

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.

Tun Pete leaves behind his children and their spouses, Antonia Pangelinan Taitano, Pedro Taitano and Teresita Pangeliman, Priscilla and Pedro Santos, Theophelia and Jesus Camacho, Joaquin and Julie Pangelinan. Si Yu'os ma'ase' Tun Pete put todo I che'cho'mu. (Thank you Tun Pete for all of your work.)

TRIBUTE TO AL ZANE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of my very good friend, Alexander Zane. Al has had a distinguished career spanning twenty-five years and thirteen diverse career assignments with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). I am proud to say that one of those assignments was in my congressional office where Al worked with the same dedication and professionalism for which he is well known and respected.

Al Zane came to my office in July, 1995 when I took the helm of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD). As a seasoned professional, Al dove right in to investigating allegations of fraud at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which was no easy task. He served on my staff until February, 1997 and made contributions that are now being felt in communities across the United States. In addition to his professionalism, Al's ready smile, easy laugh and sincere friendship endeared him to my staff and made him a pleasure to work with. Truly, my staff and I were all sorry when Al's detail to our office was concluded.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing my gratitude to Alexander Zane for his dedicated service and wishing he, his wife, Mary, and family the very best in the years to come.

LUZ BENAVIDES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Luz Benavides of Corpus

Christi, Texas, who has just been awarded the Vida De Oro (Life of Gold) Award, bestowed by the American Association of Retired People (AARP) to recognize those who offer their time and services for the needs of the community.

I have known Luz Benavides for my entire adult life and she is the model of someone who lives a life of gold. She is one of three people who will be honored Saturday night at the Omni Bayfront in Corpus Christi for making major contributions to the senior community by virtue of her everyday hard work, nearly always out of the limelight.

Luz is 86 years old and a familiar face in the Coastal Bend of Texas, for she is involved in a host of activities, including the Nueces County Senior Citizens organization, the local AARP chapter, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Senior Community Services, lobbying for issues about which she is passionate, and always helping her neighbors in need.

Luz embodies the powerful instruction of Christianity by visiting the sick and helping the needy. She also works with the Salvation Army, helping the homeless people in the Corpus Christi area, helping them find shelter in the winter months.

She is a political activist, working tirelessly in issue-related campaigns at all levels and on issues that matter to her and which affect all of us. She speaks mostly to issues that affect the elderly, the disabled and the neglected. Recently, she has lent her voice to the nursing home reform campaign in Texas.

She's never owned or operated a car, which is a tricky business in a sprawling city like Corpus Christi. Interestingly, she has never let that be an obstacle to the good deeds she does for the people she helps on a daily basis. When my mother died, Luz found a way to get from Corpus Christi to Robstown, my hometown nearby, to be with me for the funeral.

One of the most important things she does is to encourage people to vote and to participate in our democracy. She admonishes people that, "Su voto es su voz," your vote is your voice. There is no greater gift in our democracy and Luz knows that. She will stay at the polls the entire day on election day. That is all the more incredible knowing that she remains on post from the time the polls open until the time they close. She stands the whole time, and unless someone brings her food, she doesn't eat.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing a beautiful person who is being honored for the everyday work she does for the Coastal Bend community, Luz Benavides.

TRIBUTE TO KING BURSTEIN

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 70th birthday of a fine American, true friend, and outstanding community activist: Mr. King Burstein. King was born on November 10, 1929 in Malden, Massachusetts. Upon graduating from the University of California at Los Angeles, King began working with his father and his brother in a leather findings business.

In 1961, King was married, and in the next few years, he and his wife Lee became parents of two fine sons. In the 1970s, King—along with his brother—relocated the family leather business to Orange County.

King, together with Lee, has long been involved in community affairs and both national and local political issues. From his city council to the White House, King actively participates in the self-government that is the essence of our democracy. He has an admirable passion for doing what is right, and never hesitates to give time and resources when needed.

King and Lee have also been very involved with their temple, Temple Bat Yahn. King in particular is a leader in promoting education on key public policy issues both for members of his temple and for elected officials. He is extraordinarily well-read, and always informed about the significant issues of the day.

I am not alone among my colleagues here in the chamber in calling King Burstein a good personal friend. Those of you who do not know King personally will nonetheless recognize in him the same outstanding qualities that characterize that rare individual among your own constituents who is a true national leader. In recognition of his contributions to our country, to his community, and to his family, I know you will all join me in wishing King a very happy and prosperous 70th birthday, and many more to come.