

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE HIS ALL HOLINESS PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement in support of House Concurrent Resolution 134 authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople and new Rome on October 21, 1997, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Ecumenical Patriarch occupies the foremost position among the National Autocephalous Orthodox Churches worldwide and has the responsibility to coordinate the affairs of the Russian, Eastern Europe, Middle, and Far Eastern churches. Worldwide, the Patriarch is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians of which 5 million reside in the United States.

Therefore, it is important that Members of Congress, as leaders of a nation that was built on religious freedom and tolerance, have an opportunity to receive and honor one of the world's preeminent religious leaders. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew not only promotes peace and religious understanding throughout the world, but he is also profoundly committed to preserving and protecting the environment. Today, as the 270th successor to Apostle Andrew, His All Holiness continues efforts on behalf of religious freedom and human rights.

In closing support, is an expression of appreciation to the members of the Hellenic Caucus for their advocacy of this resolution as well as H.R. 2248, the recommendation to award the Patriarch with a Congressional Gold Medal, of which I am a proud cosponsor. H.R. 134 as introduced by BILIRAKIS from Florida, is a measure which provide the occasion to receive such an individual of high character and moral standing as His All Holiness in a manner befitting their rank and title.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JERRY L. PETTIS MEMORIAL VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA. As the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that provides funding for veterans programs, including veterans medical care, I am especially proud of this facility at this historic moment. On Thursday, September 25, this fine facility will celebrate 20 years of service to veterans who live and work in southern California. My dear friend and predecessor in Congress, Shirley Pettis Roberson, will address those attending this very special ceremony at the medical center.

In June 1974, a large crowd gathered for the ground breaking to begin construction of this facility. The first patient was admitted in December 1977, realizing a dream and long-term goal of former Congressman Jerry Pettis. Jerry Pettis was a good man and a close personal friend. Today, his legacy lives on through the commitment and fine work of the men and women who strive to serve our veterans with great care and respect. Jerry Pettis would certainly be proud of this fine institution and the many worthy people it serves.

The Pettis VA Medical Center has 125 acute care beds and 106 nursing home beds. With a budget of approximately \$109 million, over 600 volunteers, and over 1,200 employees, the facility last year alone, had over 6,500 admissions and over 230,000 outpatient visits. Working closely with Loma Linda University in many areas of clinical research and study, the medical center continues to conduct critical work in a variety of scientific disciplines.

In addition, the Pettis VA Medical Center has vigorously explored ways of providing the best possible service to the more than 290,000 veterans in Riverside County and San Bernardino County. The recently opened Victorville outpatient clinic, for example, has greatly improved access to primary care for thousands of veterans in California's high desert region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in paying special tribute to the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center on its 20th anniversary. All of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our veterans, and we also owe a special thanks to the memory of our good friend and former colleague, for whom this facility is named. To both Jerry Pettis, and our veterans, Congress thanks you—and salutes you—on this historic day.

IN HONOR OF KEITH AND ANNE MEDEIROS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Keith and Anne Medeiros for their distinguished careers of service to the community of Fremont, California. For 42 years, Keith and Anne lived in the Fremont area. In that time, they consistently worked to make our community a better place. Both have been dedicated to the field of education as elementary school teachers. Keith Medeiros also served as school principal, and as a member of the Alameda County Board of Education. Anne Medeiros taught English as a second language.

Their service to the community has been diverse. Keith Medeiros worked as an Indian Guide Dad, a Pathfinder Toastmaster, a Chamber of Commerce activist, a Fremont Rotarian, an on and off stage actor and toastmaster, and a Washington Township Men's Club member. Anne Medeiros served the community as a representative for Congressman Don Edwards, and as a board member for the Serra Center and the Committee to Restore the Mission. They shared their talents as members of the Fremont Gourmet Club, the Fremont Dance Club, and the Fremont Kite

Flyers. They have been world-wide travelers, goodwill ambassadors, and advocates for historic Mission San José.

Keith and Anne Medeiros set a new standard as innkeepers for those whose travels took them to the Bay Area. Their hospitality was a welcome respite for travelers.

On September 22, 1997 the friends and colleagues of Keith and Anne Medeiros will honor their many years of community service. I join my neighbors as they extend a thank you to Keith and Anne for all they have done for Fremont.

