firm. I have had my turn at a lamenting, divisive frame of mind. But those years of criticizing and complaining were fed by an erroneous notion: that newcomers are coming here to leave their cash and build their flash without giving one crumb beyond self-serving consumption. The error and harm that lie in this notion hold the potential to undo this community.

What I have seen as a founding member, committee head, board member and, finally, co-chair of the Buckaroo Ball is a vision that totally disputes that erroneous notion; one that should command the attention and inspire the reflection of the community: there are newcomers with the means and energy who, not content with simply writing a check, want to use their resources to better the community. They are searching for ways to help.

In a perfect position to guide them are the native and longtime local Santa Feans who, keyed-in to their community, can shape the incoming resources in an informed and professional manner. One may have a bed the size of a ship; the other, a desk the size of a file folder, but each have talents essential to the process. It is a waste of time for the native or newcomer to show anything but appreciation for the other's assets.

Short-term, righteous anger may satisfy. But how far can that take us in getting the job done? The surge of adrenaline may serve as a motivating force but being either the victim or the blamed leaves neither in the position to help the community.

Conversely, an idea driven by a clear understanding, appreciation, and implementation of all the resources in the community has a life of its own.

The questions then become, "Who has a good idea?" and "Who has the ability to get it done?"

In one arena at least, the walls have come down and, three years later, the children of Santa Fe are over a million dollars richer for it. You don't have to have an agenda, you simply have to love children and feel that gnawing sickness in your gut when you encounter a little one who doesn't have enough: enough food, or safety or love.

You don't have to be either rich or have roots embedded in this dusty soil, to make a big difference in this town. You simply have to be a clever funnel of talent, energy, and resources. The more ideas brought to the pot, the better.

Think of the children who might have lost these benefits had we not chosen to keep our eyes open to possibilities.

BUCKAROO BALL NETS \$500,000 FOR CHARITY

(By Hollis Walker)

For the third year in a row, the 80 women who put on the Buckaroo Ball proved they could do a better job than they predicted.

Preliminary accounting shows last Saturday's ball, a three-year old charity benefiting Santa Fe County children, netted about \$500,000 — \$200,000 more than the Buckaroo Ball Committee pledged to raise.

After this year's contributions are made, the ball will have donated nearly \$1.3 million to charities.