

INTRODUCING THE NATIVE ACT TO TRANSFORM IMAGERY IN VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS (NATIVE) ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Native American Caucus to introduce the Native Act to Transform Imagery in Various Environments (NATIVE) Act. This bill would provide funding for the establishment of an incentive program for schools to eliminate the use of names and symbols that are offensive to Native American people.

Many elementary and secondary schools across the country use words and symbols representing their schools that are demeaning to Native Americans. Nationally, more than 1,200 schools inappropriately use such offensive names or nicknames, often these become mascots. In addition, these names or symbols are used at athletic games for mascot characters, chants and other antics.

While I believe the intentions of these school communities is not to disrespect or harm Native Americans, that is the end result of allowing these offensive terms to continue in these educational institutions.

Once this bill is signed into law, the Secretary of Education would be authorized to make grants to eligible schools to assist such schools to discontinue use of a derogatory or discriminatory name or depiction as a team name, mascot, or nickname. Funding would be provided to schools to change their names and symbols on all equipment and apparel throughout the institution, including on team jerseys, signs, stationary, walls, fields and gymnasium floors. Schools participating in the program may also qualify for construction or renovation funds.

Given that the president's No Child Left Behind education plan does not include construction and renovation funding (with the exception of immediate danger areas), this would be a major incentive for schools to replace their offensive names and logos. Because of the federal government's trust responsibility and obligations to tribal governments, tribally-controlled schools would be eligible for construction or renovation funds, regardless of whether or not they alter their names and symbols.

The legislation would also provide for the establishment of a Committee of American Indian Relations to conduct cultural proficiency trainings at schools participating in the program to further assist the school communities with understanding and changing their behavior. The Committee would also assist the Secretary with reviewing proposals submitted by schools for eligibility determination and funding of grant purposes. The Committee would be headed by a Director, selected by the Secretary in consultation with tribal governments.

This program would receive federal funding for five years. During the first two years of the program, some funding would be devoted to establishing the Committee, identifying schools interested in participating and then working with those schools to actually change the offensive names and symbols. Over the remaining three years, funding would be devoted to any necessary construction and renovation required at the school sites.

I have developed this legislation in consultation with representatives from the National Indian Education Association, the Indian Teacher and Educational Personnel Program, the Capital Area Indian Resource Center and the California Rural Indian Health Board and would like to thank these tribal organizations and their staff for their commitment to bringing this bill to fruition.

The idea for this legislation came from a similar bill proposed in the California state legislature. The California bill would have mandated that all schools in the state with offensive Native American names and symbols change their identifying features in order to continue receiving state funding. This bill failed to receive the votes necessary to become state law.

I believe that forcing educational institutions to adhere to a new procedure without preparing them for such a change can have negative consequences. Educating the school community about why such change is important, and gradually gaining their support can make the transition easier and oftentimes leads to positive results.

This is why I am introducing this bill that would not mandate schools change, but instead provide incentives and activities building awareness in school communities as to why these names and symbols are not appropriate in educational environments.

I urge my colleagues to support and vote in favor of the Native Act to Transform Imagery in Various Environments (NATIVE) Act.

CELEBRATING THE FIESTA OF SAN DIMAS, PATRON SAINT OF THE VILLAGE OF MALESSO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the feast day of one of Guam's oldest patron saints. This Sunday, September, 29, 2002, the residents of Guam will celebrate the feast day of San Dimas, the patron saint of Malesso, which is the island's southernmost village. For more than three centuries the San Dimas Catholic Church has stood as a center of faith and traditions for the community of Malesso. On the eve of the fiesta celebration, I would like to commemorate the rich history the San Dimas Church and the village of Malesso have brought to my district of Guam.

The history of Catholic missionaries in Guam began on June 9, 1671, when the Spanish ship Buen Socorro docked in Umatac Bay with four new padres for the Marianas Mission. The four had come to relieve three Fathers already working in the Marianas under the guidance of Father San Vitores. Two of the new priests, Father Francisco Esquerra and Father Francisco Solano, had come from the Philippines by way of Mexico.

The Padres worked hard in Hagatna, the capitol city of Guam, preaching to Spanish soldiers and lay workers, while maintaining carefully the devoted congregations formed by Father San Vitores. They rebuilt the Hagatna church, which had been destroyed in the typhoon of 1671. Father Esquerra and the other Padres soon were not content to work only in

Hagatna, and began to make various mission journeys covering more than half the island.

Late in 1672, Father Esquerra became concerned at the great distance they had to travel to get to the usual anchorage of the ships, which was the port of San Antonio de Umatac (Umatac). He decided that it would be good to have a church in the southern part of the island which the Padres could settle. Father Esquerra decided upon the village of Malesso, and built a church there under the patronage of San Dimas. The Padre himself carefully attended the construction of the church. Two years later in 1674, Father Esquerra was martyred. However, the legacy of the San Dimas Church still lives today.

