

JOHN LIVINGSTONE AMERICAN LEGION POST 1466 HONORED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on November 15, 1997, the John Livingstone American Legion Post 1466 in Poughkeepsie, NY, celebrates 50 years of tireless service to the veterans, their families, and the communities of my congressional district. As a lifetime American Legion member, it gives me tremendous pride to recognize the valuable work done by this post to further the American Legion's efforts toward adequate programs and benefits for America's veterans and the vitality and well-being of its community.

Of all of my experiences as a Member of Congress, I would have to say that I cherish the work which I have done with the American Legion above nearly all else. The members of the Legion are true American heroes, serving their country first in uniform, then later by ensuring the respect and proper treatment of their fellow veterans. Legion posts also further the welfare and spirit of their communities, by sponsoring and supporting scholarships and sports teams for youths, as well as other communitywide events.

Post 1466 exemplifies the Legion's tradition, with its Legionnaires presenting on a daily basis examples of patriotism and pride in flag and country which we can all follow. Good citizens like Leonard W. Peluso, Joseph Carao, Arthur Marx, and Robert Sheedy, the four surviving charter members of American Legion Post 1466, helped make this country the great Nation that it is. They will continue, through their selfless service to America's veterans and national defense, to ensure that the United States will remain a secure global powerhouse into the next millennium.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all members join me in paying tribute to all the members of the John Livingstone American Legion Post 1466 for their 50 years of unwavering and invaluable devotion to their community and our Nation as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO JUANITA GITTINGS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a woman who I have had the pleasure to work with and know. A woman who has dedicated 13 years of service to the people of St. Clair County. On September 30, 1997, Juanita Gittings retired from her position as director of St. Clair County Family Independence Agency. Her friends and colleagues will honor Juanita with a retirement roast on October 10, 1997.

Throughout the years, I have had the pleasure to work with Juanita. I have always thought of Juanita as a problem solver and strong leader. She is a decisive, cooperative, intelligent, and a dedicated team player. Juanita's participation on various community boards gave her the insight to meet the needs

of the people within St. Clair County. Since 1984, Juanita has been a witness to many changes in policy. She has used her abilities to work with the various government agencies to implement programs that will benefit families and individuals in need.

Juanita has always been willing to help neglected and abused children and people who were affected by poverty. Yet through her compassion and understanding, Juanita empowered people to get their lives back on the right track. Juanita knew that ultimately people had to help themselves. Her job was to give them the tools that they needed to be self-sufficient. For these reasons, Juanita was awarded the Public Citizen of the Year Award for 1997.

St. Clair County has been lucky to have a leader like Juanita Gittings. Few people give to their community the same time and energy that Juanita has given to hers. Juanita's commitment and contributions have touched the lives of many people. On behalf of the citizens of St. Clair County, I would like to thank Juanita for all of her hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID H. GOLDSTEIN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a special word in tribute to David H. Goldstein, who has served as executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee of Greater Kansas City since 1972. Goldstein, an expert in community relations, is celebrating his 25th anniversary as executive director.

A native of Cleveland, OH, Goldstein began his career in public relations by earning a bachelor's degree in sociology from Case Western Reserve University and a master's degree in education from Butler University. After college, Goldstein went to work for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New England. He then took a post at the Jewish Community Relation Council in Indianapolis. While at that job, Goldstein designed one of the earliest Head Start programs. Head Start is a program designed to prepare underprivileged children for school, and Goldstein became its first director in Indianapolis. Later, Goldstein went on to direct a Head Start program in Washington, DC, and then to work in fair housing at the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development before coming to Kansas City to head the JCRB.

While at his post in Kansas City, Goldstein has helped coordinate a working relationship between the Jewish community and the community at large. Other major areas of Goldstein's involvement have centered around fostering good relations with the African-American community, fighting anti-Semitism, and working for freedom for Soviet Jewry.

