

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS GILMARTIN

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Thomas Gilmartin, on the occasion of his retirement.

Tom Gilmartin served the town of Hamburg as superintendent for buildings and grounds from July 1974 until December 1996. As a former Supervisor of the town of Hamburg, I witnessed first-hand Tom's intense work ethic, professionalism, and integrity.

Tom currently also serves as an usher at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Hamburg. A prominent Irish-American in western New York, Tom's community service includes work with the Knights of Columbus, the Irish-American Cultural Association, the Gaelic-American Athletic Association, and the Irish Parade Committee. In recognition of that dedicated service, volunteerism, and hard work, Tom will serve as the grand marshal of the 1998 St. Patrick's Day Parade in the city of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with Tom's wife, Mary; his children, Katie, Tom, Tim, and Mary Alice; the town of Hamburg; and indeed, our entire western New York community to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas Gilmartin. With retirement comes many new opportunities. May he meet every opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career; and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you Tom, for your tireless effort and personal commitment to our Western New York community. As you enter retirement, I wish you nothing but the best.

AMBASSADOR SAMUEL G. WISE, JR.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague BEN CARDIN, and I mourn the loss of a gentleman known to many of you in this House and in the international community. For almost 20 years, Sam Wise guided the work of the Helsinki Commission and advanced the cause of human rights around the world.

Ambassador Wise joined the Commission in 1977, the year following its creation, and served with distinction until his untimely death last month. We had the privilege of working with him for more than a decade, and can state without qualification that Sam Wise was the preeminent expert on the Helsinki process and an adept facilitator of its guiding principles. Ambassador Wise participated in every meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its successor, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. His keen negotiating skills and calm demeanor earned him the respect and trust of the entire OSCE community and substantially enhanced the effectiveness of the Commission in the international arena. He was well known and liked in virtually every European capital.

Ambassador Wise brought to the Commission a wealth of experience from a distin-

guished career as a Foreign Service officer. During his years with the Commission, that experience and in-depth knowledge of the Helsinki process guided our work and advanced U.S. interests. His efforts helped to shape the policy and institutions which moved the process forward and demanded the world's attention to the plight of those struggling against tyranny and oppression. We believe the Helsinki process was a driving force in bringing an end to the cold war. Ambassador Wise's contribution to that effort is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, the death of Ambassador Sam Wise saddens us all and leaves a void in the OSCE and the international human rights community that cannot be filled. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Wise and the family. Know that you are in our thoughts and our prayers, and know that Sam's life of superb accomplishment and dedication to liberty and human dignity is a legacy that will inspire and guide generations to come.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO FRANK A. ORECHIO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to join me in honoring Frank A. Orechio, of Nutley, NJ, who is retiring from his position as director of Facilities Planning and Water Resources Development for the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission.

As a lifelong resident of Nutley, Frank has always been an active member of the community. As a teenager, Frank was involved in helping his neighbors become naturalized citizens and then registering them to vote. As a young activist, Frank rose rapidly through the ranks of the Essex County Republican Party, becoming chairman of the Essex County Young Republican Party and then eventually being elected chairman of the New Jersey's State Young Republicans in 1948.

In the late 1950's, Frank turned to newspaper publishing as a career, and purchased his hometown newspaper, the Nutley Sun. Eventually he acquired several other newspapers and these served as the nucleus for what has since become known as Orechio Communications Co. Although now a newspaper publisher, Frank never abandoned the political field, serving in the capacity as either campaign director or confidential aide to such prominent national figures as Nelson Rockefeller and Richard Nixon.

Eventually Frank's dual commitment to politics and community led him to be appointed as a commissioner to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission in 1966. In his capacity as commissioner, in which he served 16 years, Frank was able to depoliticize the commission and provide leadership for the commission's operations at Wanaque.

After serving 11 years as project coordinator for Wanaque South, Frank was appointed director of facilities planning and water resources development in 1993, and served in this position until his retirement in January 1997. Upon his retirement, Frank can proudly claim accomplishment for the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission being recognized not only as the motivating force for

water resource development in New Jersey, but also as an innovator when it comes to overcoming obstacles associated with similar large-scale public works projects throughout the Nation. Also, Frank deserves praise for the computerization of filtration plants, which although were built in the 1970's, are still hailed as the most modern and effective in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Frank's wife, Edith and the citizens of Nutley in recognizing the accomplishments of Frank A. Orechio and his dedication to the public.