TRIBUTE TO ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS PARISH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to the Parish of St. Raymond Nonnatus, which yesterday celebrated 100 years of serving the community in my South Bronx congressional district.

The parish was named after a 13th century Spanish mercedarian and cardinal. It is located at 1759 Castle Hill Avenue, in the Bronx.

A mass of Thanksgiving offered by Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor opened the ceremonies of the parish's 100th anniversary. The church belongs to the family of parishes that were established in the late 1890's in New York City; among them is Holy Family Parish, which this year also celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The origins of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish date back to 1843. A small church was erected under the leadership of Bishop John Hughes. In the 1890's Father Edward McKenna saw the church in poor condition and decided to erect a new building. The church was built in 1897 in a beautiful Byzantine style, with wonderful stained-glass windows.

Since its beginnings, the church has served a multiethnic community. In the early 1900's Catholics from all over Europe were members of the congregation. More recently, African-Americans and members of the Hispanic and Asian communities have joined the parish.

In 1908, under the pastorate of Father McKenna, a school was established to educate the children of the community. In the 1950's, Father Thaddeus Tierney oversaw the construction of a new school of accommodate the growing number of students. Even today, it remains one of the best equipped elementary schools in the Nation.

In addition, two other schools were established, the Boy's High School in 1958, and St. Raymond's Academy for Girls in 1960. A convent, a rectory and a cemetery are also integral parts of the parish.

Since the 1970's a social ministry was expanded to better serve the needs of the community. Monsignor Henry J. Vier added a Spanish mass to the Sunday schedule. He also established the Bronx Association for Special Education, the Archdiocesan Drug Addiction Program and the East Bronx Hunger Program.

Through the years, the church has been renovated several times. It now houses a magnificent marble altar, a great canopy, and an organ.

Today Father Charles Kavanagh leads the church. He is the 16th pastor of St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish. The parish now provides the community with various social services, including the Family Outreach and Youth Program, St. Raymond's Head Start, an expanded East Bronx Hunger Program, the After School Program, and the senior center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Parish of St. Raymond Nonnatus for its glorious history and service to our South Bronx community.

WHAT IS JUST ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD and encourage Members to read the following editorial by Henry Payne which appeared in the Wall Street Journal on Tuesday, September 16, 1997.

'ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE' KILLS JOBS FOR THE POOR

(By Henry Payne)

Last Wednesday the Environmental Protection Agency delayed its approval of a proposed plastics plant in the predominantly black southern Louisiana town of Convent. It was the EPA's first ruling based on the idea of "environmental injustice" or "environmental racism"—the claim that polluting industries locate in minority areas because their residents are politically powerless to stop them. "It is essential that minority and low-income communities not be disproportionately subjected to environmental hazards," EPA Administrator Carol Browner wrote in her decision obstructing Shintech Inc.'s plans for a \$700 million manufacturing facility.

But if Ms. Browner had bothered asking the residents of Convent what they think, it would have been clear that the injustice is being perpetrated not by industry but by environmental elitists and their political allies, who falsely claim to represent local citizens while promoting their own ideological agenda. "None of these people are speaking for our community," says Carol Gaudin, a black resident of Convent and the organizer of a local pro-Shintech group, the St. James Citizen Coalition. "These environmental groups never came here and asked me if I wanted the plant. They can't just come in here and take it from us."

Gladys Maddie, a black mother who lives within a mile of the plant's proposed location, agrees. "We have witnessed groups such as Greenpeace descend on [Convent] like a plague of locusts," she wrote to the local newspaper. "We find the exploitative use of the color of our skin and our socio-economic condition sickening and insulting."

A recent poll by the local NAACP chapter found that 73% of the people in the black communities near the proposed plant favor it. But the Clinton administration is listening instead to the radical environmental group Greenpeace, which has waged a long war against the plastics industry. Greenpeace has offered its political and organizational muscle to the small group of mostly middle-class Convent residents who oppose the plant.

Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality—charged by the EPA to regulate state industry—found in May that Shintech's plans satisfied the state's demanding emissions standards. But Greenpeace and its allies, determined to stop the plant, invoked President Clinton's 1994 executive order on environmental injustice, which compels federal agencies to consider whether minorities bear an unfair burden in the location of industrial facilities.

