

THE NEA NEEDS OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

HON. FRANK PALLONE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important role that the arts and humanities play in communities throughout our country.

As a strong proponent of the arts and as a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I believe that slashing funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities would be an irreversible blow to the arts and humanities in America. These influential agencies encourage lifelong learning, promote participation within civic organizations, and preserve our country's cultural and intellectual heritage.

The National Endowment for the Arts continues to lead all other arts organizations in encouraging the expansion of American art. The NEA strives to support excellence in our disparate American society. This organization fosters new design initiatives, encourages a renewed interest in dance, opera, and literature, and assists in the growth of new and previously established museums. In addition, the NEA remains a staunch advocate of arts in education. Studies illustrate that a student's desire to learn is facilitated by the mere presence of arts in the curriculum.

As a Congressman representing New Jersey's sixth district, I have seen, first hand, how the NEA has directly benefited my constituents. The NEA provided a \$6,000 grant to the George Street Playhouse, located in New Brunswick, a city that has been revitalized due to the explosion of the arts community. This \$6,000 grant helps support the Touring Theater which reaches over 70,000 New Jersey students through issue-oriented plays. These plays use theater as a vehicle to discuss both personal and social issues facing the youth of today.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey also received a \$12,500 grant from the NEA, to help fund a graduate-level internship in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, located on the Rutgers campus which is also in my district.

In New Jersey alone, the National Endowment for Humanities, in conjunction with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, provided a \$525,000 grant making it possible for scholars at Rutgers University to edit Thomas Edison's notes for publication. A challenge grant from the NEH totalling \$550,000, has allowed the New Jersey Historical Society to raise \$2.2 million in private funds to renovate the building that contains its collections. The NEH also provided programs that enable Americans nationwide to participate in political, social, and cultural programs. Without funding to the NEH, New Jersey residents would not have access to free videotapes, radio programs, and traveling exhibits.

Supporting current funding levels for the NEA costs each taxpayer approximately 70 cents per year. A mere one-hundredth of 1 percent of the national budget goes towards these organizations. Federal funding for the arts and humanities has provided Americans with more than 1.3 million jobs. The new jobs

in turn pump hundreds of thousands of dollars into our local economies. For every dollar that the NEA spends, \$11 is generated in the form of tourism, hotels, restaurants, and cultural community activity. If our Government cuts funding and decides to privatize the NEA and NEH, only the large agencies and institutions would survive. The smaller institutions, on the other hand, would suffer an untimely demise without the necessary Federal funding.

These nonprofit organizations generate close to \$37 billion in economic activity in America while supporting 1.3 million jobs. In addition, the arts typically produce \$3.4 billion for the Federal Government in the form of income taxes, \$1.2 billion in State government revenue, and \$790 million in local government revenue. New Jersey's flourishing art community benefits greatly from the continued assistance from the NEA and NEH. New Jersey's 47,000 professional resident artists, and 800 cultural organizations provide approximately 15 million people with the opportunity to experience the arts in New Jersey. Close to 2.3 million school children benefit from arts projects that include student matinees, study guides, and classroom workshops.

The youth of today need art to help express themselves. As this year's cochair of the Congressional Art Competition, I know the importance of art in our daily lives.

"An Artistic Discovery" provides our youth with the opportunity to express their creative spirits. This unique, nationwide high school competition brings students together from all over the United States to celebrate the arts and their importance in our society.

The students' passion for the arts, epitomized in their work that brightens the Cannon Tunnel, makes a statement to the millions of visitors who pass through the tunnel that connects the Cannon Building with the U.S. Capitol.

The arts provide channels for emotional expression, and a chance for experimentation. Without the arts, our society would be devoid of all imagination. The arts permeate our culture and speak in a language all their own.

We need to support our national endowments, as well as all other vehicles that generate art that enriches our lives. Continued support for these institutions can expose our communities to diverse and even necessary schools of thought. These agencies help provide our country with a living record of civilization and society. The NEA and NEH stimulate local economies, preserve our national heritage, and encourage educational enrichment programs.

I urge my fellow colleagues to vote against slashing funding for the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, and to help ensure the survival of the arts in our society today.