DR. DORIS ALVAREZ: NATIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Doris Alvarez, a distinguished leader from my home town of San Diego who has made a positive impact on thousands of young lives in our community. I am proud to congratulate Doris Alvarez, the principal of Hoover High School in San Diego, who today was named the National Principal of the Year by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the largest school leadership organization in the Nation.

Like those before her who have received this high honor as the Nation's best principal, Doris Alvarez has worked tirelessly for the benefit of every student enrolled at her school. Ten years ago, Hoover High was best known for the crime-ridden neighborhood in which it was located and its excessive dropout rate of 13 percent.

Then Doris Alvarez took the helm. Today, Hoover graduates 98 percent of its students. Hoover's dropout rate of 2.3 percent is less than half of the average national dropout rate. Hoover has been transformed from a school where dropping out was the norm to a flourishing environment where half of its students go to college.

Doris Alvarez has produced these results in an environment where students are faced with a host of challenges. Most students at Hoover live in neighborhoods with high crime rates. Eighty-two percent of Hoover students are poor. Ninety-three percent are immigrants or minorities, who speak a total of 30 languages.

Doris Alvarez has been so successful with these students because of her own challenging background. She grew up poor in Albuquerque, NM and San Diego as the child of Spanish-speaking parents who taught themselves English and left school after the 8th grade. She and her family were discriminated against at every turn—a fact that motivated Doris to succeed.

She has put her credo—"all kids need equal opportunity"—to practice at Hoover High School. With innovative alumni mentoring, student-teacher "academic families," and an on-site school clinic, Doris Alvarez has brought the community together in the interest of educating its young people.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton this week called upon the American people to work together, to realize that every student deserves

the opportunity to succeed, and to improve America's educational system for the benefit of all students. Doris Alvarez accomplishes this goal every day at Hoover High School. I am pleased to see both her goals realized and her efforts recognized with the National Principal of the Year award.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO END THE ABUSE OF THE FRANK- ING PRIVILEGE

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced H.R. 1137, a bill that ends the most pervasive abuse of the frank—sending out unsolicited, self-promotional mass mailings. My bill specifically targets this abuse. It would crack down on mass mailings harder than any other legislation currently under consideration. The current, increased interest in reforming the way campaigns are conducted only increases the relevance and importance of this bill.

Title 39 of the U.S. Code defines the types of mailings that are frankable. Included in this definition are the "usual and customary" congressional newsletter, press release, or questionnaire. The legislation I am reintroducing would simply strike mailings of this type from the code, thereby disallowing future use of the frank for these purposes.

Other franking reform proposals have centered around dangerous numbers games that leave open the possibility of abuse. Rather than try to settle on some arbitrary formula, my legislation will get to the heart of the problem. Reducing the definition of mass from 500 to 100, or debating whether the franking allowance should be reduced by 50 percent or 33 percent misses the mark. The problem that needs to be addressed is use of the frank as a campaign tool whose real information purpose is to make constituents aware of how deserv- ing we are of reelection.

I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsor- ing this important piece of legislation.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE ACT OF 1997

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that is of great concern to many Americans, abortion. Mr. Speaker, approximately 1.5 million innocent babies are intentionally killed every year because of abortion. This represents 4,000 times a day that an unborn child is taken from its mother's womb prematurely and denied the opportunity to live. Section 1 of the fourteenth amendment to our Constitution clearly states that no State shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." I wholeheartedly believe that these constitutional rights should include our country's unborn children.

Mr. Speaker, in the landmark case of Roe versus Wade, the Supreme Court refused to

determine when human life begins and there- fore found nothing to indicate that the unborn are persons protected by the fourteenth amendment. In the decision, however, the Court did concede that, "If the suggestion of personhood is established, the appellants' case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment." Considering Congress has the constitutional authority to uphold the fourteenth amendment, coupled with the fact that the Court admitted that if personhood were to be established, the unborn would be protected, it can be determined that we have the authority to determine when life begins.

