

So Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Our Savior Lutheran Church, of Centerach, for its 40 years of devoted service to God and man. We are fortunate to count this wonderful church among the crucial cornerstones of our Long Island community. Through the grace of God, may Our Savior Church continue to grow and flourish, so that it may continue to proclaim Christ to the heart of Long Island and beyond.

INTEGRITY AT THE BALLOT-BOX

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, over the last several days, this House has been asked to consider repeated motions to end the investigation into possible voter-fraud in California's 46th Congressional District during the 1996 election. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly tried to make this into a political dogfight. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This investigation has absolutely nothing to do with either candidate in the 46th district election. This investigation is about integrity at the ballot-box and ensuring that the electoral process in America remains genuine.

This is not a partisan issue, this is not a personality issue, and this is not a political issue. Most of all, this should never be made into an issue of race. The investigation into this election is a defense of free and fair elections.

It could happen in California, it could happen in Montana. No matter where it occurs, we have a responsibility to pursue the facts vigorously and ensure that future elections are fair. The Constitution demands it and the American people deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, are we that far removed from our history as a nation to forget the importance free and fair elections? there is no excuse for fraud at the ballot box and there is no excuse for those here in Congress who turn their backs to it.

IN HONOR OF MR. GUST SEVASTOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gust Sevastos. On Saturday, November 8, 1997 the Chios Society-Chapter No. 7 will gather to celebrate the 84th anniversary of Chian liberation from the Ottoman Turks. During this celebration, the Chios Society will honor Gust Sevastos, a recent recipient of the Chian Achievement Award.

Mr. Sevastos immigrated to Cleveland, in 1958 to live out the American dream. He got married, started a family, and initiated his own business. Mr. Sevastos also began a legacy of distinguished service to the Greek community. Mr. Sevastos became very involved in the Annunciation Church, serving as the president of the church, helping found the Annunciation Greek Heritage Festival and advising a local

youth program. In 1987, Bishop Maximos honored Mr. Sevastos with a proclamation for his outstanding service to the church.

During the late 1970's, Gust Sevastos joined the Ohio-West Virginia Chapter of the Chios Society. As a member of the Chios Society, Mr. Sevastos held positions of leadership on both a local and national level. He served six terms as president of his local chapter. On a national level, Mr. Sevastos served as supreme vice president and supreme president. As a member of the Chios Society, Mr. Sevastos helped raise more than \$250,000 for the eye clinic and Skilitisio hospital in his homeland; he also helped raise money for the underprivileged in Chios.

Over the years, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Secretary General of the Greek Government, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and the Chios Omogenon Society in Greece have all honored Mr. Sevastos for his distinguished service to the Greek community.

I am proud to know Gust Sevastos and to consider him a friend. He is a remarkable individual, and his contributions to his community—and to the Nation—are noteworthy.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Gust Sevastos. Through many years of hard work, Mr. Sevastos has made immeasurable contributions to the people of Cleveland and the Greek community as a whole.

HONORING JOHN N. STURDIVANT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of John N. Sturdivant, whose contributions to our Federal Government and its workers are beyond measure. John died on October 28, 1997 after fighting a valiant battle against leukemia. It is hard for me to believe that such a vibrant and dynamic citizen is gone.

John served as the president of the American Federation of Government Employees [AFGE] since 1988. Since that time, he strengthened this union and ensured that our Federal employees had a much stronger voice in government. John fought to make sure that our civil service received the respect it deserved. When he took over the helm of the AFGE, it was a floundering union without a distinct mission or an activist style. John quickly changed that; it was not long before he was lobbying for amending the Hatch Act to give Federal employees a greater level of participation in the political process.

I often worked closely with John throughout the years and particularly during the two Government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996. I will miss the strong spirit and single-minded devotion that John brought to his mission. John recognized that it is easy for politicians to make Federal employees a faceless symbol of a large bureaucracy and he knew that this was simply unacceptable. Instead, he reminded elected officials at every level that civil servants often work for less compensation than the private sector. In fact, John was the leader who won locality pay for Federal work-

ers to bring their salaries more in line with the private sector.

I know that John will be missed by those he served who were lucky to have his tireless energy working for them. My deepest condolences go to John's family. John will be a friend and advocate that I will never forget. A recent article in the Washington Post clearly illustrates Mr. Sturdivant's contributions to our region and the Federal Government.

[From the Washington Post]

John N. Sturdivant, 59, who as president since 1988 of the American Federation of Government Employees helped lobby Congress to ease a 57-year ban on political activities for federal workers and rallied public support to end two government shutdowns, died Oct. 28 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. He had leukemia.

AFGE, one of the largest federal unions, has about 178,000 active members in 1,100 locals and represents about 600,000 workers in 68 federal agencies. Many have jobs in the Defense Department, Veterans Affairs Department and Social Security Administration. They add up to more than one-third of the federal work force.

Mr. Sturdivant was a primary labor spokesman on Capitol Hill and with the Office of Management Budget, pushing for pay raises and improved conditions and retirement benefits. He worked with legislators to create "locality pay," a salary system that attempts to bring federal compensation into line with the private sector.

Downsizing of government and budget pressures constantly dogged Mr. Sturdivant's effort to preserve federal jobs. After Congress failed to agree on a budget in 1995, and many government operations were suspended, Mr. Sturdivant accused House Republicans of trying to destroy government and denigrate federal workers.

The changes he and other federal labor leaders helped bring about in the Hatch Act three years ago came as unions were launching a multimillion-dollar counterattack on the congressional Republicans. Off-duty federal employees had been barred from political activity that included holding office in a party, distributing campaign literature and soliciting votes.

The Hatch reforms permitted employees to contribute money, attend fund-raisers and volunteer for work such as staffing phone banks.

Mr. Sturdivant, of Vienna, had long been active in Democratic politics, serving on the party's national committee and the Virginia and Fairfax County central committees, and he encouraged his members to get involved.

He also directed AFGE to contribute \$300,000 last year to organized labor's blitz against the GOP and assigned 22 of his organizers to get-out-the-vote effort.

This month he received the Spirit of Democracy award of the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation.

AFGE is a major affiliate of the AFL-CIO, and Mr. Sturdivant, who was one of the highest ranking African Americans in the labor movement, was vice president of the federation's executive council. He also was a trustee of its George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

ALF-CIO President John Sweeney said this year that Mr. Sturdivant had been at the forefront of helping the federation "focus more on diversity in the labor movement and in leadership development."

Mr. Sturdivant also was a member of the National Partnership Council, a Clinton administration initiative to improve labor-management relations in the executive branch. He came in for criticism after the 1996 election when he asked his staff to compile a list of career officials who could be

"identified" as opposing the Clinton administration's labor-management policies. At the time, efforts were underway to reinvigorate the council concept, which had helped reduce the number of union grievances at some agencies.

Mr. Sturdivant fought against privatization of government work, which threatened to reduce the ranks of AFGE-represented employees by one-fourth. But this year he announced that AFGE had negotiated its first contract to represent employees of a private contractor, Hughes Electronic Corp. Hughes took over the work of the closed Naval Air Warfare Center.

While the union continued to oppose contracting federal work, Mr. Sturdivant said that where the battle was over individual agencies, "our policy is to pursue the work."

Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman said yesterday that Mr. Sturdivant had been "one of the labor movement's brightest lights" and "one of its most articulate advocates for working families."

Mr. Sturdivant was born in Philadelphia and raised in Bridgeport, Conn. He was a graduate of Antioch University, and he studied law at George Washington University. He served in the Air Force.

He went to work for the government in 1961 in Winchester, Va., where he was an electronics technician with the Army Interagency Communications Agency, later part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He was president of the AFGE local in Winchester for eight years before being appointed to the national staff of the union in Washington.

He was organizing director and administrative assistant to two AFGE presidents in Washington and then was elected executive vice president in 1982. The union was on the brink of bankruptcy when he defeated Kenneth T. Blaylock, a 14-year incumbent, in 1988. Mr. Sturdivant imposed an austerity program, collected delinquent dues and was soon able to announce that he had balanced the budget.

He was reelected to a fourth term as president in August, along with Secretary-Treasurer Bobby L. Harnage, who will succeed him.

Mr. Sturdivant's marriage to Muriel T. Sturdivant ended in divorce.

Survivors include his companion, Peggy Potter of Vienna; a daughter, Michelle Sturdivant of Alexandria; his mother, Ethel Jessie of Bridgeport; and a brother, a stepbrother, and a sister.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF HON. WALTER H. CAPPS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman WALTER CAPPS.