ISRAEL SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a situation that threatens to upset the Middle East

peace process. Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat has reportedly invited leaders from throughout the world to participate in a weekend conference, supposedly to discuss ways to move the peace process forward.

While Mr. Arafat has invited diplomats from the United States, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, and Europe to participate in this conference, conspicuously absent is an invitation to the country of Israel.

How can a meeting supposedly designed to discuss ways to facilitate peace in the Middle East not include Israel? Obviously, it cannot. Any serious attempt to move the peace process forward should—and must—include Israel.

It does not take a scholar of Middle Eastern history or politics to know that Israel is integral to the region's future, as well as the success of the peace process itself. Excluding Israel from this proposed conference can only be seen as an attempt to fracture the world community's support for Israel and marginalize Israel's role in the peace process.

The United States must not let itself be manipulated in this way. I applaud President Clinton's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, but we are at a very delicate point in the process, and we must be extremely careful about how we proceed. A primary tenet of the Oslo Accords is that peace negotiations should take place between Israel and Palestinian authorities. Allowing Mr. Arafat to make an end-run around Israel by excluding it from this meeting violates the principles of the Oslo Accords and poses a serious threat to the peace process.

Mr. Speaker, Yasir Arafat's call for a Middle Eastern peace conference is empty without the direct and meaningful participation of Israel. If the United States allows this conference to go forward in its current form, we will be doing irreparable harm to the peace process. Therefore, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in calling on Yasir Arafat to include Israel in this weekend's meeting or to withdraw United States participation in this one-sided and counterproductive conference.

HONORING BUSHWICK GEOGRAPHIC TARGETING TASK FORCE 1996 EXEMPLARY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Bushwick Geographic Targeting Task Force [BGTF] as a 1996 exemplary substance abuse prevention program.

BGTF, 1 of 20 organizations selected by the Department of Health and Human Services, addresses the needs of Hispanic-Latino youth and young adults in North Brooklyn where a high rate of HIV/AIDS, violence, and substance abuse exists. Through courses and workshops in leadership skills, media literacy, and substance abuse prevention, the multifaceted needs of our youth are addressed. Moreover, BGTF's Partners in Health Coalition is a logical step in comprehensive community planning and program implementation for these services throughout the Brooklyn community.

As a Member of Congress, I have vigorously advocated for substance abuse prevention services targeting our at-risk youth. Thus,

I commend this organization's tireless efforts to combat the rising incidence of drug usage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the Bushwick Geographic Targeting Task Force for their outstanding contributions to the youth of Brooklyn.

CONGRATULATING SAM MALONE
AND THE MORNING SHOW

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Sam Malone of Sugar Land, TX, will celebrate the fourth anniversary of his 104 KRBE morning show on March 21, 1997. This top rated show addresses a wide diversity of issues, and features many prominent Houstonians, including the Honorable Robert and Elyse Lanier, University of Houston Coach Kim Helton, and Clyde Drexler of the Houston Rockets.

Sam started his career in radio as a \$6-an-hour joke writer in New York City. His career took him to Buffalo, NY, before his talents were recognized by KRBE in Houston. After 4 years on his hometown airwaves, Sam is still going strong. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the 105th Congress to join 104 KRBE in congratulating Sam Malone and the morning show on this auspicious occasion, and extending best wishes for continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND
BERNARD GUEKGUEZIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Bernard Guekguezian of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, CA. A member of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America [AEUNA], Reverend Guekguezian was recently elected to a 2-year term as moderator of the AEUNA, the leading organization of Armenian Protestant Churches in North America.

Reverend Guekguezian was born in Antioch, Turkey in 1927. Following graduation from school, Guekguezian studied at both the Armenian Evangelical institutions in Beirut and at the Aleppo College in Syria. In 1952, Guekguezian completed the American University at Beirut and the Near East School of Theology. After serving as a pastor in Egypt for 2 years, Guekguezian came to the United States, where he attended the Fuller theological Seminary and the New York Theological Seminary and earned a Master's degree in Christian Education. In 1959, Guekguezian was ordained as a Minister of the Word by the Congregational Conference of Massachusetts.

