

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 18, 1999 I was unavoidably absent from this chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote 508. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber I would have voted "yea" on vote 508.

I also missed rollcall vote 512 on Tuesday, October 19, 1999. I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this chamber when this vote was cast, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 512.

IN HONOR OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Mexican-American veterans who have served the United States of America in war and peace throughout the course of our nation's history.

Hispanos fought against the British during the American Revolution. In 1779, General Bernardo de Galvez of New Orleans led an army against the British, defeating them in key battles along the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge and Pensacola, Florida. The General's army captured eight British warships and over 5,000 British soldiers. And in 1836, Mexican-Americans fought in the battle for the Lone Star State, Texas. Nine Mexican-Americans died during the Battle of the Alamo.

Historically, over 500,000 Mexican-Americans served during World War II and the Korean War. In the Vietnam War, Mexican-Americans represented 20% of the combat troops, yet were only 10% of the total population of the United States! And in April of 1999, two of the Americans who were captured and held in Kosovo as prisoners of war were Latinos, Sgt. Andrew Ramirez and Spec. Steven Gonzales.

Patriotic, heroic, and loyal to their country, Mexican-Americans have stood united against the enemies who have threatened America's freedom. Colleagues, please join me today in saluting the Mexican-American Veterans who have honored our country with their bravery and dedication.

HONORING ROBERT "RED" McKEON ON RECEIVING THE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert "Red" McKeon on receiving the Firefighter of the Year award from the National Volunteer Fire Council. Red embodies the characteristics which make volunteer firefighters extraordinary public servants.

Red McKeon has been active in the volunteer firefighter community on the local, state, national and international levels for more than fifty years. In 1944, he joined the Occum Volunteer Fire Department in Occum, Connecticut. After serving in a number of positions, he became Chief in 1960. He served in that position for the next thirty four years. This tenure is a testament to Red's leadership skills, innovative practices and commitment to his community. Under Red's leadership, the Occum Volunteer Fire Department achieved a number of "firsts" in the State of Connecticut. Occum was the first department to have two-way radio communication equipment in fire trucks and other vehicles; the first to have a computer in the station which could provide a wide array of training to keep skills sharp; and the first department to have certified firefighters and emergency medical technicians. In 1970, Red established the Occum volunteer ambulance service to ensure that the residents of Occum and the surrounding communities could receive state-of-the-art emergency medical treatment within minutes.

Red has been a pioneer in other areas as well. He has worked for a number of years to develop a pension system for volunteer firefighters. Unlike their career counterparts, our volunteer firefighters do not receive a pension after decades of service to their communities. Red worked to establish a system in the State of Connecticut which allows communities to establish voluntary retirement programs for volunteers. Under Red's plan, communities can provide a small, but extremely crucial, amount of retirement income to men and women who have safeguarded our lives and property for decades. This is another example of Red's commitment to the volunteer firefighters of Connecticut.

Red has also served in a number of state and national volunteer firefighter organizations. He has been a member of the Connecticut State Firemen's Association since 1944 serving as its President between 1977 and 1978 and Treasurer since 1979. He has also participated in a wide array of other state-based organizations, including the Fire Chiefs' Technical Advisory Committee, Emergency Medical Advisory Committee, and the Fire Department Safety Officers Association.

On the national level, Red has been an active member of the National Volunteer Fire Council—the largest volunteer firefighter organization in the country—for many years. Between 1991 and 1994, he served as the Council's President following five years as Second Vice President. As Vice President and President, Red worked on behalf of volunteers across the country to ensure that they received the latest firefighting and emergency medical training and were represented with a united voice at all levels of government. In this capacity, Red was a trusted advisor to Congress and the Executive branch.

Mr. Speaker, Red McKeon exemplifies the very best of volunteer firefighters across this country. Over fifty five years of active service as a volunteer firefighter, Red has worked tirelessly to modernize and strengthen volunteer fire departments in eastern Connecticut and nationwide. I commend him for receiving the Firefighter of the Year award and thank him for his service to Connecticut and the nation.

HONORING DOCTOR VINCENT CALAMIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Vincent Calamia, a shining example of what physicians in this country should aspire to be.

Dr. Vincent Calamia, F.A.C.P., F.A.C.E. is the President of the largest group practice in New York City, University Physicians Group, as well as the Director of Geriatrics at Staten Island University Hospital. He also conducts a private practice in Endocrinology on Staten Island. Dr. Calamia is a Diplomate in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, Geriatrics, and Quality Assurance. In addition, he is Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the State University of New York at Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, one would think with all these responsibilities that Dr. Calamia would not have time for much else in his life, but he makes a generous portion of his time available for medical humanitarian efforts. He serves on the Board of the MSO of the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, Board of the MSO of the Beth Israel Health System, and on the Board of the Alzheimer's Association of Staten Island. Dr. Calamia is also Vice President of the Children's Foundation of the Ukraine, which supports orphanages in the Ukraine. This coming summer with the help of Dr. Eugene Holuka and under the auspices of the Forum Club, the Foundation will be sponsoring the open-heart surgery of two children at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in honoring Dr. Vincent Calamia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 23, 1999, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote 442. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber I would have voted "yea" on this vote.

I also missed rollcall vote 456 on Tuesday, September 28, 1999. I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this chamber when this vote was cast, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 456.

IN HONOR OF PLAST, UKRAINIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Cleveland chapter of PLAST, Ukrainian American Youth Organization on their fiftieth anniversary. I am honored to attend the commemorative event celebrating this momentous occasion on December 5, 1999.

PLAST was founded in Ukraine in 1911. Because of the Soviet Union's rule over Ukraine after World War II, PLAST was eradicated from its native land. Post-World War II immigrants brought their Ukrainian ancestry with them to the free world and build up PLAST wherever they settled. The city of Cleveland was fortunate to have a chapter of PLAST develop and flourish in the area.

