

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in extending both our heartiest congratulations on the 100th birthday of Clarence Grange No. 892, and our sincerest best wishes for continued success as they begin another century of service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, due to an error by the House Tally Clerk, I was incorrectly shown as voting "no" on rollcall No. 103, and "not voting" on rollcall No. 104. I was present during both rollcall votes and during voting for rollcall No. 103, I voted "yes", and during rollcall No. 104, I voted "no."

HONORING DR. SAMI REPISHTI ON HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and congratulate an exemplary constituent of mine, Dr. Sami Repishti, on his seventy-fifth birthday. Throughout his life, Dr. Repishti has been dedicated to fighting human rights violations to which he has been long exposed.

Dr. Repishti was born in Shkoder, Albania in 1925. He and his family were victims of Italian fascist and Nazi terrorism. Despite being arrested and jailed for "pro-American" activities, Dr. Repishti immigrated to the United States in 1962. He continued his college education and eventually received a Doctorate in French in 1977 from the City University of New York and the University of Paris, France. From 1966 to 1991, he taught French and Italian in the Malverne Public School System, serving as District Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages from 1976 to 1991, and from 1976 to 1991 was an adjunct professor at Adelphi University. He retired in 1991 after a dedicated and fruitful teaching career.

After his retirement, Dr. Repishti founded the National Albanian American Council in 1996 and served as its president until 1998. This organization is dedicated to fighting for freedom and human rights for all Albanians. He has testified before the United States Congress several times, and nobly represented the Albanian American community at the White House and Department of State. He has long been a leader of cultural and political activities and is a well-respected member of his community.

Dr. Repishti currently resides in Baldwin, New York with his wife Diane. They have two children: Daron, a physician, and Ava, a lawyer.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to represent such a respectable man, Dr. Repishti's life should serve as an example for all Americans. It is my pleasure and honor, to congratulate Dr. Sami Repishti on his birthday and to sincerely offer him my best wishes.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER EDMUNETTE PACZESNY, HILBERT COLLEGE PRESIDENT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to my longtime friend and colleague, Sister Edmunette Paczesny, who this evening will be formally recognized and honored for her 25 years of service as president of Hilbert College.

I've had the true pleasure of working closely with Sister Edmunette as a Councilman and Supervisor for the Town of Hamburg where Hilbert is located, and during these past 8 years as a Member of this Honorable Body.

Throughout the past 25 years, Sister Edmunette's tenure as president has been distinguished through the expansion from a 2-year to a 4-year institution. She has seen the college grow, with the completion of Franciscan Hall. A year ago, she added an economic crime investigation degree program, which is one of only two such degree programs nationwide.

Sister Edmunette's long-standing affiliation with Hilbert began in 1962, when she served as an instructor in psychology and philosophy and later served as Academic Dean.

In addition to her outstanding commitment to Hilbert, Sister Edmunette has been widely recognized for her tireless efforts and dedicated service to our community. She has received the Liberty Bell Award for the Erie County Bar Association, the Community Service Award from the Southtowns Coalition of Community Service, and was recently named the 1999 Citizen of the Year by the Hamburg Independent Citizens Club.

For the past 44 years, Sister Edmunette has maintained an active membership with the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph. In addition to her religious service, Sister Edmunette is a member and past secretary of the Western New York Consortium of Higher Education and the Rotary Club of Hamburg/Sunrise, a member of the Mirror Board of Mercy/Our Lady of Victory hospitals and on the board of directors of Hopevale, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join the faculty, staff, and administration of Hilbert College, the countless students who have studied at Hilbert, and indeed, all of Western New York in tribute to Sister Edmunette Paczesny. Best wishes to her in her next quarter century at Hilbert.

IN HONOR OF AL GUZMAN, RESPECTED POLICE CHIEF AND LEADER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment in order to express my gratitude and thanks to the Union City, California Chief of Police Al Guzman, who unfortunately will be retiring at the end of June.

