

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY LASORDA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Tommy Lasorda. In an emotional address for fans and players alike, Lasorda announced last Monday that he will step down as manager of the beloved Dodgers.

Born in 1927 to Italian immigrants in Norristown, PA, Lasorda's ethnicity is something he has celebrated and cherished. He is an individual who has brought an unmatched level of enthusiasm to the great game of baseball. A man of 1,613 wins, he became the most active manager in baseball—and 12th all-time. In 20 seasons, he led the Dodgers to two World Series championships, four National League pennants and seven division titles. He is one of only four major league managers ever to spend more than 20 years or more with one team. Mr. Speaker, there is so much more at which we could marvel.

Lasorda is the heart and soul of not only the Dodgers, but for all of baseball. He is a man of more funny lines than anyone associated with the game. His personality will be missed. His energy level during a game was unequaled. His enthusiasm and love for the game of baseball is contagious.

His strength to overcome criticism made him one of baseball's greatest engineers. He brought the biggest post-season upsets. Just like many of us here in Congress, he had a love-hate relationship with the media; like most of us, he loved all people.

Lasorda has met the expectations of the people of Los Angeles in an unfailing manner. Off the field, Lasorda gives hundreds of speeches a year to charities, including his annual visit to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's children's organization called 65 Roses.

A man of integrity who brought happiness to millions. A man who brought the game of baseball in a colorful way to the city of Los Angeles. It was the spirit of Tommy Lasorda that drew more than 3 million fans a year to the Dodgers, a record set 10 times.

Today, you cannot mention the Dodgers, without thinking about Tommy Lasorda. As a long time Dodgers fan, I feel honored today to recognize Tommy Lasorda's great contribution not only to the Dodger organization and the city of Los Angeles but to the game of baseball, the Nation, and the world. From the Dodger fans on Guam, we revere and honor Tommy.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Tommy Lasorda's efforts and well-deserved achievements. Mr. Speaker, today there is no doubt that his great feat will be long remembered and that future players and fans will be inspired by him.

TEENS WHO CARE SALUTED

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the participants and

supporters of Teens Who Care, a wonderful program which brings together high school students from throughout Contra Costa County, CA, who volunteer their time and energy to refurbish the homes of seniors and the disabled. While providing a tremendous community service to people whose homes would otherwise fall into disrepair, Teens Who Care also goes a long way toward debunking the myths about today's youth. The students are giving free to those in their community less fortunate than themselves, and they are exhibiting the characteristics of citizenship and compassion which I would hope we all want to see as our generation gives way to the next. I want to pay special tribute to Mary Perez who is the founder and inspiration behind Teens Who Care. Teens Who Care is a very special project, and I know my colleagues join me in saluting the following student participants and supporters who make it possible.

STUDENTS OF "TEENS WHO CARE" 1996

Erin Abney, Leonor Aguilar, Lindsay Carlson, Serena Chew, Ames Cruz, Mike Dias, Andy Dussel, Monica Garrotto, Sonya Harrison, Jason Heltsley, Melisa Henderson, Lacey Hyat, Samantha Kim, Kathy Kreuger, Steve Lamb, Dennis Lenart, and Michael Light.

Also, Bill Lindenmuth, Kathy Malloy, Jamal Marr, Andrea Martini, Olivia Martini, Lee Menken, Melanie Michaud, Sarah Mowdy, Alis Perez, Poncho Perez, Mathew Perona, Marcia Raines, Jocasta Ruano, Ken Stoll, Bill Walsh, Phil Woods, and Micah Zuorski.

VOLUNTEERS OF "TEENS WHO CARE"

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Arena, Barbara Bacon, Doug Boyd, Ruth Derose, Jeff Haydon, Pete Jurichko, Margaret Leshner, Bonnie MacBride, Mike Menesini, Stella Moore, Tom Norton, Vivian Norton, Marcia Raines, Tom Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Stockdale, Brian Weiman, and Joann Zehrung.

CONTRIBUTORS OF "TEENS WHO CARE"

Alwaste of No. California, Ameron Protective Coating System, Bechtel, B.F.I., Business Promotion Center, Citibank, City of Martinez, Clementina Refinery Svc., Creative Croissant, Eagle Awards, Far West Sanitation, Raymond Forrest Tree & Landscaping, Industrial Lumber, Kiwanis Club of Martinez, Longs Drugs, Martinez Community Foundation, Martinez Deli, Martin Painting, Pacific Pizza, P.D.Q. Printing, G.L. Rangel Construction, Redwood Painting Co., Inc., Rhone-Poulenc, Robinson-Prezisso, Inc., S&S Tool & Supply, Inc., Shell Oil Refinery Co., Sheraton Concord Hotel, U.S. Postal Service Letter Carriers, Paddock Bowl, and Martinez News Gazette.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "SKEET" RICHARDSON

HON. PETE GEREN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of George "Skeet" Richardson, a great American who was a champion of the common man.

