

Vinnie was first elected to the general assembly in 1980 to represent the 120th District in Stratford. In the following years, he went on to become one of the highest ranking leaders of the House of Representatives. After the 1990 election he was appointed as an assistant house minority leader and for the 1995 and 1996 sessions, he served as deputy house minority leader. During his tenure in the legislature, Vinnie developed a reputation for consistency and thoroughness. His ability to master details led to his appointment to serve as cochair of the regulation review committee. In addition, he served as dean of the insurance and real estate committee and also served on the executive and legislative nominations committee and the joint committee on legislative management.

Vinnie's experience and skill as a legislator led to several initiatives of which he is particularly proud. He has worked on legislation dealing with health and auto insurance reform, welfare reform, and the protection of Long Island Sound. In 1996 he cosponsored legislation which resulted in the removal of tolls from Interstate 95 and the Marritt and Wilbur Cross parkways and the largest tax cut in Connecticut history. These successes underscore the need for legislators that bring a sense of personal and moral responsibility to politics. For 16 years, Vinnie never forgot the reason he went to Hartford: to serve. He has remained a consistent champion for his constituents and a true public servant. He has said,

The greatest honor of my years of service has not been the awards or plaques that I have received from various groups, but the simple "thank you" from a constituent I was able to assist. For that is what public service is all about, helping people.

Throughout his legislative career, Vincent has brought common sense and concern for people to the general assembly. His contributions and efforts will be greatly missed. I have long relied on Vinnie's hard-won wisdom and insightful advice. We have worked together to protect Stratford's environment and to fight for jobs for Stratford's citizens. I will continue to seek his counsel as long as I am in Congress. It is my pleasure to join Vincent's family friends, and citizens of the town of Stratford in wishing him well as he leaves the State house of representatives and begins a new chapter in his life.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE SHELTER ISLAND POST OFFICE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Shelter Island Post Office, located on Shelter Island, Long Island, NY, that this year is celebrating its 150th anniversary of dedicated service to the residents of this island.

Many communities pay little attention to their local post office, beyond receiving and sending mail, but that is not the case with Shelter Island. Since its creation in 1846, the Shelter Island Post Office has been the focal point of the island community, between the North and South Forks of eastern Long Island.

Separated by water from family, friends, and business partners, for 150 years the local post office was Shelter Island's link with the outside world. Every day, except Sundays, for the past 150 years island residents gather at their post office to pick up their mail, visit with friends and neighbors, and discuss the latest local news.

The Shelter Island Post Office quickly became the town's central meeting place, like the town square of a New England Village. It was the post office where most islanders learned of new births and recent deaths, graduations, new businesses, and new neighbors. If the local baymen who plied the surrounding Peconic Bay for fish, lobsters, scallops, and clams were having a successful season, they would hear of it at the post office.

During its 150 years, the Shelter Island Post Office has moved around the downtown area several times. It was chased from its original site that it shared with a blacksmith, cobbler, butcher, and country store. After a fire destroyed the building in 1891, the post office moved across the street to Duvall's Corner. The old mail drop slot is still at the old Gibbs Home. After another move, the post office settled in its present location in 1960.

During its 150 years, the Shelter Island Post Office has been led by several dedicated postmasters. Perhaps most impressive among them was Archibald Havens, who took over for the original postmaster in 1848 and remained through 1893. Civil War veteran Elias Havens Payne took over next and stayed through 1915; Alice Sherman ran the office for 22 years and Melva Sherman, mother of current Shelter Island Town Supervisor Huson Sherman, was postmaster from 1967-74.

At a special anniversary celebration on August 24, Postmaster Estelle Simes postmarked each letter with a special, significant design of a Long Island Osprey, a majestic seahawk that is indigenous to Shelter Island. The anniversary postmark is a pen and ink drawing done by Island artist Carol Wilson. Current Postmaster Estelle Simes even has available an anniversary cachet depicting the original post office building. A great deal of time has passed since it first opened in 1846, but the important role that the Shelter Island Post Office serves in its community has not changed. I join all Shelter Island residents in saluting its post office as it heads into its next 150 years of outstanding service to local residents.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO RHODE ISLAND'S WESTERN CRANSTON LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rhode Island's Western Cranston Little League team, winners of the Little League National Championship.

Western Cranston was comprised of 14 players: Lucas Ashton, Jacob Bazirgan, Brett Bell, Lewis Colby, Evan DiZoglio, Christopher Gallo, Matt Lovejoy, Michael Luke, Tom Michael, Jonathan Sparling, Peter Spinelli, Craig Stinson, Ricky Stoddard, and Paul Tavarozzi. Under the guidance of coaches Mike Varrato, Nick DiNezza, Larry Lapore, and Benny

Marandola, these 14 young men quickly transformed into a championship team.