It was with shock and great sadness that we learned last evening of WALTER's sudden death.

WALTER enjoyed a remarkable career as a professor, teaching religious studies for 33 years at the University of California in Santa Barbara before coming to Congress in 1996.

WALTER loved being in Congress. He loved his work. He loved serving the people of the

22d District. He felt that he had spent his whole life preparing for this work. He was right.

WALTER had all the markings of a superb legislator. He combined a keen intellect with good judgment and a deep compassion for people. He was an extraordinary member of the freshman class. He was an extraordinary Member of Congress by any standard.

WALTER was fond of quoting a teaching from the Talmud: That we do not see the world as it is, but rather we see the world as we are. WALTER saw the world as a man of deep moral convictions. He brought that perspective to everything he did, whether it was fighting for human rights or just improving civility and bipartisanship in this institution.

In September of this year, WALTER managed the resolution that the House took up following the death of Princess Diana. He spoke with eloquence about her life. "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die," he said, quoting from the poet Thomas Campbell. Heavy as our hearts may be today, we are ennobled by his presence. We are diminished by his passing.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to WALTER's family, his wife, Lois, and his children, Lisa, Todd, and Laura; to his staff; and to his constituents. He was a marvelous man, and I will miss him.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM FLAHERTY AND CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Tom Flaherty, a constituent of mine from Eastham, MA, who has been actively involved in the government-sponsored civics education program known as "We the People." This program focuses on teaching students the importance of the freedoms guaranteed in our Bill of Rights and Constitution.

Each year, this program brings together high school students from across the Nation. In the spirit of competition, they test their knowledge of the Constitution and Bill of Rights learned through the "We the People" program. The program focuses on ways to challenge students to learn in creative and innovative ways, which make learning fun and help students retain what they have learned. They then have the opportunity to showcase their knowledge at the local, State, and national level.

Tom is a history teacher at Chatham High School on Cape Cod who also serves as the district coordinator of the "We the People" Program for the Tenth Congressional District of Massachusetts. His most recent competition this past spring yet again yielded winning results as his team returned to the national level, winning the category for "Best Team for Expertise on the Extension of the Bill of Rights." I was proud to welcome students and a teacher who are so committed to learning the fundamental fabric of our Nation's government.

Most recently, Tom also participated in the Civitas Program, which is jointly run by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Infor-

mation Agency, along with teachers from the Council of Europe. This project seeks to provide teachers in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the tools to prepare students and their communities to be responsible citizens through participation in elections and by becoming actively involved in the political process. Tom went through an intensive 2-week program to train over 500 teachers throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina with materials and methods developed from "We the People" to educate and teach democratic principles.

Traveling to a war-torn area to help construct the fundamental building blocks for a burgeoning society truly shows Tom's commitment to our democratic principles and his genuine dedication to teaching these principles. Mr. Speaker, I commend Tom and his Chatham High School class for their passion for learning and hope they both realize they may be directly helping to build democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK AND BETTY STARK

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank and Betty Stark of Stafford, MO, who Roseann and I have known for many years. Frank and Betty are the founders of Raceway Ministries a unique ministry designed to share the Gospel with race car drivers, their families, crew members and fans. Just as someone is called to the mission field in another country, I believe that the Starks were called to minister to those in auto car racing.

Race car driving is one of American most popular and competitive sports. Racing demands much of its participants the drivers, the crew members and members of the driver's family. As with any sport everyone goes out to win and expends a tremendous amount of effort to make it happen. Given the tension created in preparing for a race and the enormous disappointment for those who do not win, it is easy to see why there is a need here to talk about faith based in Christ.

Frank and Betty have helped to organize worship services at 13 of the 19 NASCAR Winston Cup racing events. Full-time ministries have been established at the Talladega Super Speedway, Atlanta Motor Speedway, and at Daytona. Frank's efforts inspired others to establish similar ministries at other race car tracks. In southwest Missouri alone he has helped to place six chaplains at three area race tracks. He served as the chaplain for the Automobile Racing Club of America [ARCA] for a decade and, in 1996, they awarded him the Bondo Mar-Hyde Spirit Award. The Southern Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board recognized him as well with the Ken Prickett Award for creative and innovative ministries.

Roseann and I have been grateful for Frank and Betty and their friendship through the years. They have been a model of selfless service to others in the spirit of Christ. Thanks Frank and Betty for setting a great example.