

Plaques from organizations which had benefited from his midas touch.

We watched with admiration as Pope John Paul II thanked him for efforts on behalf of the people of Poland. Our hearts swelled as he was made a Knight of Malta, the highest honor the Catholic Church can bestow upon a lay person. His most treasured accolades were presented by the Italian government: Cavaliere della Repubblica D'Italia and the Cavaliere Officiale.

He was the first Italian American to receive the State of Israel Award, presented in recognition of his contributions to the brotherhood of nationalities. He also received the John F. Kennedy Library for Minorities Award, the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award, the Boys' Towns of Italy Humanitarian Award, and the National American Committee on Italian Migration Award. One of his final accolades—the Ellis Island medal of honor—was a fitting cap on his remarkable life. Given to Americans of ethnic origin who exemplify the ideals of our melting pot society, the Medal of Honor brought closure to a life spent living the American dream.

There is an old Italian proverb: Chi fa buona vita, fa buona morte. He who lives well, dies well. A good life makes a good death. Few people ever squeezed more life out of their time on this Earth than did my father. He was a Renaissance Man in the truest sense of the word. When he was taking pictures, he was an artist. When he was acting in films, he was an entertainer. When he fought for Italian American causes, he was a leader. Most importantly, to his family, he was a provider.

"His four girls"—he called us. "Ace and his four queens"—his friends would joke. Through all the years, his love and complete devotion to his family were his most admirable qualities. He lost both of his parents at a very young age. He grew up without the strong bond of a family. Somehow, he instinctively recognized the importance of family and his life became a testament to the limitless boundaries of a man's love for his family. I realize now the priceless gifts he has given me. Not only my appreciation for my culture and heritage, but also for the sanctity of family.

My father's love for "his four girls" was boundless and we knew we'd never want for anything while he watched over us. He regarded his grandchildren as gifts from God, beautiful children able to carry on his legacy long after he left this life. But if it is possible for one man to love someone even more than my father loved any of us, I believe his feelings for his wife would qualify. In "Paradiso", Dante described his love for Beatrice as a love that moved the sun and the stars. Ace and Josie had this kind of love. As you all know, he was at times a gruff man. And, he has even been known to raise his voice from time to time in order to make a point. But you should have seen the tenderness he displayed towards Josie in the quiet times. When they were alone, away from the spotlight, away from the responsibilities and the pressures. While fifty-five years is certainly a long time to spend with someone, I'm sure Ace would forego an eternity of Heavenly bliss for one more moment with his beloved Josephine. I hope each of you one day experiences the kind of love we each received for a lifetime from our father.

And he dreamed,

and beheld a ladder set up on the earth,
and the top of it reached to heaven;
and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

I see this ladder going to Heaven. I see my father, not as he has been these past two years, crippled and betrayed by a broken body. I see him as he was while we were all

growing up. A man of boundless energy, enthusiasm and exuberance.

We see him as he rises up that ladder to see what's happening on the other side. I see my father photographing everyone from presidents and heads of state to athletes and entertainers. I see him laughing with his celebrity pals as he gave them a copy of the paper and set up another photo. When he saw an opportunity, he pursued it with uncommon zeal. Rarely did he ever miss a photo he wanted. My sisters and I used to tease him by saying that the only person he hadn't photographed was Jesus Christ. Well . . . by now I'm sure he's snapped Jesus, the Apostles . . . probably the entire Holy Family.

Now, with our blessings and prayers, may he rest in peace.

Good night, Daddy. Sleep well.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, in May of this year, I was proud to speak in support of Representative SMITH's bill to monitor and eliminate sex trafficking here in the U.S. and abroad. After an arduous six year struggle to address the problem of sex industries worldwide with my own bill, I was pleased to see Rep. SMITH's bill pass with strong bipartisan support.

As a result of this successful effort, the U.S. is now in a position to put pressure on other nations to adopt policies that will eradicate sex trafficking practices inside and between their borders. We are also in a position to prosecute and punish the traffickers themselves and thereby put an end to coordinated kidnapping and prostitution rings.

In the wake of this victory, however, there is still a great deal of work to be done. Over the past six years, it has become abundantly clear to me that the phenomenon of trafficking of women and children will never be fully eliminated until we develop safe shelters, psychological services and reintegration programs for returning sex trafficking victims. This amendment, offered by Rep. BERNIE SANDERS, strives to respond to this growing problem by granting assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who provide shelter and reintegration assistance to women and children victims of international trafficking.

Today, in many countries of transit or destination where victims are found, there is an immediate need for temporary and safe shelter, medical and psychological services, access to translators and appropriate NGO consultations and assistance. But the resources are limited or in some cases, nonexistent.

When there is no shelter available for these victims, governments will often place the victim in detention with criminals and then imme-

diately deport her the next day. The need to deport victims immediately due to the lack of shelter thereby increases the risk that the victim will return to trafficking or a dangerous situation back home. Returning these individuals to a threatening environment is a crime in and of itself, not to mention counterproductive and psychologically damaging to the victim.

Another challenge we face is how to effectively reintegrate victims into their families and community structures after being trafficked abroad. For many victims, they return home with the stigma of prostitution or suffer with HIV/AIDS—only to be rejected by their families and communities. In the worst case scenarios, traffickers anticipate this rejection and attempt to retraffic these victims at the border.

To prevent these repeat offenses and to provide victims with a fighting chance to improve their lives, I rise in strong support of the Sanders-Smith amendment. If approved, this amendment will provide international NGOs with a \$2.5 million increase to ensure that victims escape the trafficking world for good.

A TRIBUTE TO ARMANDO AND BETTY RODRIGUEZ ON THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Armando and Betty Rodriguez of Fresno, CA, who are this weekend celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. As life-long residents of Fresno and active participants in the community, Armando and Betty have had a tremendous impact on their friends, neighbors and fellow community members over the past 50 years, and have demonstrated a loving devotion to one another that make their successful marriage an inspiring example.

Betty and Armando Rodriguez were both born in Fresno and were high school sweethearts at Edison High School, where they graduated in 1947. They were married on July 15, 1950 and 2 years later, Armando joined the U.S. Air Force, serving for 4 years including a tour of duty in Korea. After being discharged, Armando reunited with Betty in Fresno and completed his undergraduate degree. After being accepted to Lincoln University School of Law in San Francisco, Armando began his legal studies while Betty supported both of them by working in a number of part time jobs.

Armando's deep commitment to serving the public interest through the legal system was demonstrated immediately after he passed the bar exam and returned to California's Central Valley to help establish the California Rural Legal Assistance office in Madera. His commitment to public service has been the hallmark of his career, having served as an elected member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors from 1972 to 1975, and on the bench as a Fresno Municipal Court judge for 20 years, from 1975 to 1995.

Though he officially retired from the bench in 1995, Armando continues to serve in his capacity as a judge when called upon. He has also been actively involved in the Fresno

Torreon Sister Cities program, Arte Americas, Fresno Metropolitan Rotary, and previously served as the state president of the Mexican American Political Association.

Betty Rodriguez has also been active in a number of community organizations, helping to found the League of Mexican American Women, and participating in Ladies Aid to Retarded Citizens, the League of Women Voters, the Mexican-American Political Association, Friends of the Library, and countless other organizations. Despite her many commitments to the community, she has also been a devoted caretaker of the Rodriguez home throughout their 50 years of marriage and has been the behind the scenes leader keeping the family very close.

The key to Armando and Betty's 50 years together has been their undiminished love for each other and for those around them, and their shared and deep desire to contribute to the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Armando and Betty Rodriguez on celebrating their 50th year of marriage, and expressing our hope that they are blessed with many more joyous years together.

COMMENDATION OF MARIO CRUZ

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mario Cruz, a Victorville High School student, for his numerous and laudable achievements.

Mario's commitment to education is demonstrated by his perfect attendance record and excellent grades. His ability to excel in school is made all the more impressive when one takes into account the exclusive attention he gives to his home duties, while additionally helping to support himself through work and occupational training.

Despite losing both of his parents at a young age, Mario has remained positive in nature and dedicated to building a prosperous personal and community life. Mario's overwhelming triumph over difficult and challenging circumstances is both moving and inspiring.

Mario's long list of educational accomplishments include attaining excellent grades, being in the top 5% of his class, achieving perfect attendance, serving as a Junior Class Officer and Key Club Officer, attending after school occupational training, and summer school classes for extra credit.

Mario's decision to remain alcohol, tobacco, drug and gang free and his incalculable future potential serve as an invaluable and exemplary model of dedication, honesty, determination, strength of character and success for his community and peers.

Respected and well-liked by all teachers and peers alike, Mario Cruz embodies the finest qualities of America's youth.