In Convent, the charge of environmental racism is laughable. Louisiana has actually practiced economic affirmative action by declaring the area a state enterprise zone. The state encouraged Shintech to locate in Convent, offering it tax breaks in return for hiring 35% of its work force from the surrounding population. Shintech operates a similar plant in Freeport, Texas, a prosperous, mostly white Gulf Coast city south of Houston. When Convent residents, including Ms. Maddie and Ms. Gaudin, visited Freeport earlier this year, they saw a standard of living they'd like to bring home.

Ms. Maddie's brother Roosevelt Teroud does backbreaking seasonal labor in Convent's sugarcane fields for \$6 an hour. To him, Shintech's more stable \$12- to \$15-an-hour jobs look like an opportunity, not an injustice. And the cultivation of sugarcane entails environmental hazards of its own: fields sprayed with insecticides and the resulting runoff that pollutes local water. Convent residents understand that industrial development entails environmental trade-offs, but they also think industry is their key to a better future. "The big plants up the river came in and gave those communities opportunities," says Nanette Jolivet, a lawyer representing Convent resident, "My clients want the same opportunity."

Forty-five miles away, the taxpayer-subsidized Tulane University Environmental Law Clinic represents plant opponents before the EPA. I asked Tulane lawyer Lisa Lavie what the citizens of Convent can do about economic development if her side wins. Her reply: "That area has some beautiful old plantations. They could build a cultural tourism industry."

"That's horrible!" Carol Gaudin gasps. "My ancestors were slaves on those plantations. These white opponents don't understand—we don't want to remember our past. We want a future."

Aligned against media-savvy, full-time environmentalists and their Washington allies, Convent residents know they have an uphill battle. They're not getting much help from the national black leadership. Lobbied by Greenpeace, both the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Joseph Lowry of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference spoke out against the plant this summer.

"They blatantly ignored the opinions of all the local elected African-American officials," says an outraged Ms. Jolivet, noting that neither Mr. Jackson nor Mr. Lowry contacted Convent's local councilmen, all of whom voted in favor of the plant.

The EPA didn't give environmentalists everything they wanted. They had hoped for a firm definition of environmental racism that would set a plant-killing precedent for other such cases. The EPA only called for more study; it did not kill the Shintech plant outright. But the opponents' strategy seems to follow a common pattern: Throw up enough bureaucratic roadblocks and Shintech will eventually give up.

Sadly, this strategy works. In Claiborne Parish, La., where the federal Atomic Energy Board held up construction of a \$850 million nuclear fuel enrichment facility this

May on grounds of environmental injustice, one investor—Northern States Power—has announced that it will pull out after a seven-year (and counting) regulatory process. "At some point these companies just throw up their hands in frustration," sighs Mary Boyd, a spokeswoman for the Claiborne facility.

For the residents of Convent, eager for the 165 jobs and \$5.6 million in school revenue that the Shintech plant will bring, the EPA's obstruction is unconscionable. "Why do these people want to take away our jobs?" asks Gladys Maddie. "If we run Shintech away, we're finished."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 415, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH JERSEY HERALD AND NEWS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the momentous occasion of the 125th anniversary of New Jersey's North Jersey Herald and News.

The Herald and News had its beginning in 1872. Debuting as a weekly newspaper, the Herald and News has a storied and remarkable history which has impacted the people of northern New Jersey. For more than 125 years, the Herald and News has stood as a symbol of the character of its loyal readers. The commitment and dedication shown by its founders and its ability to adapt to a changing world have made the newspaper an important part of Passaic County's history.

The Herald and News has always maintained a respected, balanced, and detailed coverage of the people and events which have been brought to life on the pages each day. The Herald and News is more than just a newspaper—it is an institution in the everyday life of northern New Jersey. It has a heritage unique in the annals of American journalism and American history. The men and women who make the newspaper today are proud of its glorious traditions and continue to build on this impressive legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to join me, our colleagues, the men and women of the Herald and News, and the people of northern New Jersey in recognizing the North Jersey Herald and News' 125th anniversary. As we celebrate the 125 years of its service to the community, it is only proper that we extend our heartfelt congratulations on a remarkable tradition and best wishes for continued success and prosperity well into the new century.