Skeet left high school before graduating to serve with the Army Air Corps during World War II, but returned to obtain his diploma and then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Skeet Richardson served in the State legislature for 8 years, as a Tarrant County commissioner for 6 years, and as mayor of the city of Keller for 2 years. He advanced legislation for workers, civil servants, and the elderly. Skeet also helped make the University of Texas at Arlington a 4-year institution. However, the accomplishment that Skeet was most proud of was Bear Creek Park in Keller. He saw it as his lasting legacy, something that all people could enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, join me in celebrating the life of an American and a Texan who worked for the people and was known for his independent thinking rather than advancing special interests. We all have something to learn from this great man.

THE 50/50 WELLNESS PLAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the 50/50 enrollment composition rule waiver for the Wellness Plan. I am well aware that the Health Care Financing Administration strongly supports congressional approval of this waiver at this time, given the now certainty that comprehensive legislation to address the 50/50 rule will not materialize in this Congress. The Wellness Plan is firmly positioned to become a full Medicare risk contractor in the Detroit area and beyond once this waiver is achieved. It is the prototype for the type of HMO into which HCFA hopes Medicare beneficiaries will enroll. I urge the leadership to work in a bipartisan fashion to ensure its enactment in this Congress.

UNITED STATES-NORTHERN IRELAND FREE TRADE ZONE

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that will begin the process of establishing a free trade zone relationship between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic.

Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 1996, representatives from the political parties in Northern Ireland came together to attempt to change the political landscape of Northern Ireland forever. Past acrimony, grievances, and strife are the subject of the all-party talks. Those participating in the talks have received a clear and powerful charge from the voters of Northern Ireland. That charge is nothing less than to fashion a new, progressive, peaceful, and equitable society for all the citizens of Northern Ireland regardless of their political or religious persuasion. The mandate they have and the responsibility they bear is to secure the peace and common good.

While the representatives to the talks labor to overcome their own burdens of history and to reach into the future, the legislation I am introducing will operate to guarantee the economic future and prosperity for all the citizens of Northern Ireland and the border counties.

Peace in Northern Ireland without hope for a real economic future is a cold peace. Only a society that is capable of competing and thriving in an intensely competitive economic environment can have any real expectation of social and political cohesion. The trade relationship this legislation will engender affords this most troubled region the economic tool to close the economic gap with other more prosperous regions of the United Kingdom and the European Union.

This legislation represents the marker of Congress. It says, very clearly, to all the parties who will be fashioning the political future of Northern Ireland that Congress will walk this arduous path with them. When their road becomes steep and obstacles abound, which will happen in the upcoming talks, this legislation makes it clear that Congress stands by them. This legislation says that there is good reason for them to hope and to strive for a better future.

To our friends in the European Union, I say, join with us in this worthy endeavor. The seminal importance of Union participation and approval is clearly noted. As you review this initiative through the lens of your own policies and regulations, I ask you to consider this legislation in a spirit of liberality, generosity, and creativity. As Jacques Santer so correctly noted in his recent speech to the Irish Institute For European Affairs in Dublin, as he reviewed the prospect of all party talks, "the problems of the future and their solutions are sufficiently to those of the past to require new thinking and new attitudes." Further, I submit that a free trade relationship between the United States and Northern Ireland and the border counties will operate as a new and predictive paradigm for future trade relations between the worlds two most powerful economies.

To our friends in the United Kingdom, I ask you to view this endeavor in the spirit that it is offered. Work with us in a committed and cooperative manner. The special and historical nature of the relationship between our counties should bind us together and make us of one mind as we pursue all possible paths toward a new day for Northern Ireland. Together with the Republic of Ireland and the European Union, you have been carrying the burden of the peace maker. Let your friends lift up some of that burden. While this initiative has some unique attributes, your continued good will and efforts will guarantee that this proposal establishes a new high water mark in all our joint labors to bring peace and prosperity to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation that I am introducing, puts at the disposal of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the European Union, the one tool that only Congress can provide. A favorable trade relationship with the United States—albeit one that conforms to the needs of both the EU and GATT—can and will operate as an engine for economic progress. Further, it can do so without noticeable or negative impact on this country's own trade relationships.

Upon effectuation of this trade relationship, much depends upon what the contracting parties to this agreement make out of it. I have every confidence that—with the able assistance of both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland—the people of Northern Ireland and the border will firmly grasp this unique opportunity. In sum, this legislation will

give them the ability to revitalize their economy through trade, not aid.

