

an organization that strives to maintain the links established by more than two centuries of former Danish rule. He and his wife also joined the Landmark Society, which preserves and promotes the various influences of our unique architecture that has developed over the centuries, and our local cultural traditions. He was also a member of the Virgin Islands Lung Association and the St. George's Botanical Garden.

Dr. and Mrs. Galiber collected many local artists' paintings. Some works they commissioned were the product of intense collaborations between Dr. Galiber, Sr., and the artists. He insisted that the images synthesized on canvas authentically portray our past. Leo Carty's "Good Day Ladies" acrylic, with the significant conceptual influences of Dr. Galiber, was selected by the United States Census Bureau as the poster representing minority art for the U.S. Virgin Islands. This was a work-in-progress when the Galibers became enamored with its historical vista and gave it the unofficial title, "Mr. Collins". Dr. Galiber's suggestions influenced Mr. Carty to change and/or include a few features so the painting would more accurately reflect the people and events of the time. Dr. Galiber was the recipient of many honors. He was the Virgin Islands Medical Society's Distinguished Physician in 1986 and an American Cancer Society's Honoree in 1999.

On June 9th of this year, the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center conducted a dedication ceremony of the Andre A. Galiber, Sr., FACR, Radiology and Cardiovascular Laboratory Suite. The unit was dedicated in honor of his significant contributions to diagnostic imaging. Some of his peers recognized that he single-handedly established the Radiology Departments at the Charles Harwood and Juan Luis Hospitals and that due to him, the hospitals will soon have MRI capabilities. His legendary diagnostic skills were praised and appreciation was shown for the tireless work he performed in other hospital areas.

Dr. Galiber, Sr., encouraged his children to follow in his footsteps of educational and professional excellence. His oldest child, Lorraine Gundel, served for years as a Virgin Islands educator. His sons have taken up the mantle of his commitment to providing the best in medical services to the Virgin Islands community. He and his namesake and fellow radiologist, Andre Jr., excelled at golf and were the winners of several tournaments. Son, Angelo, like Andre Jr., is a board-certified radiologist. Angelo is president of Imaging Center, PC, a position that Andre Sr., previously held. Angelo is the 1983 Franklin Chambers McLean Scholar (given each year to the highest ranking U.S. minority medical student). Dante is a board certified fellow of the American College of Cardiology. The youngest son, Marcel is a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer/Vascular Technologist and the business manager of the Imaging Center. His daughter Lisa has modeled internationally and has worked in broadcasting. Youngest daughter, Cecile, was a bank senior vice-president. She now heads the Financial Trust Company in St. Thomas and is a licensed realtor.

His wife of forty-four years, Edith Lewis Galiber, is a retired Director of Public Health Nursing in St. Croix. She has been his loving and devoted partner in all that he has achieved and in building the legacy which he leaves.

Dr. Andre Galiber's death on September 24, 2000, ended an illustrious life and work, but the contributions to his community, its culture and the field of Radiology live on.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Dr. Andre A. Galiber for his dedicated service to his country, his profession and the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I thank his wife Edith, their six children and sixteen grandchildren, for sharing him with us.

#### CONGRATULATING REV. DR. CLAY EVANS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to one of the nation's most dynamic, colorful, well-known, influential and eminent religious leaders in America. One who is of humble origin and yet has been able to influence public decision making, develop programs and activities of enormous impact and to provide motivation, inspiration, spiritual consultation and consolation to millions.

For more than fifty years, Rev. Clay Evans has been the founder, pastor and guiding light for development of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. The ship as it is affectionately known has been a haven for Civil Rights, a home for aspiring clergymen-women, and a place to be for those who wanted to feel the spirit.

Fellowship has been a platform for notables of every color, stripe or hue. It has been a church home for Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and a training ground for renowned clergy and musicians. Of all the decisions made by Rev. Evans over the past fifty years has been the decision to guide the parishioners in the selection of a new pastor so there is an orderly, peaceful and efficient leadership transition.

I commend you, Rev. Evans for your ability to motivate and inspire and for the wisdom of understanding continuity. As you retire from active pastorship, may the Good Lord continue to bless and keep you and may he grant you peace as you enjoy the Golden Years of your life.

#### WILLIAM DAVERN LEAVES A MARCHING BAND LEGACY TO BE CONTINUED

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2001 a Gala Surprise Party will be held to honor the accomplishments of the West Genesee "Wildcat" Marching Band Director William Davern. Bill Davern will retire from this extracurricular activity following 16 years of dedication, hard work and many successes. He will continue to work as a teacher at West Genesee High School in Camillus, New York.

