

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COALITION FOR MISSING
ISRAELI SOLDIERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers and its dedicated staff. Since its inception seven years ago, the Coalition has been the driving force behind the international grassroots campaign to return Israel's missing soldiers to their families. The Coalition's efforts, both in the United States and abroad, have jarred the conscience of the international community on behalf of American citizen Zachary Baumel and other missing Israeli soldiers. The single-minded dedication of this organization to assisting these soldiers, who were all but forgotten by the international community, has thrust the issue once again onto the international agenda.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I want to note the successful lobbying efforts of the Coalition for legislation which I introduced in the Congress last year—H.R. 1175, "a bill to Locate and Secure the Release of Zachary Baumel, an American Citizen, and Other Israeli Soldiers Missing in Action." Some one hundred Members of the House joined as cosponsors of this legislation, and ultimately the bill passed with the unanimous support of both the House and Senate. It was signed into law by President Clinton last November. I took this action in order to raise the priority of this issue in American foreign policy and to facilitate a more concerted effort to bring closure on this matter after eighteen frustrating years.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is our closest ally in the region, and some years ago Israel played a major role in securing the release of American hostages being held in Lebanon. Now it is fitting that we repay this debt and take meaningful action on behalf of Israel's missing soldiers. Success in this endeavor can only strengthen American initiatives in the Middle East by creating an atmosphere that can make Middle East peace a reality.

On June 4th of this year, Mr. Speaker, the Coalition is sponsoring "An Evening of Conscience" Dinner in Jerusalem. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Coalition great success at this upcoming event and recognize the leadership and staff of the Coalition for the remarkable work that has been done by Coalition Chairman Daniel Eisen, and the Coalition staff members: Brigitte Silverberg, Reya Eisen, Daniel Ehrlich, Daniel Grisarou, Gittel Davis, Gedalya Gower, and the Coalition's Washington representatives Alyza D. Lewin and Vicki Iseman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, and Ron Arad will soon be home with their families and that the dedicated staff of the Coalition will be able to find other uses for their many talents.

HONORING THE GRAND TRAVERSE
BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIP-
PEWA INDIANS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Michigan resident, and as Co-Chair of the House Congressional Native American Caucus, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to speak on the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. On May 27, the Band will celebrate 20 years of reaffirmed federal recognition.

The Grand Traverse Band has a rich and long history. The Tribe entered into treaties with the United States in 1836 and 1855. These treaties specified land for the Band, but a misinterpretation caused the Band's recognition to be terminated, and it was left without federal assistance. Determined to rectify this error, the Tribe applied for federal recognition under the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, and was denied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It tried again, unsuccessfully in 1943. Such disappointment would have deterred many people, but the members of the Grand Traverse Band were steadfast, and tried once again in 1978, and on May 27, 1980, the Tribe's federal recognition was finally reaffirmed.

In these twenty years, the Grand Traverse Band has served as a strong example of tribal self-determination. It has developed a strong socioeconomic system. It established a solid infrastructure, and provides many governmental services to its members. The Tribe is the county's largest employer and is among the largest employers within a six-county area. Northwest Michigan is a better place because of the Grand Traverse Band.

Last year, the Tribe was honored by Harvard University for providing an outstanding example of tribal governance. The Harvard Project on American Indian and Economic Development noted the Tribe's innovation in crafting a formula for distributing its share of the Michigan Indian Land Claim Settlement Award. I would also like to acknowledge George Bennett, Chairman of the Tribe, and my friend of more than 30 years, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians have enriched many lives with its history and heritage. I consider myself a better person for working alongside the Tribe on many issues and concerns. After a long fight to achieve federal recognition, the Band has much to celebrate with this milestone. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me in congratulating the Grand Traverse Band on 20 years of reaffirmed recognition of their retained sovereignty, and wishing it continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. DENNIS
GILLETTE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Dennis Gillette, who is retiring next month

as Executive Assistant to the President for Special Projects at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA.

It is his second retirement from his second successful career. In his spare time he has managed to hold elective office—he is currently Mayor of the City of Thousand Oaks—and support so many non-profit organizations that it would be impossible to list them all. He also holds a California Teaching Credential and has taught at numerous academies, universities and colleges.

Dennis began his CLU career in 1988, coming on board as Vice President for University Development. He also served as Vice President for Administrative Services/Treasurer prior to his current position. In this post, he is responsible for overseeing several major construction and design projects.

His first career was with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Sheriff. During his 25 years of the Department, he also served on the original Thousand Oaks Police Department and was Chief of Police for the cities of Camarillo and Thousand Oaks.

Not surprisingly, Dennis Gillette has been awarded numerous honors over the years, including being named "Man of the Year" by the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce in 1987, and the Conejo Valley Historical Society's "Don Triunfo" in 1992. He has received commendations from Optimist International and the Optimist clubs in Thousand Oaks and Camarillo. The cities of Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Ventura have honored his commitment to community.

Dennis' wife, Terry, is an English teacher for the Conejo Valley Unified School District. They have two daughters, Kristine and Lisa. In 1983, the Gillettes were named the Conejo Valley Family of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in wishing Dennis and his family the best on the occasion and his second retirement, and Godspeed for whatever new endeavors he may decide to undertake.

HONORING PARKCHESTER CHORUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we have something to sing about: The Parkchester Chorus is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. This wonderful group performed its first spring concert in 1940. It was founded by residents of the Parkchester housing complex and is the oldest choral group in the Bronx. Over the years the group has expanded from out of the Parkchester community and now draws its members from as far as New Jersey and Connecticut. But it still reflects its roots in the Bronx as a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, non-sectarian choral group.

The Parkchester Chorus is a vital part of the cultural life of the Bronx. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chorus and its members for their valuable contributions to our lives and their gift of music to our parents, to us and to future generations. I offer them three musical cheers.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
LUKE M. TWAREK ON HIS AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Luke M. Twarek of Marblehead, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, Luke's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Luke brings an outstanding mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While attending Danbury High School, Luke has attained a grade point average of 4.055, which places him first in his class of forty-six students. Luke is a member of the National Honor Society and is an Honor Roll member. Luke has received the PTO Academic Honors Award and Academic Letters in each year of high school. Clearly, Luke has performed very well in the classroom.

On the fields of competition, Luke has distinguished himself as a fine student-athlete. He is a four-year member of the Varsity Football team and served as co-captain during his senior season. Luke is also a four-year letter winner on the Varsity Track team. In fact, Luke has received the Scholar-Athlete Award in both football and track. Luke serves as Vice President of the Key Club, Editor of the school web page, and co-captain of the Academic Challenge Team. He is also a member of the Science Club, Concert and Pep Band, Computer Club, and has attended the Naval Academy Summer Seminar.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Luke M. Twarek. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Luke will do very well at the Naval Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

**HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. It's important that we recognize the rich cultural heritage of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and all that they have contributed to America and American values.

All too often, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are subject to prejudice and acts of violence. We must resolve to repair the damage done from past abuses and recognize and promote equality in every walk of life and in every way possible.

I introduced H. Con. Res. 111 to condemn acts of prejudice against Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and support political and civic participation by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. I'm also proud to be a co-sponsor of legislation and a signatory on several letters that recognize the rich heritage of Asian and Pacific Americans and condemn past wrongs.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting the following bills and letters:

I'm proud to be a signatory of Representative MATSUI's open letter in support of the President's initiative aimed at preserving WWII-era Japanese American Internment Camps in order to educate future generations about lessons learned from this stain on our nation's history.

I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Wartime Parity and Justice Act which would grant relief to Japanese Latin Americans who were abducted and unlawfully interned in the United States but who were not included in the settlement agreement signed into law by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

I call for the leadership of the Congress to move forward without delay on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and I pay tribute to the efforts of the Administration to act on Bill Lann Lee's appointment.

The President has appointed more Asian Pacific Americans to Administration positions and the Federal bench than any other President. In June 1999, the Clinton-Gore Administration issued an Executive Order dedicated to improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans, the first of its kind ever issued. President Clinton has also proposed \$698 million for civil rights enforcement this year—a 13 percent increase—to prosecute criminal civil rights cases, including hate crimes and police misconduct.

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have suffered unfounded and demagogic accusations of disloyalty throughout the history of the United States. We should, instead, recognize the rich cultural heritage of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and all they have contributed to America and American values.

We must never forget the strength our country has gained from the inspiration, the hard work, the loyalty and the leadership of Asian and Pacific Americans and all they contribute to the strength of our nation.

**RECOGNITION OF FRANK
MCDUFFIE**

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism of Mr. Frank McDuffie of Richmond County, North Carolina. Mr. McDuffie joined the Navy in 1935 at a time when America was trying to recover from the Great Depression and Europe was in turmoil.

Even in 1940, the war raging in Europe seemed distant and surreal. Yet on that infamous day in early December, 1941, Mr. McDuffie experienced the dark reality of war. Serving as a machine gun operator and a cook aboard the USS *Nevada*, Mr. McDuffie was stationed below the water line of the ship as Japanese bombers shelled Pearl Harbor. As the United States was violently thrust into World War II, Mr. McDuffie peered through the ship's window to see the Rising Sun flying overhead and felt the bombs' vibrations rumbling through the *Nevada*. Tied to the USS *Arizona* and the USS *Oklahoma*, the *Nevada* managed to cut loose while withstanding the onslaught of rapid machine gun fire and torpedo explosions. However, the damage to the ship was extensive enough that the ship had to run aground to avoid sinking at sea. Although the *Nevada* fared better than the *Oklahoma* and the *Arizona*, both of which sank due to extensive damage, she survived with a gaping hole.

Nearly 60 years after that foreboding day in December, 1941, I stand today before you to honor Mr. Frank McDuffie. Mr. McDuffie is illustrative of the Greatest American Generation—a generation of ordinary men and women asked to do the extraordinary. He joined the Navy to defend the United States and its citizens, to protect the freedoms and liberties we deem natural and God-given. Men like Mr. McDuffie, ordinary citizens willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country, provided the foundation on which America grew to become a great nation of unsurpassed international leadership and influence. Veterans like Mr. McDuffie are genuine American heroes. Mr. McDuffie's experience is a reminder that this country was built on the sacrifices of the brave men and women who served in the military to protect our country and preserve our freedom.

**REMEMBERING A TRUE PUBLIC
SERVANT, MAYOR JOE BOB
PARKER**

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to offer tribute to a man I've known all my life, a man who was a true public servant to the small Southeast Alabama community in which we both grew up.

On Monday, the Town of Midland City in my congressional district lost its mayor of many years and I lost a good friend. Mayor Joe Bob Parker passed away on May 22 while on duty at his post in the historic Midland City City Hall.

Joe Bob Parker served his community for 12 years as mayor and before that for 16 years on the city council. He was so popular with the people that he was unopposed for reelection to a fourth term in office at the time of his passing.

I'm sure that you could go anywhere in America and not find a more dedicated public official or a bigger friend. He was instrumental in promoting local industrial development, fighting for a much-needed senior citizens center, and was even recognized by the Alabama League of Municipalities with a Distinguished Service Award.