Mr. Speaker, for all the people of good will in Northern Ireland, their future is before them. Their time is now. Let us join with them on their voyage to a brighter tomorrow. Let us not fail them.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following letters of support for this important legislation.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
JUNE 6, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, there is currently pending for your considerations, draft legislation that would begin the legislative process of establishing a free trade area between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. Because of your unstinting efforts to find imaginative ways for your country to assist in securing the peace and prosperity of Northern Ireland and the border counties, I can think of no one better situated to initiate and shepherd this important legislative effort.

The current legislative initiative that you are considering could, in my opinion, represent the key ingredient in bringing a severely disadvantaged area of this island into economic parity with other areas of the European Union. As you know, Northern Ireland and the border counties' area will lose their EU Objective 1 status in 1999, when they reach 75% economic parity with the rest of the union. Attendant funding with that status will be reduced or eliminated. My fear is that there will always be that remaining 25% deficit that cannot be bridged without our acquisition of an economic development tool to close and secure that gap. The proposed legislation before you will achieve that goal and interestingly, assist in achieving the EU's own internal policy of economic and social cohesion and parity.

Mr. Chairman, no area of the European Union has suffered the kinds of assaults on its people or the pressures on its economy as has Northern Ireland and the border counties. There is simply no parallel with any other area in the EU. Standard, unimaginative responses to our current economic reality are likely to fall short. The legislation you are currently contemplating will give us a unique and powerful tool to regenerate and revitalize those areas of Northern Ireland and the border areas of the Republic that have been flattened by civil discord and neglected and forgotten because of geographic isolation and peripherality.

As I look at this initiative, I can state that I am aware of and conversant with the hurdles that will need to be cleared for this legislation to succeed in London, Dublin and Brussels. Innovative solutions will always be met with initial scepticism and doubt. However, my view is that there are no impediments this proposal presents that cannot be managed. As for myself, I can give you every assurance that I will do all in my power as a member of the European Parliament to speed this initiative on its way in Strasbourg and Brussels. I am confident that I will be joined, shoulder to shoulder by my fellow MEPs from Ireland, north and south.

Mr. Chairman, on 10 June 1996, representatives of all or nearly all political parties in Northern Ireland will begin talks to secure the future peace for Northern Ireland. The legislation you are considering could help guarantee the future prosperity of the region. My request of you would be that you introduce the legislation prior to commencement of all party talks to demonstrate that a successful conclusion to those talks can

and will yield a brighter tomorrow. As you move this legislation forward, know that I and my colleagues will stand with you.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HUME.

IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS, INC.
June 4, 1996.

Hon. BEN GILMAN,
Chairman, House International Relations Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR BEN: I want you to know that the Irish National Caucus supports the proposed Bill creating a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.

Such an Agreement would be a powerful "boost" to those troubled and depressed areas. And since the MacBride Principles would be attached, the "boost" would be done in a way consistent with fair employment and nondiscrimination.

This combined approach—U.S. aid to the most disadvantaged parts of Ireland, with fairness and equality for all—is an approach that accurately reflects your own long record of concern for Ireland.

You can count on our support for this imaginative and practical way of promoting economic stability, justice and peace in Ireland.

Sincerely,

FR. SEAN MCMANUS,
President.

IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE,
June 4, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Currently pending for your consideration is draft legislation that would, if enacted and approved by all parties, establish a free trade area relationship between the United States, Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic. As we understand it, the draft legislation encourages and expects the participation and eventual approval of the European Union, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The Irish American Unity Conference is one of the preeminent organizations that have worked to secure peace with justice in Ireland. To ensure a lasting peace it is imperative that economic disparity, a cause of conflict in itself, is addressed. Of particular concern to us are the most economically deprived areas of Northern Ireland, such as West Belfast and the border counties. We have found that this legislation adequately addresses these areas by specifically naming such areas and by the inclusion of the MacBride Principles for fair employment.

Mr. Chairman, we have reviewed this free trade zone proposal and found it to be advantageous to business in both the US and Ireland and we are pleased to support the initiative. We are ever grateful of your own commitment to peace through justice in Ireland, consistently proven through the years you have been in Congress.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

IAUC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE.
JAMES A. DELANEY.
DANIEL P. O'KENNEDY.
NOREEN A. WALSH.
BERNADETTE C. PEHRSON.
MARIE T. SMITH.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
London, England.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: You are shortly scheduled to meet with a delegation from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The delegation will be seeking your support for a legislative initiative that I regard as one of the most promising economic development proposals on the horizon for my beleaguered party of Northern Ireland. The initiative would have a profoundly positive impact on other deprived areas of Northern Ireland and the border region of the Republic as well. I am speaking of the proposed legislation that would begin the process of creating a free trade relationship between your country, Northern Ireland, and the border counties of the Republic.