On July 24, the Western Cranston Little Leaguers were among 7,000 teams playing in 83 countries on 6 continents, beginning a quest for the Little League World Series. On August 25, 3 cities, 16 games, and 1 Little League National Championship later, Western Cranston returned home to a hero's welcome, when over 7,000 Rhode Islanders packed Cranston Stadium to congratulate them.

That this Nation's smallest State could produce its best Little League team is a tribute to the spirit of Rhode Islanders, as well as the teamwork and never-say-die attitude of these 14 young men. With the help of their families and coaches and the support of Rhode Island, Western Cranston traveled to Williamsport, PA and achieved what was unthinkable just a month before. They inspired a nation and brought immeasurable pride and joy to their State.

Today, I am indeed proud to say that my home town of Cranston is the home of the Little League National Champions. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Western Cranston Little League team.

#### IN HONOR OF FRED CASTRO AND HIS 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exceptional dedication of Mr. Fred Castro, a dedicated member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Fred has given over 32 years of outstanding service to the residents of California's 13th Congressional District.

Fred Castro was born in Modesto and grew up in Oakland. As a young man, he joined the Navy and was stationed at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed. He served his country in the Pacific for the remainder of World War II. When he returned, he married his wife Lorraine on March 3, 1946. Fred also served during the Korean conflict, returning to the Bay Area to work in the shipyards at Mare Island, Hunters Point, and the Naval Supply Center in Oakland.

Fred and Lorraine have lived in Union City since the early 1960's. In 1964, Fred was appointed to the first Parks and Recreation Commission in Union City by Mayor Will Davis. Since then, Fred Castro has tirelessly served our community for the past 32 years. The 17 parks and 2 community centers in Union City were all developed during Fred Castro's years of service to the 13th district. Fred worked to put together the bond measure in 1968 to build the Kennedy Center, and he was the chair of the dedication ceremony for the Holly Center.

Throughout his career, Fred continued to promote parks and recreation through his involvement with the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members. Not only was he on the board for many years, but he was president in 1990. In addition to his continued support to our community, Fred also found time to represent commissioners and board members on

the California Parks and Recreation Society, District III board.

Fred Castro has been a mentor to many professionals within the parks and recreation community. The 13th district has been greatly enriched by Fred Castro's enthusiasm and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Fred Castro for 32 years of exceptional public service.

#### TESTIMONY OF DR. KENNETH LUTGEN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that Dr. Kenneth Lutgen, deputy general secretary for the United Methodist Committee on Relief will be testifying this fall before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on European Affairs. Dr. Lutgen is an insightful individual who possesses an excellent command of the projects necessary to bring economic stability and political calm back to the war-torn areas of Bosnia. I would like to include for the RECORD a useful summary that Dr. Lutgen has provided me in advance of his subcommittee remarks.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED TESTIMONY ON THE BOSNIAN PEACE PROCESS BY THE UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF [UMCOR] TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

The testimony will be presented by Dr. Kenneth Lutgen, the Deputy General Secretary for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Dr. Lutgen will present a summary of UMCOR's programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UMCOR Former Yugoslavia Program began in 1993 and has since expanded to over 15 projects, with a current total value of over \$42,000,000. UMCOR is operating out of eight program offices throughout Bosnia and has a staff of over 220.

UMCOR, as well as other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Bosnia, is deeply concerned about the current U.S. Government policy toward assistance to the Bosnian reconstruction. As we understand it, the current policy of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is to channel all funds for Bosnia through two projects, (1) the Municipal Infrastructure project, and (2) the Bosnia Reconstruction Finance Facility. These projects are designed to work primarily through U.S. contractors and banks, large Bosnian firms, and the Bosnian Government. There will be no funds available directly to assist vulnerable groups, repatriating refugees, or microenterprises, groups traditionally reached by NGO activities.

We feel that these projects overlook the benefits NGOs can provide to reaching other groups, as well as a longer-term effect on the Peace Process and the strengthening of democracy in Bosnia.

The unique benefits of NGOs include:

Constituency: Many NGOs have large constituencies who support their overseas programs. UMCOR represents 10 million United Methodists worldwide who support projects with cash, relief supplies, and their own time. UMCOR has sent over 250 United Methodist volunteers into Bosnia, providing assistance in everything from building con-

struction to skilled psychological support for traumatized youth. UMCOR has contributed about \$4.7 million in private resources to Bosnia since 1993.