Goldstein is a member of the board of directors of the Kansas City chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He has served on the boards of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Urban League, and was cochairperson of the Kansas City, MO Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Speaker, for 25 years David H. Goldstein has served the people of the Kansas City area with pride and honesty. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this great American.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR JOHN M. COYNE OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life long work of Mayor John M. Coyne of Brooklyn, OH. Mayor Coyne is currently completing his 50th consecutive year as mayor of Brooklyn. Mayor Coyne was first elected in 1948 and holds the record for being the longest serving mayor of a city in the United States. On October 22, 1997, Cleveland State University will honor Mayor Coyne for his lifetime achievement of 58 years in public office. The celebration will benefit the John M. Coyne Endowed Public Service Scholarship at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

Mayor Coyne has had a long and distinguished career in public service. Prior to being elected mayor of Brooklyn, he served 2 years as treasurer and 6 years as clerk-auditor for the city. In 1966, Mayor Coyne pioneered legislation for the first mandatory seat belt law in the country. Brooklyn was the first city in the country to implement a mandatory seat belt law. Mayor Coyne also recommended and implemented a mandatory curbside recycling program as part of the city's solid waste management plan. As a result of his efforts Brooklyn was the first city in Cuyahoga County and the second in the State of Ohio to enact a mandatory recycling program.

Mayor Coyne has also served on various political and civic committees during his career and has been recognized for his commitment to the community. He served five consecutive terms as Chair of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party from 1982-93. He also served as a member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections from March of 1990 to August of 1991 and as a suburban representative on the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority from March of 1981 to August of 1982. He was the first recipient of the Ernest J. Bohn Award for outstanding execution of public business. In addition, Mayor Coyne was recognized by the Waterford Society as their 1993 Man of the Year and received the Irish Good Fellowship Club Award in 1984.

Mayor John M. Coyne is a proven public servant. He has dedicated his life to improving his community and I applaud his efforts. I am proud to honor Mayor Coyne and wish him continued success in the future.

INDIA RAIDS SIKH CHURCH,
SHOWS ITS RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on September 4, the same day that this Congress voted against

an amendment to cut aid to India, Indian security forces attacked a Sikh church, which is called a Gurdwara. They claimed to be looking for a terrorist, but they had no search warrant and they did not ask the Gurdwara management to send the alleged terrorist out. Instead, they just stormed this house of worship and tortured six Granthis, the clergy of the Gurdwara.

India tells the world that it is a secular democracy. This raid on a Sikh house of worship proves otherwise. Clearly, Sikhs, among others, do not enjoy religious freedom under Indian rule. Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, puts it in perspective. On August 11, he told National Public Radio,

The Indian government all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with democracy, they have nothing to do with secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority.

This is the same Golden Temple that was subjected to a brutal military assault on June 4, 1984. To this day, it remains under police surveillance.

On June 29, a man named Gurdial Singh, who is the elected mayor of the village of Khiala Khurd, was stripped by the police in front of the people of his village. He was then held upside down while Indian forces beat and tortured him. All this happened to Gurdial Singh because he is a baptized Sikh.

The most revered mosque in Kashmir was subjected to an attack similar to the massacre at the Golden Temple. Many Muslim prisoners are force-fed pork, which is against their dietary laws. This is a form of emotional and spiritual torture.

India still enforces an old law against encouraging a Hindu to change his religion. This law expired years ago, but is treated as if it is still on the books. It is as if the United States still enforced the Alien and Sedition Acts of the Fugitive Slave Law. Some of the more militant Hindus even suggested that the late Mother Teresa might not be worthy of honor because the Sisters of Mercy persuaded some people to embrace Christianity. This is secular India.

Secular India is a land marked by the government-sponsored murders of over 200,000 Christians since 1947, more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 53,000 Muslims since 1988, and thousands upon thousands of other minorities. Here is a land in which religious persecution reigns.

