

A TRIBUTE TO SIMON GRATZ HIGH SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philadelphia's Simon Gratz High School in my district, which this year celebrates its 70th anniversary. Named for the noted Philadelphia civic leader, legislator, educator, and philanthropist, Simon Gratz High School has been serving the north Philadelphia community since 1927. This is a truly comprehensive high school that provides a sound education to over 2,200 students with diverse needs and backgrounds, and serves as the "flagship school" of the Gratz cluster.

Simon Gratz has established six small learning communities within the school, designed to meet the needs and special interests of the students. These small learning communities include: the Automotive Academy, the Business Institute, the Center for Creative Communications, Crossroads for the Arts and Sciences, Magna Carta—Learning through Law, and Springboard—Allied Health and Teaching Careers. In addition to these special programs, Simon Gratz has a job training program and a teen parent educational center, the Constance E. Clayton Teen Parent Center, this named after our great, former superintendent of schools.

A matter of great pride for Simon Gratz High School and the surrounding community is its great tradition of excellence in athletics. The high school's comprehensive athletic program boasts particularly strong wrestling, football, baseball, and basketball teams. In fact, two recent Simon Gratz graduates were just in the national spotlight as teammates on the Portland Trailblazers team that made this year's NBA playoffs. Those two young men, Rasheed Wallace and Aaron McKie, are the latest in a long line of Simon Gratz scholar/athletes who have gone on to national prominence from their Philadelphia roots. Other famous Simon Gratz graduates include: Pat Kelly, former manager of the Minnesota Twins; Meldrick Taylor, a 1984 Olympic boxing gold medalist; Leroy Kelly, formerly of the Cleveland Browns; and Baseball Hall of Famer, Roy Campanella.

Other outstanding graduates include: our former colleague, William Gray III; the Honorable John Green, sheriff of Philadelphia County; Herman Mattleman, former president of the Philadelphia Board of Education; the Honorable Judge Katherine Streeter Lewis of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; and the current principal of Simon Gratz High School, James G. Slaughter.

On Sunday, May 18, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Simon Gratz High School will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the school by inviting back alumni, former faculty and administrators, and friends from the community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me today in honoring Simon Gratz High School for 70 years of excellence and service to the community of north Philadelphia.

GUAM STUDENT JENNY ANDREA TOVES TO REPRESENT SIMON SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL AT NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I met with Jenny Andrea Toves, a 14-year-old student from Simon Sanchez High School on Guam and her advisor, Mrs. Shirley Ruiz. Jenny was selected to represent Guam at the National Youth Summit to Prevent Underage Drinking that is being held here in Washington. The summit, which is sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, targets underage drinking as part of its overall effort to combat drunk driving.

Jenny came to attend the summit to gain ideas on how to raise the legal drinking age in Guam from 18 to 21. She is a member of her school's drug prevention club and is active in the young women's organization at her church. She is a member of the Guam Show Choir, the Board of Governing Students, and the student body association.

During our meeting, Jenny presented me with the top three youth summit recommendations that were adopted by summit participants. These include the automatic loss of license for those under 21 on their first alcohol-related offense, that zero tolerance laws for those under 21 have strong sanctions and include a strong media campaign to raise awareness, and that requirements be made for alcohol advertisers to pay for public service announcements to counter alcohol advertisements. It is clear from their recommendations that the direction from our youth is to seriously deal with these issues and to pursue them here in Washington and back home in their respective communities.

Jenny was sincerely excited about participating in the summit and has expressed her commitment to carry on with this work. I was proud to know that she will continue to lead, coordinate, and participate in educational and peer efforts designed to combat drunk driving and underage drinking at home on Guam. We should take notice of the willingness of Jenny and the other participants of the summit to work on these issues and commend them for their efforts. I know that I will be seriously considering these proposals and hope that my colleagues will do the same.

IRISH DEPORTEES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my personal concern about an issue of great importance to a number of families in New Jersey, an issue of fundamental fairness. Irish-Americans and their families have been discriminated against for many years. On February 6 of this year, many Irish-American families testified about their imminent deportation. These heartfelt testimonies conclude that deportation divides husband and wife, father and

son, and mother and daughter. The separation divides the family unit and causes undue stress on extended family members. So, you can see why I am particularly concerned about the deportation of innocent Irish-Americans who in many cases have been denied due process.