Now, three generations later, PLAST is still nurturing its youth in the Greater Cleveland area. The organization is dedicated to developing character, citizenship, and ethnic pride. They also share a profound love of nature and express this through their many services around the community. As important as anything, PLAST also values and teaches leadership qualities among American youth of Ukrainian ancestry. The honor and integrity the youth are developing through PLAST will stay with them throughout their life as they become the leaders of our community.

I urge my fellow colleagues to please join me in recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of such an honorable organization as the Cleveland chapter of PLAST, Ukrainian American Youth Organization and wish them many more years of growth and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to vote on the following measures:

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 505;

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 506;

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 507; and

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 508.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to cast my vote on the following measures:

On rollcall vote 550 I would have voted "yea";

Also on rollcall vote 551 I would have voted "yea"; and

Lastly on rollcall vote 552, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF SMART KIDS—SAFE KIDS ACT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a crucial piece of legislation designed to prevent abuse and abduction of our nation's children.

As the mother of an eight-year-old, I know all too well the efforts we go through as parents to keep our children safe and protected. We worry about the times children may be unsupervised or find themselves in unfamiliar situations.

In my district, there is a civic group called Smart Kids—Safe Kids that works to educate our children about the signs of abuse and who to talk to about abuse. Schools and community groups are trying to fight back against the horrors of child abuse and abduction, but unfortunately, they just do not have the resources they need to do so effectively.

The Smart Kids—Safe Kids Act, which I am introducing with my Republican colleague KEVIN BRADY, will make specific child safety programs eligible for federal grants already available to school based organizations. These programs will teach students from preschool through grade 12 the skills to identify and cope with potentially dangerous and threatening situations. And it gives students guidance to encourage them to seek advice for anxiety, threats of abuse and actual abuse.

When our children know the rules, they are smart kids; and Smart Kids can be Safe kids.

INTRODUCTION OF SMART KIDS—SAFE KIDS ACT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that over 30 members will join Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER and myself in introducing the Smart Kids—Safe Kids Act. This bipartisan legislation is designed to help prevent the abuse and abduction of children.

In every city in every congressional district across the nation, our children are being led into harms way. While a majority of child abductions are by non-custodial parents, many are not. And helping prevent these kind of tragedies from occurring in the future is something we should all work towards. Unfortunately, this is a threat that knows no boundaries and can happen anytime.

For example, on September 12, 1995, in Conroe, Texas, 12-year-old Samuel McKay Everett was lured from home by a family friend on the pretext that his mother and father had been in an awful accident. McKay was then forced into the trunk of a car and driven 300 miles to Louisiana. Tragically, McKay was brutally murdered. Since the time of McKay's abduction, I have worked with his family and friends to help prevent this type of tragedy from happening again.

Smart Kids/Safe Kids will amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to help make specific safety programs available to our children. It will authorize grants for age-appropriate, developmentally based, or community oriented safety programs for all students, from preschool level through grade 12, that address prevention and education of child abuse and abduction. These programs will focus on teaching students the skills to identify and cope with potentially dangerous and threatening situations. They will also provide guidance to students that encourages them to seek advice for anxiety, threats of abuse, or actual abuse and to confide in a trusted adult regarding an uncomfortable or threatening situation.

We can arm our children with effective tools to avoid potentially dangerous situations. When our children know the rules, they are

smart kids; and Smart Kids can be Safe Kids. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TUN PETE PANGELINAN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pedro Muna Pangelinan, better known as Tun Pete of Yona, Guam. Tun Pete passed away on October 25, 1999 at the age of 86. During his life time, he experienced many events in Guam's history and he served his island community and family in ways which bring honor and dignity to the name Tun Pete.

Tun Pete lived a simple existence which was steeped in his personal pride in the Chamorro way of life. He understood that being Chamorro was not a slogan or just a matter of personal identity, but was part of a long cultural tradition which needed to be nurtured, practiced and passed on to future generations. During the course of his life, he became a master trapmaker, accomplished and creative weaver and a cultural teacher of the generations which came after him. While the younger people were more schooled, Tun Pete demonstrated that he was much wiser and more knowledgeable about many important things in life.

Tun Pete became a legend in Guam through his ability to make bamboo traps for shrimp in Guam's rivers and streams and through his creative application of coconut leaf weaving techniques passed down in Guam for generations. Tun Pete took the craft of weaving to new creative expressions as he made baskets for Easter egg hunts, center pieces and chandeliers for christenings and weddings. He even made them for the occasional political event for candidates he felt close to and I am especially grateful and honored for the courtesies he extended to me.

Tun Pete's abilities were eventually recognized by the people of Guam and he became a teacher in the Chamorro Language and Culture program and demonstrated his talents to students at the Guam Community College and the University of Guam. The expertise and talent of this quiet, unassuming gentleman who worked as a custodian at M.U. Lujan Elementary School finally received the acclamation he so richly deserved. He received the Governor's Art Award in 1992 for life time achievement and he wove all of the hats used by the Guam Governor's Youth Band in President Carter's inaugural parade in 1977.

Tun Pete also became recognized as a leader for our manamko's (senior citizens) in Guam. He participated in community meetings, spoke out for justice for Guam's World War II generation, spoke out for fairness and respect for the manamko'. He was elected Rai (king) of the May 1994 celebration of Senior Citizen's month in recognition of his popularity and advocacy.

The island of Guam, the people of Yona, my family will all miss Tun Pete enormously. He demonstrated that personal dignity can overcome handicaps in life that few of us will ever have to deal with. He was a personal inspiration to me, my wife Lorraine and to countless children in Guam.