Bill Davern's involvement with the "Wildcat" Marching Band began in 1975 when he participated as a band member from 1975-78.

The West Genesee Marching Band has long since established itself as one of the premiere High School Marching Bands in the country. For the past 27 years the band has sustained a level of excellence few marching bands ever achieve in a single season.

As band director for the past 11 years, Bill Davern continued the "Wildcat" tradition of greatness, elevating it to new heights. Prior to becoming Band Director in 1989, he worked as a band instructor since 1984. He leaves the "Wildcats" with 12 straight New York State Band Championships, four National Field Band Championships, a National Parade Championship and a plethora of other victories.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Bill Davern and the West Genesee Marching Band for their many accomplishments. The "Wildcat" Band has had an outstanding record for the past 27 years. Under the direction of Bill Davern, the band has set precedents in the history of the New York State Field Band Conference. His talent will be sorely missed by current and past band members, parents and school in this capacity.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an important organization from my district that celebrated its 95th year of fraternal service on Sunday, November 12, 2000 because of its many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that this group is honored, for it has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

This year marks the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, a fraternal benefit organization with headquarters in Passaic, New Jersey. It was founded on July 4, 1905 by a group of 48 Slovak immigrants. The organization has grown over the past nine and a half decades and now includes nearly 35,000 members with assets of \$52 million.

As a well-known gymnastic and athletic organization of American Catholics of Slovak ancestry, the Sokol places great emphasis on the growth and development of its youth. Various athletic contests on the local, district and national levels are held. The Sokol hosts international tournaments in basketball, volleyball, bowling, softball and golf. In addition, a biennial international track and field competition known as "Slet" is held at various locations across the United States and Canada. Next year, the Sokol will host its 40th Slet at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

Concern for higher education among its youth is another priority. To date, nearly \$800,000 in scholarship grants have assisted members in the quest for higher education. This year, a total of 86 deserving members received grants on the grade school, high school, and university levels.

In keeping with its emphasis on fraternal benevolence, the Sokol generously supports various religious institutions, churches and centers promoting a greater appreciation for the

Slovak heritage as it enriches our American way of life. In keeping with its interest in promoting greater awareness of Slovak culture, it provides regular opportunity for its youth to participate in cultural festivals in Slovakia.

Since 1905, the Sokol has maintained its national headquarters in downtown Passaic. Since 1911 it has published a weekly publication, the Slovak Catholic Falcon. This tabloid, 16-page, bi-lingual publication is mailed to more than 11,000 households throughout the United States, Canada and other nations. This means of communication among the membership provides an excellent opportunity for the members to keep abreast of activities sponsored by the Sokol and to gain a better knowledge of the rich cultural heritage the membership shares.

At the present time, the Sokol has 155 local lodges in 14 states and the province of Ontario in Canada. The Sokol actively promotes various volunteer efforts. It gives strong support to the work of Habitat for Humanity and encourages its members to participate actively in various local community projects including blood drives, tutorial programs for youth, supporting food bands and service to home bound and institution-bound individuals.

Current national officers include the Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Beeda, Supreme Chaplain, Sue Ann M. Seich, Supreme President, Steven M. Pogorelec, Supreme Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, John D. Pogorelec, General Council, Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor, George We. Hizny, Supreme Treasurer, Michael J. Pjontek, Jr., Supreme First Vice President, Albert J. Suess, Supreme Second Vice President, Larry M. Glugosh, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, and Carol Ann Wallace, Chairperson on Supreme Officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. In addition, congratulations are due to the entire membership of the Slovak Catholic Sokol as it observes its nine and a half decades of service in the best traditions of the fraternal benefit system. This special organization will be celebrating its centennial and beyond. In the words of the Sokol, Zdar Boh!

#### CLOSING THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR REACTOR

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today Ukraine took a historic step—closing the Chernobyl nuclear reactor for all time. I welcome this critical step, writing a final chapter to one of mankind's most ominous events. The explosion of the flawed, Soviet-designed nuclear power station in 1986 was a dramatic warning to all of us of the frightening potential for disaster in this nuclear age. It served to underline the cold reality that precise design, continuous careful maintenance and a dedication to safety are essential if we are to avoid nuclear catastrophe.