America is the moral voice of the world, the bastion of freedom for the oppressed peoples all over this globe. It is our moral duty to do what we can to end this kind of oppression. We should formally declare India a country that practices religious oppression and impose appropriate sanctions, up to and including an embargo if necessary. We should stop providing monetary support for a government that practices religious persecution, violates human rights, and continues to develop nuclear weapons. And we should speak out strongly in support of the freedom movements in Punjab, Khalistan, in Christian Nagaland, in Kashmir, and throughout South Asia and the world.

Let freedom ring in South Asia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on roll-call vote Nos. 497 through 499. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call No. 497, passage of H.R. 629, to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact; "yes" on rollcall No. 498, the Vento amendment to H.R. 901, to exempt sites nominated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance from the provisions of the bill; and "yes" on rollcall No. 499, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 262, the rule governing House consideration of the Senate amendments to the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. I ask unanimous consent to have this statement appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my esteemed colleague, HENRY B. GONZALEZ. He has been an outstanding leader for San Antonio, the Hispanic community, and for all Americans due to his dedicated service to this Congress for 36 years. As the dean of the Texas delegation, HENRY B. has been a state leader who has represented our state with great commitment. Congressman GONZALEZ has truly been working for the citizens of this country his entire life. Starting a career of public service in 1945, he began working on critical issues for San Antonio. After a number of different community positions, he began a political career in 1953 with a position on the San Antonio city council, graduating to the State senate, and culminating with his long membership in this body beginning in 1961. Throughout his storied career he relentlessly advocated for veterans, small business, labor, housing, economic development, education, the environment, and civil rights. He took difficult positions and never wavered in standing for what was just and right.

Never shying away from responsibility, he took the helm of the House Banking Committee in 1989 and for 5 years dealt with the daunting problems of the savings and loan crisis, and other complex banking issues during his tenure. Currently, as the ranking member to the committee he has continued to be a voice of wisdom, bringing his expertise and experience to current issues. He has been a wealth of knowledge for all Members of this House and a source of inspiration for those new and old.

As a fellow Texas Congressman, I commend HENRY B. for his guidance, numerous accomplishments, and know that his career will be a benchmark for all of us to aspire to reach. Farewell and buena suerte amigo.

A TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JACK L. KUBIK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant who serves some of the same constituents I do—State Representative Jack L. Kubik of Illinois.

After nearly 14 years of service in the general assembly Representative Kubik recently announced he was retiring at the end of his current term in 1998. He will be difficult to replace.

Representative Kubik was first elected in 1984 at the age of 28, bringing a youthful perspective to the Illinois House of Representatives. He quickly proved to be a true leader in the legislature as he worked to represent the needs of his constituents while reaching out to all of his colleagues, regardless of party, for the betterment of Illinois.

Representative Kubik has been a leader in the area of property tax reform, senior issues, judicial reform, and the rights of the disabled. He has sponsored legislation to increase penalties for car-jacking; limit property taxes; assist those seeking hospice care; crack down on gangs; and help the deaf and hearing impaired. He sponsored one of the most comprehensive stalking laws in the United States and has been a leader in working to improve the backlog of child support collection in Illinois.

Representative Kubik's leadership and political abilities have been recognized by his colleagues. He currently serves as an assistant house minority leader and chaired the house Republican campaign committee in 1994 that helped bring his party a majority in the legislature for the first time in more than a decade.

Representative Kubik, whose family has a long tradition of public service, has been recognized by numerous organizations for his efforts to improve his community and his State. These honors include the Suburban Area on Aging's Legislator of the Year Award; VietNow President's Award; the Illinois Press Association's Legislative Service Award; and the Illinois Hearing Aid Society Award.

Representative Kubik's retirement will afford him the opportunity to spend more time with his new bride, Aggie, and pursue his work in the public relations field and the family business, Life Newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Representative Kubik on his 14 years of public service and give he and Mrs. Kubik my best wishes for the future.

CAPE VERDEAN VETERANS HONOR THE MEMORY OF PVT. EDWARD ALMEIDA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on November 10, the Cape Verdean American Veterans Association headquartered in New Bedford, MA will be holding a military ball, which will be an occasion of mixed feelings.