During his stay in Massachusetts, Guekguezian served as minister of the Armenian Congregational Church of the Martyrs, Worcester, MA, the oldest Armenian Church in America. In 1966, Guekguezian accepted a position with the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ and served the congregation for 12 years.

Reverend Guekguezian became a resident of the Fresno area in 1978, when he was installed as pastor of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, the oldest Armenian religious institution in California. Guekguezian resides in Fresno with his wife Knar Kazanjian of Aleppo, with whom he has two sons and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Bernard Guekguezian has been an example of leadership and inspiration to the community of Fresno, the State of California, and the other communities that he has impacted throughout the United States. I offer my sincere congratulations to Rev. Bernard Guekguezian of First Armenian Presbyterian Church on his election as the Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and the best of luck in his new position.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS,
JOHN W. PEADEN

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 1997 the citizens of northwest Florida and the State of Florida will be losing a man who has dedicated his life to protecting the people of Florida and ensuring the triumph of justice in our community. This gentleman has distinguished himself as a community leader, a dedicated law enforcer, and one of our Nation's leaders in the war on drugs. The man I speak about today is Mr. John Peaden of the Office of the State Attorney in the First Circuit of Florida.

I could praise Mr. Peaden for his 25 years of law enforcement, during which he served as a Florida State trooper, a member of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department, and the Office of the State Attorney. I could mention the modernization and computerization that Mr. Peaden brought to the investigations department over the last 16 years with the State Attorney's Office. Or I could applaud his tireless efforts to protect our children from illegal drugs through his efforts on the Okaloosa-Walton County Drug Task Force. But I'm sure John would say that those accomplishments were just part of his duty.

However in my opinion Mr. Speaker, John has gone above and beyond the call of duty throughout his distinguished career in the field of criminal justice. At a time when our Nation calls out for principled leadership from public officials, it is fitting that today we honor a law enforcement professional who always went the extra mile to protect our citizens while striving to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Peaden has known, better than most, that while trying to protect our quality of life, we must respect the God given rights of freedom.

John's overall attitude and dedication to public service has been a model in the lives of the hundreds of law enforcement officers and professionals that he has trained, supervised, and encouraged. His legacy will remind new officers that when at all possible, law enforcement officers should go beyond the call of duty to assist citizens in any way possible and to protect our justice system from any foe, foreign or domestic.

As John departs from the Office of the State Attorney, he can take pride in knowing that he influenced so many people in a positive way. As a father of two young boys, I sleep better at night knowing that our streets are safer and that our children are protected because of the life-long efforts of John Peaden.

MIDLOTHIAN POLICE CHIEF ROY
VAUGHN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to Police Chief Roy Vaughn of Midlothian, TX, on the occasion of his retirement on March 14, 1997.

Mr. Vaughn served the citizens of Midlothian as chief of police for 10 years, following a successful 22-year career with the Dallas Police Department.

I join Chief Vaughn's wife, Margie, his four children and numerous grandchildren in thanking him for his years of dedicated service to our community, and offer him my best wishes for the future.

IN HONOR OF JOE FRIEND

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with great sorrow the passing of a friend very dear to the town of Chester and especially to me, Joe Friend.

Joe dearly loved this community of Chester, CT, and was always well-informed of the town's happenings. Having served on the board of selectmen in Chester and later as the registrar of voters, Joe was among the most active and engaged members of the community. He fought for seniors at every juncture. He often came to me with concerns from members of the community who had problems with housing or Social Security or another problem. No community concern was too small or large for Joe to take on.

Everybody loved Joe. He would often make puns on his name, saying "you always have a friend here" or "you'll always have a friend in this house." And he was a friend to so many of us in his 83 years. I was fortunate to be one of them.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of a party thrown for Joe and his wife Lillian almost 10 years ago, when the whole community, as a demonstration of their respect and regard, joined in the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. This day will be remembered fondly by all of us.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we will mourn Joe's passing. He will truly be missed. But we who knew him, we who were touched by him, will never be able to forget him. Joe Friend served his community well and will be a continuing inspiration to all of us.