Al Guzman came to Union City so that he could fish along the shoreline. Later, as a col-

lege student, Guzman volunteered his time to ride along with the newly founded Union City Police Department. Soon after, he was invited to join the police force as a reserve officer.

In March of 1968, Al Guzman was hired by the Union City Police Department as a full time officer and remained loyal to the force for 33 years. Moreover, he served as the Department's Chief of Police for 13 years. Chief Guzman is a leader in involving the community with police concerns so that conflicts and tensions within the city are solved more efficiently and quickly, ensuring a safe and healthy city.

Coupled with Guzman's loyal service to the police force, he worked closely with school officials and parents to address the needs of students. This resulted in his creation of the School Resource Officers program in Union City and the New Haven Unified School District.

Furthermore, through his leadership and vision, Union City initiated many innovative programs including the Head Start Child Care Center located in the Decoto Park Plaza. Additionally, another achievement of Chief Guzman's is the adoption of the graffiti abatement program and the creation of the Fred Castro Park. Chief Guzman also was a co-founder of the Police Activities League in Union City which is responsible for providing sports for young people as well as sponsoring the Community Health and Science Fair.

Despite all of Al Guzman's extraordinary accomplishments, he is also the first Police Chief in California to involve civilians in the creation of both a Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving program as well as the COPPS officers program. In addition to their creation, under Chief Guzman's leadership, two resource centers were established that housed the COPPS program with community based organizations that provide services for Union City residents. Guzman's COPPS program was recognized by Chiefs Magazine as the model program for California.

Union City recently earned recognition by the National Civic League as an All-American City and also received the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence by the League of California Cities. And all of this was accomplished during the tenure of Chief Guzman.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great community leader and visionary. Chief Al Guzman played an immense role in making Union City a safe and model city for others to follow and respect.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF SGT. CHARLES A. DAVIS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American role model. Sgt. Charles A. DaVis has faithfully served the residents of Eatontown and the State of New Jersey for 25 years. He has diligently performed his duties and has acted in such specialized positions including, Patrolman, Detective, Juvenile Officer, Patrol Sergeant and most recently as the Community Affairs Officer.

As a Juvenile Officer he utilized his college training in Social Sciences and began a Family Crisis Unit in Eatontown, where he spent

many hours with troubled teens and assisted them and their parents in ways to find common bridges over the "generation gap". He spent countless hours in our local public schools, explaining to children about the hazards of illegal drugs and alcohol abuse. He also spent time teaching younger children through such programs as "Danger Stranger" and Halloween Safety.

Most recently he has served as our Community Affairs Officer and has acted as an intermediary to help neighbors resolve their differences before they escalate into courtroom battles. In addition he has initiated a new program entitled The Citizen Police Academy. This program indoctrinates interested citizens in many different aspects of police work and helps them to understand how a police department diversifies itself to address crime, traffic and public service in our town. As you can see, Sgt. DaVis has worked very

hard at advancing the concept of "Community Policing" in Eatontown.

If this isn't enough, Sgt. DaVis initiated the Bicycle Patrol in Eatontown and he is presently regarded as one of the leading training officers in the state of New Jersey for Police Bicycle Patrol. Sgt. DaVis has been an instructor at the Monmouth County police Academy for nearly 20 years. He is a martial arts expert and he instructs police recruits as well as veteran officers in hand to hand defense tactics, use of the police baton, and in the use of martial arts.

All of his specialized efforts have been sandwiched around the normal duties of a uniformed police officer who began his career in 1973 and who has spent the last 12 years as a supervisor. Sgt. DaVis has spent his career serving the people of Central New Jersey and I rise today to honor this stellar career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the floor of the House on Monday, April 3, 2000, on official business and was unable to cast recorded votes on rollcalls 96 and 97.

Had I been present for rollcall 96, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1089, the Mutual Fund Tax Awareness Act, as amended.

Had I been present for rollcall 97, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3591, to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation.