

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE HOWARTH,
JR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who has given of himself to make his borough a better place to live. I am speaking of Chief Theodore J. Howarth, Jr., the newly elected State Commander of the American Legion Department of New Jersey. Out State is fortunate to have a leader like Chief Howarth in this important position.

Chief Theodore Howarth's dedication to New Jersey and his fellow citizens is exemplary. Chief Howarth is a lifelong resident of Gloucester City. He served in the Navy for two tours in Vietnam, earning the Navy Commendation Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. In January 1972, Chief Howarth joined the Gloucester City Police Department, where he steadily rose through the ranks. On December 7, 1988, Theodore Howarth became the chief of police of Gloucester City, a position at which he continues to excel. During his memorable 24-year career in Gloucester City, Chief Howarth has accomplished much. He has established a pathbreaking Juvenile Adjudication Program, established numerous community programs in concert with the school system, and community service organizations, promoted a policy of Community Oriented Policing, and has pursued consistent professionalism in a police organization.

In addition to his impressive police career, Chief Howarth has shown an deep commitment to bettering himself and his community. While serving in the Gloucester City Police Department, Chief Howarth completed his bachelor of science degree in law and justice. He has served the Policemen's Benevolent Association in all elected and appointed positions. Chief Howarth currently serves as vice president of the Camden County Police Chief's Association, and is active on the State and national levels as well. Chief Howarth has also served the people of Gloucester City through such community organizations as the Jaycees, the Carmen Palmiero (Youth) Basketball League, the Police Athletic League, the Gloucester City Municipal Youth Services Commission, the Gloucester City Celebrations Committee, and the Gloucester City Chamber of Commerce, rising to president of each of these organizations. In addition, Chief Howarth is active in Little League baseball, and serves as vice president of the Gloucester City Lions Club. Through his vigorous community involvement, Chief Howarth has been honored many times, received such awards as Outstanding Citizenship Awards from the Jaycees, Sportsman's A.C., and V.F.W. Post #3620, as well as the New Jersey Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award from both the American Legion Department of New Jersey and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New Jersey.

In addition to his active career and dedication to community service, Chief Theodore Howarth has remained an active participant in the American Legion. He has risen through the ranks, and was elected State Commander of the American Legion Department of New Jersey in 1997.

All who know Chief Theodore Howarth are honored by his service to the people of Gloucester City and of New Jersey. I know that Chief Howarth's wife, Candy, and son, Sean, are as proud of his accomplishments as we all are. Chief Howarth's service has been remarkable, and I congratulate and thank him on behalf of all the citizens of New Jersey.

HELP MAKE THE AMERICAN
DREAM POSSIBLE FOR THOSE
WHO SERVED

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, thousands of former servicemen and servicewomen in a number of States are currently prohibited from receiving State-financed home mortgages. That is why Representative HERGER and I are reintroducing the Veterans American Dream Homeownership Assistance Act.

Under a little-known provision of the 1984 tax bill, veterans in certain States who served in the Armed Forces beginning any time after 1976 are all but prohibited from receiving a State-financed veterans home mortgage. In my State of Wisconsin, this means that most of our fighting men and women in uniform who served in Panama, Grenada, and the gulf war cannot get veterans home mortgages from their own State government, even if the State government would like to grant them. Are those who began serving their country after 1976 any less deserving than those who went before?

Why does this cutoff exist? This cutoff was created to raise additional revenue for the 1984 tax bill by limiting the use of tax-exempt bonds to finance State veterans mortgage programs. When this provision was passed, post-1976 vets were a small percentage of all veterans, without much voice to protest this discriminatory change. But 13 years later, there are thousands who have served our country honorably in that period. The five affected State veterans affairs departments believe that if this bill becomes law, they can help a great number of these post-1976 vets purchase their own home. The States that are currently permitted to use this Federal tax-exempt State bond financing are Wisconsin, California, Texas, Oregon, and Alaska.

This legislation would simply eliminate the cutoff that exists under current law. Under our proposal, former servicemen and servicewomen in the five States who served our country beginning in 1977 or any years after that could be eligible to qualify for a home mortgage loan provided by their States. Our proposal does not increase Federal discretionary spending 1 cent but simply allows the permitted States who so choose to help all their veterans regardless of when they served.

Why should we continue to exclude from State assistance certain vets who have served our country, just because they served recently? We believe that at the Federal level we should at least allow our own States to help those who served our Nation honorably. Please help those veterans of Grenada, Panama, and the gulf war in the affected States who want to own their own home. Please join Representative HERGER and I and the 60 bi-

partisan cosponsors from the 104th Congress in cosponsoring the Veterans American Dream Homeownership Assistance Act.

IN HONOR OF LEO WENE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and works of a great public citizen, Leo Wene.

Mr. Wene, a retired college physics professor, was actively engaged in his community's most pressing social and economic issues. He headed efforts to establish a municipal electric power distribution system for Chardon, OH, after seeing the value municipal power has provided Cleveland. He criticized foolhardy attempts at unsafely storing nuclear waste and upbraided proponents of the plan.

Mr. Wene was an active participant in the political process and, through his example, showed to many the value of activism. He served as chairman of the Committee for Fair Utility Rates and of the Tri-County Environment and Consumer Advocate Council. He encouraged fellow citizens to become involved in the process and to let their representatives know where they stood.

Mr. Wene was educated at Ohio State University and the University of Idaho, where he received his master's degree.

During World War II, he served with the Army's 83d Infantry Division in Europe. He participated in four major campaigns and was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Wene was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry.

Mr. Wene is survived by his wife of 57 years, Cleo; daughter Jennifer of Westerville, OH; sons, Kenneth of Bethel, CT; Daryl of North Royalton, OH, and Peter of Waldorf, MD; as well as five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ohio will miss him terribly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
LAKE COUNTY, IN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN, and the Lithuanian community on the 79th anniversary of Lithuanian independence.

The Lithuanian American Council celebrated Lithuanian independence from the Soviet Union, which occurred in 1918, on Sunday, February 16, 1997, at St. Casimir's Church in Gary, IN. Following tradition, the anniversary ceremony began with a church service starting at 11:30 a.m. After the church service, the Lithuanian American Council held a flag raising ceremony outside of the church to honor those Lithuanians who pledged their allegiance to independence for their people. The event concluded with a dinner in the church hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Lithuanian American Council of

Lake County and its officers, including: Vincent J. Gumulauskis, who has been president for 5 years; Pete D. Auksel and Casimir Balt, both of whom are vice-presidents; Birute Vilutis, secretary; and Walter Ruzga, treasurer. Allow me to also commend the board of directors, whose members include the Reverend Ignatius Urbonas, Aleksas Degutis, Alex Navardauskas, Dan Pauls, Frank Petrites, Brone Tampuskas, and Izidorius Tavaras. Finally, I would like to commend every member of the Lithuanian American Council for the loyalty and enthusiasm they have displayed.

The Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN, is a branch of the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. It was founded in 1940 and originated in large cities such as Boston, Chicago, and New York. The organization in Lake County was initially headquartered at St. Francis Church in East Chicago, IN, until recently when the building was demolished. The organization was then moved to St. Casimir where its home is today.

It is my sincere hope that 1997 will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Lithuanian community and their families. May this 79th anniversary year prove to be a most joyous one.

TRIBUTE TO DELMA CUCCINELLO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention Delma Cuccinello of Haledon.

Delma is retiring from her position of administrative clerk in the office of the Superintendent of Elections, Passaic County, NJ, after 31 years of public service.

During her 31 years, Delma has worked under five superintendents of election, and has touched the lives of many.

A native of Paterson, Delma now resides in Haledon with her husband, Lou, and the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. Delma and Lou are the proud parents of two daughters, and the proud grandparents of two grandsons.

Although a resident of Haledon, Delma remains very active in the Riverside Veterans Organization of Paterson, and is an integral part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Delma's family and friends, and the county of Passaic in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Delma Cuccinello.

"LAND FOR A LIAR'S PROMISES"

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu highlighted during his visit to Washington this week focused on the lopsided and inaccurate reporting about Israel's role in the Middle East peace process. At two events I attended where the Prime Minister spoke, he made

forceful and convincing arguments that it is Israel which is in compliance with its commitments. However, most of the media have fallen prey to the international propaganda espoused by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and others which blames Israel for every problem that is encountered along the negotiating path, he concluded.

Thankfully, though, there are some individuals, like columnist George Will, whose ability to cut through the obfuscation remains intact. His recent article, which appeared in numerous newspapers around the country, sheds light on the true reality of the current situation. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to share the text of this piece with my colleagues, many of whom have reiterated their concerns to me about Yasser Arafat's true intentions.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 27, 1997]

LAND FOR A LIAR'S PROMISES

(By George F. Will)

Israel's critics, who are legion and live in safe neighborhoods, says Israel is being provocative. Actually, Israel's being is provocative.

On one day, Palestinian violence is said to have been provoked by the opening of a tunnel. One another day, the provocation is said to be the beginning of construction of apartments. But the real reasons for the violence are: Violence has always been part of the warp and woof of Yasser Arafat's politics (remember, he once wore a pistol to the U.N. podium), and there is no penalty for it. Indeed, in the eyes of the "international community," Palestinian violence is self-legitimizing: It is proof of Israeli provocation.

No Israeli government could allow Arafat to veto the construction of apartments on unoccupied land in East Jerusalem owned by the Israeli state. To allow that would be to make a de facto territorial concession, conceding that Jerusalem is redivided, with Arafat sovereign in part of it.

Arafat released terrorists. Israeli intelligence says that he authorized attacks and that the head of Palestinian Preventative Security organized the Hebron riots. Last Friday, at a rally of 10,000 in Nablus, a speaker announced the "good news" of the terrorist's suicide attack in Tel Aviv, and the crowd cried, "God is great." An Arafat aide said, "The terror of bulldozers led to the terror of explosives." What kind of peace can be made with people who talk like that?

Arafat's recurring resort to violence refutes the premise of the Oslo accords, which was that land was being traded for peace. Something tangible—territory—has indeed been traded for something intangible—promises, a liar's promises. Everything about Arafat's repertoire—the violence, the rhetoric to Arabic-speaking audiences about "combat" and "jihad" and capturing all of Jerusalem, the refusal to fulfill the obligation to remove from the Palestine Charter references to the illegitimacy and destruction of Israel—is consistent with the strategy adopted in 1974. That is the "phased" strategy of founding a Palestinian state from which will be launched the final attack on a diminished Israel.

American diplomats who soothingly refer to Arafat as Israel's "partner in the peace process" visit Arafat's Ramallah office with its wall map of Palestine with Israel's borders erased. Such maps are frequent ornaments of political and cultural programming on Palestinian Authority television. Such maps are used in Palestinian commercial advertising and as jewelry. On the main Bethlehem-Hebron road stands a monument to the Palestinian "martyrs of the Intifada"

in the shape of a map of Palestine, including all the land of Israel. The diplomats probably wonder about the "real" meaning of such maps, just as diplomats wondered what Nazis "really" meant when they spoke of the "destruction" of European Jewry.

Israel lives in a bad neighborhood. One reason it is bad is that the Palestine people have had a long run of execrable leaders: leaders who supported Hitler in World War II, the Soviet Union during the Cold War and Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. Perhaps things will get better. Perhaps when a full-fledged Palestinian state exists on the West Bank, that 22nd Arab state will be the first Arab democracy. But would those who are asking Israel to bet its life on that be willing to bet theirs?

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, when asked if Israel could safely consent to be again, as before 1967, 10 miles wide at the waist, blandly said that Israel would still be, in effect, 40 miles deep strategically because "all the land we give back must be demilitarized." But although this Palestinian state does not yet fully exist, it already is militarized with at least 30,000 well-armed soldier-policemen. Will the fully emerged state accept restrictions on its sovereignty that no other nation accepts?

And who would enforce such restrictions? The "international community" that dithered during genocide in Bosnia and is inexhaustibly "understanding" about Palestinian violence? Should Israel rely on a U.S. commitment? As Golda Meir said to President Nixon when he suggested something similar, "By the time you get here, we won't be here."

It is said that people hope vaguely but dread precisely. Modern history has provided Israelis a dread that is the premise of their statecraft: No calamity is impossible. So while the "international community" will continue to criticize Israel for the provocations inherent in its existence, Israel's riposte will be Golda Meir's words: Jews are used to collective eulogies, but Israel will not die so that the world will speak well of it.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE REX SATER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and caring public servant, the Honorable Judge Rex Sater. Judge Sater is to be commended for 21 years of outstanding service as a judge on the Sonoma County supreme court in Santa Rosa, CA.

Judge Sater earned great respect and admiration for his handling of family law cases. His rule that disputing parties must talk matters over before involving the judge is now a common practice used throughout California known as meet and confer. His respect for juries and the justice system was clear. In fact, Judge Sater was one of the first to start the practice of having participants and spectators rise each time the jury came in and out of the courtroom.

In addition to his exemplary service as a judge, he was involved in the community as an advocate for native American causes and was a founder of the Sonoma County chapter of the ACLU.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to the Honorable Judge Rex Sater.