Rapid Response: NGOs are on the ground, have the experience, connections, and demonstrated capacity to move quickly when the U.S. Government wants something done. When the U.S. Government wanted to implement \$25 million worth of housing reconstruction immediately this year, they turned to the NGOs.

Competitive Pricing: NGOs were not allowed to compete for MIS and BRFF. We feel that NGOs can do provide the same level of work as a for-profit contractor at a lower price and, in addition, bring substantial in-kind contribution to the projects. NGOs have the capacity to implement large programs: UMCOR is currently implementing a \$30 million Shelter Materials project funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and a \$6.3 million Emergency Shelter program funded by USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Sustainability: While a contractor will do the job and leave, NGOs are committed towards sustainable development and consider the development of capable local organizations an important goal of their activities. UMCOR's USAID-funded Municipal Rehabilitation Project has rebuilt houses and community facilities, while promoting inter-ethnic cooperation which will last long after UMCOR leaves Bosnia.

Strengthening of Democracy: Many of the activities of NGOs directly implement the goals of the Dayton accord, such as conflict resolution, electoral mobilization, and inter-ethnic cooperation.

Civilian Security: NGOs, by working closely with beneficiaries, provide a sense of security. Throughout the war, NGOs were there for the most vulnerable groups and have built up credibility with Bosnians. Working with for-profit groups brings in new players with no credibility at the grass roots level.

Positive Popular Impact: NGOs are popular with Bosnians and present a positive image for the U.S. Groups whose principal goal is to help the Bosnian people increase good will towards the U.S.

We agree with the need for large infrastructure and enterprise promotion programs, but we feel that this is not a complete response to the needs of the Bosnian people and the Bosnian Peace Process.

We feel that the USAID projects are overly top-down and do not address the needs of vulnerable groups.

There will be no funds specifically for income-generation, which would reach those in need. Instead funds are channeled only through large-scale enterprise promotion vehicles.

Sectors where NGOs typically work, including education, social programs, promotion of civil society, and conflict resolution, are being neglected by current U.S. Government assistance.

The MIS and BRFF projects work with new players who will need to build up relations and experience of working in Bosnia's unique environment. This represents time lost in Bosnia's reconstruction.

Therefore, UMCOR recommends the following changes to the U.S. Government civilian policy in Bosnia:

1. That the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) make future funding for the Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIS) available through open bidding, allowing NGOs to compete.

2. That \$30 million be set aside for NGOs from the Bosnian Reconstruction Finance Facility (BRFF) to implement microenterprise activities.

3. That the \$10 million in agricultural resources currently set aside for the USDA

Food for Progress program for Bosnia be made available to NGOs to implement food or monetization programs.

4. That the USAID Partnership with NGOs be re-established in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### CONCLUSION

We have heard the U.S. Government speak of the need for a relief-to-development "continuum," in which an emphasis is made to ensure a smooth transition from relief activities to more sustainable development activities. We do not believe the current policy is following a continuum. Rather than including all levels of Bosnian society, the U.S. Government is making a rapid shift toward working only with the Bosnian Government and larger businesses. This limits assistance which is direct to vulnerable groups and microenterprises which potentially could employ significant numbers of people. This policy is not a continuum, it is a step backwards, away from all the accomplishments made by U.S. Government assistance in Bosnia over the last few years.

#### RECOGNIZING CHINESE NATIONAL DAY

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, several thousand men and women will gather in San Francisco to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of China. This event recognizes the beginning of China's move toward democracy, and deserves the recognition of this House.

This past spring, the Republic of China held the first-ever democratic election of its President. Prior to the election, I had the privilege of meeting with Mr. Chen Rong-jye, the second-ranking official of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office here in Washington. He showed me a map on which was indicated the locations of mainland China's missile launchings in the area around Taiwan, launchings intended to intimidate the Republic of China and discourage its democratic elections.

This bullying tactic failed. The courage of the Republic of China and its people deserves high praise wherever liberty is of value, most especially in our own country.

National Day is a time when the Chinese people can reflect on a proud heritage and contemplate a future of hope and promise. I am pleased to extend my best wishes to all in San Francisco who will gather to rejoice in the blessings and benefits of their history, and commend them for upholding the values of family, work, responsibility, and love of freedom so faithfully.

#### DELAURO HONORS HOMETOWN OLYMPIAN

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 1996*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise today to honor Steven Segaloff as he returns from the 1996 Summer Olympic games in Atlanta, GA. On Wednesday, August