Ukraine's President, Leonid Kuchma, incurred a substantial political risk with his own people when he negotiated with the European

Union and the United States to close the station in exchange for financial pledges to assist in completing two modern nuclear power plants designed to Western standards to replace the lost power production. Even in its damaged condition, Chernobyl is believed to provide approximately 5% of Ukraine's total power production. One of Chernobyl's four graphite reactors was undamaged and has continued to produce power for Ukraine's consumers.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the Chernobyl power source lost—it will be at least a year before either of the two new reactors now under construction comes on line. In the meantime, 16,000 jobs at the Chernobyl station will be lost, although a few hundred workers will remain in order to deal with the high-risk construction of a permanent housing for the damaged, highly radioactive unit. The new city of Slavutich, built with considerable U.S. assistance to provide safe housing for Chernobyl's work force, will be heavily impacted by the shutdown.

In Ukraine there has been criticism of President Kuchma for “knuckling under to the West” and for the hardships the Ukraine people will have to shoulder as the energy supply is reduced and jobs are lost. The obvious benefit to Ukraine and all of mankind by placing their very dangerous reactor in “deep-freeze” seems abstract and distant to the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, today's decision to close Chernobyl is but the latest courageous action by the government of Ukraine in facing up to the nuclear dangers to civilization. Rarely acknowledged publicly, the newly independent Ukraine joined with the United States and Russia in a dramatic partnership to reduce the danger and threat of nuclear warheads to all of us. Ukraine, in cooperation with the United States, has completely rid its soil of the nuclear warhead inventory from Soviet days—decommissioning weapons on its soil and shipping them to Russia to joint U.S.-Russian controlled facilities for destruction under strict controls.

Mr. Speaker, the world today is safer from nuclear accidents because of Ukraine's leadership, cooperation and sacrifices. I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting President Kuchma for this latest important step.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JUNE L. HARRIS

**HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service that June L. Harris has provided the House for the past 21 years. June, like myself, is retiring at the end of this Congress, and I want to thank her for her many years of service to me and our institution.

June came to work for me in 1979. She has spent nearly her entire career here in Congress working on educational issues, specifically ensuring that educational opportunity exists for the most vulnerable in our society. June has worked in both my personal office and on my Education and the Workforce Committee staff, where she presently serves as Education Coordinator. Prior to her Capitol Hill career, June was a teacher in the Baltimore

public schools and the head of a department in a junior high school. June has also earned a Ph.D from the University of Maryland, showing evidence of her own personal pursuit of excellence.

June has always fought to make sure all Americans have the opportunity to succeed. She has represented me well by helping open the doors of educational and economic opportunity for our most disadvantaged citizens. June has always stood for what was right and never compromised her principles. She has provided me with 21 years of invaluable service that has improved the education of the children of St. Louis and the nation. Today, I want to say thank you for all that she has done and wish her well in her retirement.

#### EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN LAOS AND COMMENDING SENATOR BOB SMITH AND THE U.S. CONGRES- SIONAL FORUM ON LAOS

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to a close, I want to state for the record that I continue to be very troubled about the dreadful situation in Laos and the U.S. Department of State's behavior toward this one-party, Communist regime.

Wisconsin is home to the third largest Hmong and Laotian community in the United States. I am very proud to represent so many of these Americans. Their families and relatives, however, continue to suffer terribly under the current Stalinist regime in Laos.

On October 19, I was pleased to speak once again before the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos, an excellent forum series organized by the Center for Public Policy Analysis. At this forum, I again stressed my concerns about the disappearance of Messrs. Houa Ly and Michael Vang—two Americans who disappeared in Laos last year—and the ineffective handling of the case by our State Department.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank Senator BOB SMITH for placing a hold on the Administration's nominee for a new ambassador to Laos. I strongly supported Senator SMITH's hold as an important tool in the effort to force significant changes in U.S. policy toward Laos—changes I hope will occur under the next Administration.

I would like to submit this recent Washington Times article about our mutual efforts to enhance understanding about the situation in Laos and work for a positive change in U.S. policy.

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 6, 2000]

#### NEW LAOS POLICY URGED

Philip Smith has been trying to press the Clinton administration into adopting a tougher policy against Laos and is hopeful that a senator blocking the appointment of a new U.S. ambassador to the isolated communist nation will help the cause.

Mr. Smith, executive director of the Center for Public Policy Analysis, said he has no personal objections to the nominee, Douglas Alan Hartwick, a career Foreign Service officer.

“But we support the holding up of the nomination in the hope this will produce the