

MYCHAL JUDGE POLICE AND FIRE
CHAPLAINS PUBLIC SAFETY OF-
FICERS' BENEFIT ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the Mychal Judge Police & Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act.

This legislation would ensure that those brave public safety officers who leave behind no spouses, children or parents will still be eligible for the Public Safety Officers' Benefit. This legislation would effect several of the victims of the tragedy of September 11 including Father Mychal Judge.

Appointed in 1992 as the Catholic Chaplain of the New York City Fire Department at the strong urging of the uniformed members of the Fire Department, Father Judge dedicated himself to helping others and counseling to the members and families of members of the New York City Fire Department—a Department that has seen a tragically high number of casualties this year, previous to the events of 9-11.

Taking on this role was characteristic of Father Judges lifetime of service that began when he entered the seminary at age 14. During his 41 years as a priest, Father Judge tirelessly served the sick, homeless, poor, and disabled. He diligently cared for people living with AIDS, worked for peace in Northern Ireland, and tended to the families of the victims of TWA Flight 800, which exploded over Long Island in July of 1996 as well as provided for New York Firefighter families during both times of joy and sorrow.

On September 11, Father Judge died as he lived—serving others. He was among the first units responding at the World Trade Center and, while advised to move to a safer location, he like so many of his comrades in the Fire Department, refused to leave his compatriots. When the firefighters entered the building, Father Judge was at their side, where he remained offering comfort and absolution until the end. We all remember the haunting picture of Father Judge being carried out of the wreckage of the World Trade Center.

In addition to the New York Fire department, many of us here in Congress recognize and acknowledge his good works and have been working with the White House for the posthumous awarding of the presidential Medal of Freedom to Father Judge.

That is why I am so pleased that such a compassionate and vital piece of legislation is named after such a compassionate and vital human being.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation that serves as a small token of appreciation to those who perish in the line of duty from a grateful nation.

TRIBUTE TO BANDA ESCOLAR DE
GUAYANILLA

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the

Banda Escolar De Guayanilla, a specular band of young people from Guayanilla, Puerto Rico who will play in the 44th annual National Puerto Rican Parade. The legendary parade, to be held on June 9th in New York City, is the largest celebration of Puerto Rican culture in the United States.

This year, I have the distinct honor of being the parade's Grand Marshall. I can not express how much I appreciate this honor. I am especially proud to be Grand Marshall of the parade this year, because it will be the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla's fifth year participating. This exceptional band marched in the parade in 1987, 1988, 1990, and 1992.

Mr. Speaker, the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla is made up of about 200 students from Guayanilla who spend nearly all of their spare time in rigorous practice, doing drills to improve their performance. These young people are exceptionally talented and have been recognized throughout the country for their precise marching, discipline, and excellent presentation. Not only must these young people hone such difficult skills and travel all over the country to march, they must maintain their schoolwork as well. As a result, they develop unmatched time-management skills and self-discipline at a young age. Only the best march in this band and that is why they have been singled out so many times.

In 1998, the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla became the first Latin American band to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, perhaps the most famous parade in the world. They also participated in the well-known Tournament of Roses Parade in 2001. Along with these major accomplishments, the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla has marched in the Walt Disney World Parade in Orlando, the Thanksgiving Parade in Philadelphia, and dozens of parades throughout Latin America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the Banda Escolar De Guayanilla, a marching band of dedicated youth who will grace this year's Puerto Rican Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON ON
BEING HONORED BY THE SAN
MATEO CENTRAL LABOR COUN-
CIL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Johnson, a respected citizen of San Mateo County, California, who is being honored by the San Mateo Central Labor Council at its 23rd Annual COPE Benefit Dinner on July 18, 2002.

Walter Johnson has been a visionary leader within the labor movement for more than 40 years. His efforts began more than a half century ago when he joined the Department Store Employees Union Local 1100 after securing a job at Sears Roebuck as an appliance salesperson. By 1957, Walter had become the business agent of the union and was elected president the following year. In 1964, Walter Johnson was elected to the union's top position of secretary-treasurer and was subsequently reelected to the position 11 times. It should come as no surprise that Walter was

elected as the top labor leader in San Francisco in 1984 and has remained so since then. As secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council since 1985, he currently represents 75,000 workers and 125 different unions.

Since his early years as a member of the Department Store Employees Union, Walter Johnson has dedicated his time and talents to improving the lives of his fellow workers. In 1958, Walter Johnson played an integral role in helping the first African-American woman to secure a position behind the counter at Woolworth's.

Today, Walter Johnson continues to ensure that workers have the quality of life they deserve with secure jobs, equitable wages and quality benefits. Walter regularly works with community groups, elected officials and religious leaders to advocate for workers' rights both locally and globally, including in such countries as China and South Korea. Walter Johnson also serves as a member of the Economic Forum Board of Directors where he works to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Bay Area.

Walter Johnson's commitment to his fellow human beings goes far beyond his work within the labor movement. A heroic and courageous cancer survivor, Walter Johnson has added his personal testimony to the fight against breast cancer, helping to lead rallies on behalf of the Breast Cancer Fund. Walter also serves on the boards of various local organizations including the United Way of the Bay area, the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee and Our Redeemers Lutheran Church.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Johnson is an outstanding individual and a respected labor and community leader. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this distinguished man for all he has done and continues to do. We are a better country, a better people because of him.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Johnson for her 40 years as an educator and leader at Washington School. Her retirement will be celebrated on June 14, 2002, at Washington School, the very place where generation after generation of students benefited from her guidance.

Barbara Johnson dedicated herself to a life of teaching, greatly influencing the lives of Union City residents. She started her career as a fourth grade teacher at Washington School in 1962. In 1971, she became a helping teacher/curriculum resource teacher, was eventually promoted to assistant principal in 1992, and will retire as Washington School's esteemed principal.

Barbara Johnson has left a lasting legacy at Washington School, having introduced the following outstanding programs: violin program, marching band, multicultural extravaganza, parent dinners, field day picnics, and peer mediation.

Over the past four decades, Barbara Johnson has devoted her life to the students of Washington School. She advocated on their behalf, served as an educational leader, developed the curriculum, and maintained an

open door policy for her staff, students, and parents. Her willingness to be an active part of the lives of the students, parents, and staff, her innovative new programs, and her years of commitment will never be forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Barbara Johnson for 40 years of service to Washington School. She will be missed, and remembered for her commitment and hard work on behalf of Washington School's students and staff. At Washington School, her legacy will live on forever.

RECOGNIZING MS. VIRGINIA W.
IMPROTA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Virginia W. Improta, an exceptional history teacher and role model from Johnston, RI. Ms. Improta has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award. This national award is presented every year to an educator who develops and uses innovative and creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. As a teacher at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School in Johnston, RI, she has shown exemplary commitment to making history education engaging and exciting, while involving her students in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. Participants qualify for national competition after competing in several local and state competitions. In preparing her students for the program, Ms. Improta's work ethic and research skills provided students with the tools necessary to be successful in competition.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Ms. Virginia Improta for her dedication to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

ANOKA, MINNESOTA: HALLOWEEN
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the city of Anoka, MN, for their long-standing tradition of community oriented Halloween festivities. On May 20, 2002, the city council of Anoka, MN, reaffirmed their proclamation of Anoka as "Halloween Capital of the World." Celebrating Halloween as a community for over 80 years, the people of Anoka are proud of their unique tradition. Anoka is thought to be the first to put on a citywide celebration and parade to provide families with alternative activities and fun on Halloween.

Local historians have traced the Anoka Halloween tradition back to its initial celebration in 1920. That year, local civic organizations,

businessmen, teachers, city workers, and the National Guard joined together and planned the first Halloween celebration. This celebration provided a fun and safe environment in which to enjoy Halloween and has been a major community event ever since. Due to the celebration's size and community significance, Anoka first proclaimed itself the "Halloween Capital of the World" in 1937.

The community's ongoing commitment to the celebration is clearly reflected in year-round planning that includes citizens of all ages. In this way, the Halloween celebration is a unique civic asset and Anoka certainly lives up to its title as "Halloween Capital of the World."

PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL
ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, before Congress passes legislation placing an enormous drain on the federal budget in future years, we first need to address the serious problems with funding homeland defense, protecting education, the environment, Social Security and Medicare.

While the Republican bill permanently repeals the estate tax, it provides no immediate relief for small, family-owned estates which are the ones most in need. Make no mistake—repealing the estate tax in 2011 will not stimulate the economy in 2002.

I support more immediate estate tax relief and voted for the substitute that freezes the existing maximum estate tax at the current rate of 40 percent and increases the estate tax credit to \$3 million, \$6 million for couples, beginning in 2003, up from \$1 million under current law.

I stand today in opposition to H.R. 2143, to make repeal of the estate tax permanent. Under last year's Republican tax bill, repeal of the estate tax is slowly phased in until 2010. However, because Republicans put a sunset on all of their tax-cut provisions to hide their true costs, the estate tax will return to the 2001 levels of taxation in 2010.

This permanent repeal of the estate tax benefits only the very wealthiest in our society while endangering our long-term economic stability and the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. Once again, the House Republican Leadership has shown its true priorities by helping 22,000 families at the very top of the income scale while letting 35 million seniors wait for help with their prescription drug bills.

Currently, the estate tax applies to fewer than 2 percent of all estates—less than 50,000 each year. In addition, family-owned businesses and farms are already eligible for special tax treatment under current law.

Families in Minnesota's Fourth District want sound investments in our future, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and responsible tax cuts that provide relief now. For example, the average Minnesota gross estate for tax purposes of \$5 million or more in 1999 was approximately \$586,000. I supported a \$5 million exemption that would have eliminated the

estate tax on all but 36 Minnesota estates that owned estate tax.

I found it embarrassing to open the Washington Post today to see that based on the personal assets of the Bush administration Cabinet, a full repeal of the estate tax will save the Bush Cabinet \$98–\$332 million in estate tax. The President has taken his full repeal message to family farmers in the Midwest telling them he's fighting for them. Yet family farmers rarely pay estate tax. In fact, last year the American Farm Bureau Federation could not cite a single example of a farm lost because of estate taxes when pressed.

So far, the Republicans' fiscal plan has meant that we have gone from projected surpluses of \$5.6 trillion to deficits as far as the eye can see—not to mention the fact that unless Congress takes action to balance the budget, we will have to raise the federal debt limit to ensure that the government does not default on its current debts.

This year alone, the budget deficit, excluding the Social Security trust fund, is estimated to be \$314 billion. Over the next 10 years, the non-Social Security deficit will total \$2.6 trillion. If these projections are correct, the budget is on course to deplete the entire Social Security surplus and the entire Medicare surplus between now and 2012.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY
NATIONAL CONTEST

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and congratulate two students from Ohio who have been chosen to present projects at the National History Day national contest, which is taking place this year from June 9 through the 13. Alexandria West, who is from Gallipolis, OH, will present her project, "Amistad: From Freedom and Back," and Katie Marburger, who is from Niles, OH, will present an exhibit called "... And Justice for All? The Imprisoning of the Japanese Americans: A Revolution in Discrimination." These projects reflect this year's National History Day theme of "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History" and were selected from more than half a million students across America.

The National History Day program seeks to give students the critical thinking and research skills that are essential for excellence in all subject areas. Students research history topics of their choice related to an annual theme and create exhibits, performances, documentaries, and papers, which they may enter into competitions at the district, state, and national levels. The program annually engages more than half a million participants in grades 6 through 12 in 49 States and the District of Columbia.

CONGRATULATING DR. ARUN N.
NETRAVALI

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Arun N. Netravali on being