Mr. Chairman, it was my intention to be with and lead the Irish delegation you are about to meet with to communicate personally just how important this initiative is for the economic future of Northern Ireland and the border counties. Following the recent Northern Ireland election however, the preparations within my political party for the forthcoming all party talks have foreclosed the possibility of my absence from Northern Ireland, even for one day. However, I look towards the very near future when we can meet and personally discuss this legislation as it begins its legislative journey through Congress.

I believe it is very important to communicate to you my personal commitment to do all in my power, both within the SDLP and inside the House of Commons, to support this endeavour. I am conversant with current UK reservations. Together with my parliamentary colleagues I shall endeavour to bring about a sea change in opinion within the current UK government. While the proposed legislation requires the efforts and goodwill from both London and Brussels, I see no barrier that cannot be overcome. This opportunity is simply too important to be allowed to flounder.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation you will meet with speak for me. They will ask you to assist in introducing this legislation immediately. That is my request. What you are being asked to consider will help to bring a new day to Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Move forward and we will be with you.

Kind regards,

JOE HENDRON, M.P.,
West Belfast.

NEWTOWNGORE, CO. LEITRIM.
May 28, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, there is currently pending for your consideration, draft legislation that would begin the legislative process of establishing a free trade area between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. Because of your unstinting efforts to find imaginative ways for your country to assist in securing the peace and prosperity of Northern Ireland and the border counties, I can think of no one better situated to initiate and shepherd this important legislative effort.

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their EU Objective 1 status in 1999, when they reach 75 percent economic parity with the rest of the union. Attendant funding with that status will be reduced or eliminated. My fear is that there will always be that remaining 25 percent deficit that cannot be bridged absent our acquisition of an economic development tool to close and secure that gap. The proposed legislation before you will achieve that goal and interestingly, assist in achieving the EU's own internal policy of economic and social cohesion and parity.

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Mr. Chairman, on June 10th, 1996, representatives of all or nearly all political parties in Northern Ireland will begin talks to secure the future peace for Northern Ireland. The legislation you are considering could help guarantee the future prosperity of the region. My request to you would be that you introduce the legislation prior to commencement of all party talks to demonstrate that a successful conclusion to those talks can and will yield a brighter tomorrow. As you move this legislation forward, know that I and my colleagues will stand with you.

Best Regards.

JOHN JOSEPH MCCARTIN,
Member, European Parliament.

TOWER ONE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Tower One/Tower East on the 25th anniversary of this outstanding multicultural senior housing facility. For a quarter of a century, the New Haven Jewish Federation Housing Corp. has given New Haven area seniors a place to call home in Tower One.

Tower One was a special concept 25 years ago, and is a model to this day. The many distinguished leaders and business people who have taken up the mantle of leadership have helped assure the building's continued renewal. Most important, Tower One is a measure of this community's sense of obligation to its retirees, our parents and grandparents.

Tower One's history illustrates its commitment to people. Through the years, the organization has been creative and innovative in its response to the needs of residents. In the late 1970's, Tower One focused mainly on providing necessities, such as serving meals, filling apartment vacancies, and making building repairs. However, the nature of public housing and the needs of the residents began to change and in response, the board implemented extraordinary reforms. A new management structure for the staff was created, additional committees were formed to help the board deliver social services and plan for the long term. Finally, a new executive director, Dorothy Giannini-Meyers, was named to inaugurate imaginative new programs that would allow residents to keep living independently. The result was the broad array of services now available to residents and the transformation of Tower One from an elderly apartment complex to a caring, close-knit, and involved community.

When we celebrate Tower One's 25th anniversary, we celebrate the values that make families and communities strong—the values that enable Tower One to create a true home for Connecticut's seniors. Tower One is a community where people have fun, where the help and support they need is available. Their religious faith is affirmed, even as they age beyond the rituals of family. We all understand that this is a community that affirms our unity and humanity.

I treasure the yearly opportunity I have to host a holiday party at Tower One because it gives me the chance to share in the holiday celebrations so dear to Tower One's residents. Most important, the seniors at Tower One are able to honor the religious and cultural traditions that keep them close to family and friends. It is truly a place where residents feel at home.

I sincerely congratulate all those at Tower One on this proud occasion. I know that Bob Bachman's leadership will enable Tower One to continue its development and growth. I congratulate Tower One on 25 great years and with it the same success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEFFREY
GARDERE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Gardere was born in Manhattan on May 3, 1956. Although his parents were from the island of Haiti, he was raised in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn Tech High School. While working full-time, he managed to obtain his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Rochester and, at age 27, received his doctorate in philosophy and psychology from George Washington University.

As a licensed clinician, Dr. Gardere rose from a staff psychologist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons to one of only two African-American chief psychologists. During his tenure, he was instrumental in designing the policy on psychological treatment for HIV-infected prisoners, participated in hostage negotiations at the Atlantic prison siege, and conducted witness protection relocation evaluations