It is for this reason that today I am introduc- ing the Right to Life Act of 1997. This legisla- tion does what the Supreme Court refused to do and recognizes the personhood of the un- born for the purpose of enforcing four impor- tant provisions in the Constitution: First, the due process clause, section 1 of the four- teenth amendment, which prohibits States from depriving any person of life; second, sec- tion 5 of the fourteenth amendment, which gives Congress the power to enforce, by ap- propriate legislation, the provisions of this amendment; third, the due process clause of the fifth amendment, which concurrently pro- hibits the Federal Government from depriving any person of life; and fourth, article 1, section 8, which gives Congress the power to make laws necessary and proper to enforce all pow- ers in the Constitution.

The Right to Life Act of 1997 will protect millions of future unborn children by prohibiting any State or Federal law that denies the personhood of the unborn, thereby effectively overturning Roe versus Wade. I urge my col- leagues to join me in this very important en- deavor.

H.R. 624, THE ARMORED CAR RECI- PROCITY AMENDMENTS OF 1997

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 1997

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce the armored car reciprocity amendments, legislation that I sponsored in the 104th Congress amending the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act of 1993 to better reflect Congress' original intent when it en- acted that law.

Armored cars and their crews annually transport billions of dollars in currency, bonds, food stamps, and other negotiable documents. Even though most armored car shipments are local, many of the larger and more valuable shipments can include stops in anywhere from 5 to 10 States. Since the value of a typical ar- mored car shipment in interstate commerce can range from \$100,000 to \$40 million, these vehicles are ripe targets for thieves and the lives of armored car crews are often placed in grave danger.

Recent crime statistics bear out this reality. According to the FBI's violent crime section, during fiscal year 1995 there were 68 robbery attempts against armored vehicles. This statis- tic, combined with the fact that several crew members have lost their lives in recent years defending their cargo and themselves, dem- onstrates the continuing need for these crew members to be armed.

Despite the fact that there is a dem- onstrated need for armored car crew members to be armed, in the past there was no uniform method of ensuring that armored car crews were licensed to carry their weapons in each State in which they operated. Often crew members would have to go through different li- censing procedures for each State in which they operated, or worse, travel through the States without the proper licenses in the hopes that they wouldn't get caught.

In order to address this burden on interstate commerce, in 1993 the Congress enacted the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act. The purpose of the bill was simple: It permitted ar- mored car crew members, when licensed to carry a weapon by a State that required crimi- nal background checks and regular weapons training, to operate as an armored car crew member in any State, much like a driver's li- cense works today. It did not allow anyone to carry a gun who was otherwise prohibited from doing so under existing Federal statutes. It was a narrowly drafted statute with a narrow purpose: to allow armored car crews to oper- ate easily in interstate commerce.

In the time since the act was implemented, a number of parties, primarily the States charged with enforcing the statute, have come forward and identified technical concerns with how the statute operates. Last year, the Com- merce Committee, on which I sit, heard testi- mony from representatives of the armored car industry and the States about the necessity of these changes. As a result, the House passed my bill, H.R. 3431, with overwhelming biparti- san support. Unfortunately, due to the crush of last minute business, the Senate was unable to act on my legislation in the 104th Congress.

The armored car reciprocity amendments of 1997 make some simple and straightforward changes to the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act:

First, it grants reciprocity for both weapons licenses and any other permits or licenses re- quired in a particular State so long as the crew member has met all of the requirements in the State in which he or she is primarily em- ployed.

Second, it makes clear that it is the State which should conduct criminal background checks and permits the States to do so in whatever manner they deem appropriate; and,

Third, it eliminates the requirement in the original act that renewed permits be reissued annually, and instead conforms the statute to the vast majority of States which have 2-year renewal periods. The bill also provides a grandfather clause for the two States which have longer renewal periods, Alaska and Pennsylvania.

These changes represent a major step for- ward in achieving the objectives of the original act and differ only in technical respects from the bill that the House passed last session. Under the act as originally signed into law, only Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, North Caro- lina, and Virginia met the requirements for reciprocity. With the changes under this bill, 28 other States will qualify, truly easing the flow of these valuable goods in interstate com- merce.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.