Mario has also been fortunate enough to have the unwavering support of a group of Diamond Bar, Pomona, and Victorville residents and community leaders including Dr. Joseph Eiswert, D.M.D., who operates the Smilemakers dental practice; Christine Briggs,

the Executive Director for, United Way; Felix and Margaret Diaz; Lyle Henry; Mel Friedland, Esq.; Dorothy Harper, Esq.; John Clifford, Esq.; Marta Melendez of Catholic Charities; Sister Sharon Becker, Vice President, at St. Mary's Medical Center; Rhonda Morken, the Executive Director of One 2 One Mentors; Ronald Wilson, Chairman, President, and CEO of Desert Community Bank, DCB; Peter Schmidt, Vice President of UmLab; Eddie Cortez, Mayor of Pomona, Mike Radlovic 41st. Congressional District Bush Campaign, GOP Chair, and Lincoln Club President; Edda Gahm Diamond Bar Republican Woman's Club, Bush Campaign Chair; Diamond Bar Councilman Robert Huff; Carolyn Elfelt and Dr. York Lee, Walnut Valley Unified School District Board Members; Nancy J. Mc Cracken, Brenda Phyllis Engdahl, Pomona Unified School District; Nick Anis, Diamond Bar Sister City, President; Patricia Anis, Vice Chair Diamond Bar Parks and Recreation Commission; Gil Villavicencio, Owner, Whole Enchilada restaurant chain; and others.

These individuals have pledged their support for "Project Mario," an effort aimed at helping this promising high school junior complete his secondary education and continue on at a four-year college.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Mario Cruz and extend to him this much deserved recognition for his courage of both heart and mind.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR TERESA P. HUGHES

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to California State Senator Teresa P. Hughes, who is retiring at the end of this year concluding more than a quarter of century in distinguished public service to the citizens of California. During her illustrious career in the California Assembly and Senate, Teresa Hughes has authored and/or co-authored hundreds of important legislative initiatives resulting in improved standards of living for the citizens of our great State. I am, therefore, proud to publicly commend her for her exemplary service and to share this retrospective of her exceptional career with my colleagues.

A native of New York City, Teresa Hughes received her bachelor of science in Physiology and Public Health and completed her graduate work in Sociology at Hunter College. She holds a master of arts in education administration from New York University, and earned a Ph.D. in education administration from the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, CA. She is married to physician Dr. Frank E. Staggers, and is the proud mother of attorney Vincent Hughes and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Deirdre Hughes.

Dr. Teresa Hughes was elected to the California State Assembly in a special election on June 17, 1975. Over the next 17 years she authored numerous legislative initiatives, including measures establishing the Hughes Earthquake Safety Act of 1987; the Hughes-Hart Education Reform Act of 1983; and the Conflict Resolution and School Violence Re-

duction Program. In addition, she successfully fought for increased funding for research grants into the causes of Lupus and high blood pressure, diseases that disproportionately impact the African-American community.

Owing largely to her keen leadership skills and legislative acumen, while serving in the Assembly she was selected by her peers to Chair the Committees on Education; Human Services; and Housing and Community Development. She served as the first chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, as well as the California Women Legislators Caucus.

In recognition of her distinguished contributions to public education, in 1988 the Los Angeles Unified School District honored then-Assemblywoman Hughes by renaming an elementary school in her name in the city of Cudahy, CA. The "Teresa Hughes Elementary School," thus stands as a fitting legacy to her longtime, public and personal commitment to ensuring quality education for California's school children.

For the past 6 years, State Senator Hughes has continued her strong advocacy for the citizens of California. Currently, she is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Employment and Retirement, and is a member of the Committees on Appropriations; Education; Energy, Utilities, and Communications; Government Organization; Health and Human Services; and Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 25 years, Teresa Hughes has selflessly committed herself to improving the human condition for the people of the great state of California. She has carved out an enviable legislative record, and leaves a legacy for every young person to emulate who aspires to a career in public service. I am proud to call her my friend and to single her out for this special recognition here today.

I have no doubt that she will continue to make contributions to our society, even as she prepares to set sail on a new course. On behalf of the citizens of my congressional district, I want to thank her for her service. I wish her and Frank, a future that is rich with good health and good fortune.

INS SHOULD NOT DEPORT THE MART FAMILY TO ROMANIA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a family that I have come to know very well in my time in Congress.

Julian and Veronica Mart and their children Paul and Adelina fled their homeland of Romania in the turmoil surrounding the downfall of communism. They came to the United States, like so many others before them, seeking its promise, and fleeing from a country where the freedom we cherish was unknown. They fled tyranny and persecution and wanted nothing more than to live out the American dream, to make a better life for themselves and their children.

When they entered America, Lady Liberty welcomed them to our shores—but the INS did not. The INS has done everything in its considerable powers to deny the Marts the opportunity to live the American dream. The INS