Cases of individuals being targeted for prosecution by the Immigration and Naturalization Service include Noel Gaynor, Robbie McErlan, Gabriel Megahey, Matt Morrison, Kevin Crossan, Charles Caulfield, and Brian Pearson, who all share a number of similarities.

These men suffered political persecution in Northern Ireland. Several served time as special category political prisoners after being convicted through torture and extorted confessions. None of these men are currently wanted for any crime in Ireland, Northern Ireland, or Britain.

These are men who have led exemplary lives as productive, law-abiding members of their community. They are no threat to national security and their threatened deportation goes against the moral fiber of the United States.

In spite of these factors, the United States is zealously pursuing deportation proceedings against these men. The legal cost and not to mention the emotional strain are overwhelming and have taken a devastating toll on each of these families.

The Justice Department is seeking to have anyone imprisoned by the British for a political offense automatically deported regardless of how long they have lived in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would call to the attention of my colleagues the graphic portrayal of continuing British injustice toward the Irish in the movie "In the Name of the Father," based on a true and very tragic case.

I believe that due process of the law should be given to Noel Gaynor, Gabriel Megahey, and Brian Pearson, all of whom face deportation.

I have written letters to urge the administration to stop these unfair proceedings. If these individuals are deported, American families will suffer.

HONORING PATRICIA FORD, GERALD GRANTNER, AND MARVIN MCLAUGHLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three individuals who have given so much of themselves in their duties as public servants to the citizens of Michigan. On Thursday, May 15, the staff of the Michigan Jobs Commission will recognize Ms. Patricia Ford, Mr. Gerald Grantner, and Mr. Marvin McLaughlin as they retire after many years of dedicated service.

Ms. Patricia Ford has been an advocate for disabled individuals for over the last quarter century. As a member of the group Disabled in Action, she successfully fought for the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She began her employment with the State of Michigan in 1978 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Throughout her career, Ms. Ford

has worked diligently with severely and multiply disabled individuals and has become a strong community advocate as well, developing effective partnerships with other community agencies. Her selfless and pleasing manner was responsible for her being named Michigan Rehabilitation Services Counselor of the Year in 1989.

Mr. Gerald Grantner is leaving after almost 30 years of service to the citizens of Michigan. Beginning in 1968 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, Mr. Grantner became district manager of the office in Flint, MI, in 1970. In addition to his working tirelessly on behalf of the public, he has also developed affiliations with groups such as the Bentley School Board of Education, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, and the Burton, MI, Planning Commission, among others.

Mr. Marvin McLaughlin also began his career with the State of Michigan as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, first in 1965, and then again in 1969 after receiving further education. In the nearly 30 years, he has worked with the jobs commission, the citizens he has worked with have benefitted greatly from his determination and ambition. To those close to him, Mr. McLaughlin has been called a man of high professional and ethical standards, qualities that he has exhibited time and time again in both his professional and personal life.

Mr. Speaker, it seems only fitting that these three, who have practically begun their careers together as a team, shall bring their careers to a close together as well. I am exceptionally proud of the service they have provided to many throughout the State, and I am sure that their deeds shall provide a worthy example to emulate.

HONORING OUR PROTECTORS

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of police men and women across this country. This week the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service will be held on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. This memorial service is a tribute to peace officers who have put their lives on the line for the safety of our neighborhoods and communities. I wish we didn't have to have these memorials—I wish that we never had to mourn the loss of a single police officer. But sadly we do.

Unfortunately, we seem to be losing more officers each year. In our Nation's capital, we have lost three officers in just a few months.

Almost 2 years ago, my district lost a true hero. Jimmy Wilson Jr. was on duty with the Omaha Police Department and was shot while he was in his patrol car, still restrained by his seat belt, and in a position where he could not defend himself. Jimmy Wilson Jr. was killed in cold blood. He gave his life defending me, defending my family and friends, and defending all those who make Omaha their home. I honor him today and all of the other officers whose lives have been taken prematurely and without cause or warning.

When will this senseless killing come to an end? It won't end until we start making the penalty fit the crime and get rid of the antipunishment mentality that exists.

If I have learned anything over the past year in Congress, it's that there are two opposing views on crime in our country. There are those who believe that crime is not necessarily an issue of personal responsibility, but of environment. They tend to believe that the criminal lawyers, liberal jurists, and endless death penalty appeals have been a good development for our criminal justice system. They advocate rehabilitation, lenient sentences and legal loopholes, often in the name of compassion.