Thirty-one pastors have served the people of San Dimas Parish for 330 years. The Padres include:

1672-1674 Fr. Francisco Esquerra, S. J.; 1674-1799 Fr. Raphael Canicia, S. J. & other Jesuits; 1800-1805 Fr. Cristobal Ibanez; 1836-1848 Fr. Jose Ferrer; 1851-1860 Fr. Juan Fernandez; 1864-1869 Fr. Faustino Fernandez Del Corral; 1870-1886 Fr. Mariano Martinez; 1886-1890 Fr. Juan Herrero; 1890-1891 Fr. Jose Lamban; 1891-1893 Fr. Ildefonso Cabanilla; 1893-1899 Fr. Crisogono Ortin; 1908-1923 Fr. Cristobal de Canals; 1923-1927 Fr. Bemabe de Caseda; 1930-1934 Fr. Gil de Lagana; 1935-1936 Fr. Narciso de Vallava; 1937-1940 Fr. Pastro de Arrayoz; 1940-1942 Fr. Marcian Pellet; 1942-1945 Fr. Jesus Duenas & Fr. Oscar Calvo ministered to the people of Guam during the War Occupation; 1945-1947 Fr. Marcian Pellet (Returns from a prison camp); 1947-1948 Adelbert Donlon; 1948-1950 Fr. Julius Sullivan; 1950-1953 Fr. Alexander Feeley; 1954-1956 Fr. Antonine Zimmerman; 1956-1957 Fr. Sylvan Conover; 1957-1967 Fr. Timothy Kavanaugh; 1967-1987 Fr. Lee Friel; 1987-1987 Fr. Felixberto Leon Guerrero; 1987-1988 Fr. Patrick Castro; 1988-1997 Fr. Jose Villagomez; 1997-1998 Fr. Eric Forbes; Archdiocesan Clergy; and 1998-Present Fr. Mike Crisostomo.

Nearly 80 percent of Guam's residents are Roman Catholics. This identity has profoundly shaped many of the island's culture and traditions. For more than three centuries, pastors and parishioners have given their time and skills with strong loyalty and devotion to the San Dimas Church. As a result, many others on the island have enjoyed the special traditions, particularly the San Dimas fiesta.

This year is especially gratifying since the church reopened its doors after four years of being closed to rebuild the church structure. Hundreds of church volunteers led by San Dimas' Pastor, Pale Mike Crisostomo, devoted thousands of hours working on the church's Finance Council, Demolition Crew, Worship Space Volunteer Committee, Dedication Committee, Parish Council, Pastoral Planning Committee, Finance Committee, Solicitation Committee, Building Committee, Cemetery Committee, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Angel Tree Project, Faith Formation or "Eskuelan Pale", Ministers of Liturgy, Sacristan, Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Altar Servers, Music Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Maintenance and Landscaping, and Office Staff, to make the rebuilding and rededication of San Dimas Church a great success.

The fiesta this weekend, a village-wide celebration of the patron saint San Dimas, promises to be Malesso's biggest and best celebration. I would like to recognize and commend

the many individuals who will prepare the food for the village feast, set up all of the palapalas and tents, decorate the church and surrounding areas and the celebrants who will all help to ring in biggest event of Malessos this year. Biba San Dimas! Biba Malessos! Biba Guam!

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN C.  
(JACK) MENG

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today before this House I'd like to recognize and honor Jack Meng, whose exceptional leadership and civic commitment have strengthened both Schreiber Foods, Inc. and Northeast Wisconsin for decades.

Jack's dedicated service at Schreiber Foods has spanned 30 years. During that time, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to quality, honesty and integrity. He helped Schreiber Foods become both the largest brand cheese company in the world, and a shining example of sound customer service.

As a member of various community boards, Jack has used his business expertise and extensive leadership experience to make lasting contributions to our area and its proud citizens. His lifelong commitment to service has been an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to recognize today the extraordinary contributions of Jack Meng. On behalf of my constituents, we wish him all the best as he steps into retirement.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT ALUMNI ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important event in the history of the University of Michigan-Flint. On October 25th, faculty, staff, alumni, and students of the University's Physical Therapy Department will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding, which originated on the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus, and the 20th anniversary of its relocation to the Flint campus.

Professional education in physical therapy at the University of Michigan commenced in 1952 within the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, in the Medical School on the Ann Arbor campus. It was the first professional preparation program in physical therapy in the State of Michigan. Graduates received a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and a Certificate in Physical Therapy from the Medical School. In 1982-83, in response to multiple professional developments, the educational program was relocated to the Flint campus of the University in order to achieve budgetary, curricular, logistical and administrative enhancements not possible on the Ann Arbor campus, due to changing Medical

School priorities and a period of academic retrenchment.

In keeping with its tradition of academic leadership, the program became the first program in the state to make the transition to the professional (entry-level) MPT (Master of Physical Therapy), as well as offer a post-professional MPT degree for practicing clinicians. The university will also be the first in the state to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, with the first class graduating in December 2002. This doctoral degree will be the first doctoral degree offered at one of the University of Michigan regional campuses.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the University of Michigan-Flint's Physical Therapy Department has prepared generalist physical therapy practitioners, many of whom have gone on to practice in specialty areas as well as teach in both academic and clinical settings, or who serve as managers and researchers within definitive areas of professional practice. Over 1700 graduates have served patient/clients not only in the state of Michigan but nationally and internationally. Many have assumed leadership positions in health care delivery systems and academic institutions. The long tradition of preparing practitioners who are outstanding clinicians who practice in a humanistic way has made the graduates of this program highly valued by client/patients and sought by employers. As a lifelong resident of Flint, I am exceptionally pleased with the accomplishments and advancements made at the university. It continues to serve as one of most valuable resources of my district. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to please join me in congratulating the university, and the dedicated men and women that make up the Physical Therapy Department.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Colorado General Assembly concerning federal assistance for crop and livestock producers due to drought devastation. Joint Resolution 02S-1005, passed by Colorado's General Assembly, urges the U.S. Congress to adopt measures to allow producers of agricultural commodities to receive short-term assistance in coping with and responding to the drought conditions. I commend the work of the Colorado General Assembly for its strong efforts toward the betterment of the state and well being of the people of the great state of Colorado.

I hereby submit for the RECORD Colorado House Joint Resolution 02S-1005:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02S-1005

By Representative(s) Coleman, Miller, Boyd, Dean, Groff, Grossman, Hefley, Hodge, Jahn, Jameson, Lee, Mace, Marshall, Ragsdale, Romanoff, Sanchez, Stafford, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, and Williams S.; also Senator(s) Entz, Hillman, Isgar, Matsunaka, and Taylor.

CONCERNING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS DUE TO DROUGHT DEVASTATION

Whereas, Snowpack levels and precipitation from rainfall have been far below nor-

mal for many western states, including Colorado; and

Whereas, Facing one of the most severe droughts in the state's history, all Colorado counties have been designated disaster areas, as dry conditions have greatly reduced the ability of farmers and ranchers to produce their commodities and to provide related services; and

Whereas, The lack of moisture will drastically decrease the harvest of many Colorado crops, such as wheat which is expected to yield a crop that is 25-40 percent of a normal yield; and

Whereas, Irrigated farms on average have received only 15 percent of the water they normally use for crop production; and

Whereas, In addition to making it more difficult to raise crops, the extreme dryness also carries with it several secondary concerns, such as the loss of top soil, soil erosion, and an increased possibility of insect infestation; and

Whereas, The suffering state of agriculture directly impacts the prospects of raising livestock, by way of low-yielding feeder crops, limited harvest foliage and forage, and the increasing price of hay and other feed; and

Whereas, Livestock auction barns in the west are extending their sale hours to accommodate the large numbers of livestock being sold because ranchers cannot afford to feed their herds; and

Whereas, There is no insurance available for suffering livestock producers; and

Whereas, Livestock and crop prices alike have been low since 1997, giving producers very little financial cushion for hard times; and

Whereas, The financial impact caused by the drought could be devastating to Colorado's agricultural community, but also will have an overall effect on the economy of the entire state; and

Whereas, An allocation of nearly \$2.5 billion for disaster assistance was originally included in the federal "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002", commonly known as the "2002 Farm Bill", but this allocation was removed during conference committee deliberations on the bill; and

Whereas, Members of Congress subsequently tried to make disaster assistance moneys available by including an allocation in another bill, but unfortunately, this attempt failed as well; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

That we, the members of the General Assembly, strongly urge the United States Congress:

(1) To examine and adopt measures to allow producers of agricultural commodities to receive short-term assistance in coping with and responding to the drought conditions, such as the following:

(a) Implementing tax code modifications that enable producers who are forced to sell livestock during periods of drought to receive additional time to reinvest the sale proceeds before having to pay capital gains tax on the earnings, thus allowing the producer to wait until the drought conditions have subsided before reinvesting;

(b) Providing crop and livestock producers with direct emergency assistance to be delivered through existing Farm Service Agency channels;

(2) To reexamine how drought relief assistance is provided and consider elevating the manner in which it is provided to place drought assistance on the same level of assistance that is provided to other natural disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, and floods; and

(3) To examine the feasibility of prioritizing water allocations.