Then there are those like myself—those who are sick and tired of criminals preying on our police officers, our families and children. We're tired of our kids being afraid to walk to school alone. We're tired of the illegal drugs that are poisoning our youth and eating away at their futures. We're tired of seeing our prisoners treated better than the working men and women in this country.

If we are to rebuild the American dream, it is here where we must begin. Stone by stone, brick by brick—we must rebuild the foundation of this great Nation to ensure freedom from fear, freedom from drugs, and the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

This isn't a battle that we can win overnight. But, we must begin to rebuild our foundation before it is too late. How many more senseless killings must occur before we realize that our current criminal justice system is not working; before we realize that crimes that go unpunished send a message of tolerance to criminals and do nothing to help our Nation rebuild its foundation; before we realize that leaving criminals in our community fails to protect our citizens and neighborhoods.

We must act now. The sooner we take action the sooner we can make the law of the land actually mean something again.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUGELLO, ITALY, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy, who have provided civic and humanitarian services to their community for the past 20 years.

Established in 1977 in the town of Mugello, nestled in the beautiful hills of Tuscany in Italy. Its members from Firenze, Scaperta, and Borgo San Lorenzo represent business and professional leaders of Tuscany, Italy. They include, physicians, dentists, architects, engineers, high fashion clothing designers, heavy machinery manufacturers, publishers, government officials, cattle ranchers, and businessmen.

This club has established twin-club relationships in France, Greece, and Philadelphia. Through Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Mugello has established scholarship funds for Italian graduate students to study at graduate schools in the United States of America.

This club has close ties to America through Judge Joseph C. Bruno and his wife, Kathie of Philadelphia, U.S.A. Judge Bruno, past governor of Rotary International District 7450, is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of

Mugello and along with his wife, Kathie, visits with the club members every year in Tuscany. He reports that the humanitarian services rendered internationally by the Rotary Club of Mugello, are admired by rotary clubs around the world.

The Rotary Club of Mugello, under the leadership of its President, Paolo Collini, and its incoming President, Alvaro Baglioni, will celebrate 20 years of "Service Above Self" which is the motto of Rotary International.

The following are members of the Rotary Club of Mugello: Agostini Alfredo, Ariani Lamberto, Aspesi Pierangelo, Azzurri Gianfranco, Baglioni Alvaro, Bartolini Riccardo, Berretti Alessandro, Beretti Antonio, Bertetti Luciano, Berti Leonardo, Bettini Franco, Billi Carletto, Borgioli Adriano, Cafulli Felice, Calo Armando, Catini Marino, Cerchiai Umberto, Chelazzi Giovannino, Chini Ferdinando, Collini Paolo, D'Agliana Giancarlo, Diani Pier Francesco, Fiorentini Giorgio, Fronticelli Paolo, Gambi Siro, Grazzini Massimo, Greco Giuseppe, Guandalini Carlo, Guarnieri Giuliano, Lapucci Enrico, Livi Daniele, Lorenz Rudolf, Malhotra Chandra Parkash, Manini Angiolo, Maini Benito, Manneschi Luca, Margheri Mario, Mercatali Luifi, Michienzi Pasquale, Muraro Giovanni, Naldoni Desiderio, Nencetti Mario, Nencetti Roberto, Niccolai Giancarlo, Niccolai Raffaello, Paladini Giuseppe.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE I.A.M.A.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 17, 1997, the Italian American Memorial Association [IAMA] of Long Branch, NJ, will celebrate its Golden Anniversary—50 years of serving the community. As a life-long resident of Long Branch and the son of a World War II vet, I am indeed proud to pay tribute to this great center of civic and social life in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the IAMA was established as a living memorial to Italian-Americans who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, giving their lives in World War II. Its prime purpose is to promote physical fitness, build good character in our youth, and aid in the development of the mind and body through civic, social, recreational, and athletic services in the city of Long Branch.

On April 19, 1947, a certificate of incorporation for the IAMA, drawn up by Attorney Theodore Mirabella, was approved by the New Jersey Secretary of State. Its charter members were Joseph Tomaine, Leon Giordano, Angelo Francese, Philip Tomaine, and Joseph P. Tomaino. Membership was originally limited to men of Italian descent, although the membership has since been opened up to other ethnic groups.

Association meetings were at first held in members' homes, but as the membership grew the organization moved to several different locations until 1953, when the members purchased Temple Beth Miriam on North Bath Avenue. Two years later, a youth baseball league was established by IAMA. But in 1958, disaster struck: the IAMA hall burnt to the