

transportation, admiralty and corporate law. He served as lead corporate counsel for a number of key Tampa real estate projects, including Harbour Island, Tampa Palms and the Ice Palace.

David quickly became known for his great intellect and dedication to his job. He successfully argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, one of which established a principle in international admiralty law, and he served as his firm's chairman from 1990 to 1993. David also spent 39 years as general counsel and executive director of the National Juice Products Association, the industry's largest trade association.

David will be remembered across the state for his work outside of the office. He served Florida's business and legal communities in countless ways, as President of Hillsborough County Bar Association in 1967, on the Florida Bar Association's board of directors in 1971, as president of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce in 1979, and chairman of its Committee of 100 in 1977. Later, at the request of Governors Bob Martinez and Lawton Chiles, David headed the Florida Transportation Commission and served as a member of the commission from 1987 to 1999. In this role, David succeeded remarkably in minimizing politics and moving Florida's transportation projects forward.

Closer to home, David was a member of the University of Tampa's Board of Trustees, and was an active member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla.

I will remember David as a wonder role model for young people who desired to succeed in their business or profession and serve the community. David did everything with a dignity and grace that brought out the best in everyone with whom he worked. I am eternally grateful for the constant guidance and encouragement he gave me starting in my years as a teenager. David similarly touched the lives of hundreds of young people.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to David's family.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
CAPTAIN VERNON RICHARD—
LADDER NO. 7

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as a tribute to Captain Vernon Richard of Ladder Number 7, a member of the Vulcan's Society and one of the fallen heroes of September 11th, I would like to insert the following proclamation into the RECORD:

Whereas, September 11, 2001 was a day of horror and tragedy that will forever live in the memory of American, and;

Whereas, More than 3,000 people from many occupations, nationalities, ethnic groups, religions and creeds were brutally murdered by terrorists, and;

Whereas, Members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, Port Authority and other Public Safety Personnel, through their valiant, courageous and heroic efforts saved the lives of thousands under unprecedented destructive circumstances, and;

Whereas, More than 300 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in the effort to save others, and;

Whereas, Congressman Major R. Owens and the people of the 11th Congressional District salute the bravery and dedication of all who gave their full measure of devotion, and;

Whereas, We deem it appropriate to highlight the courage and valor of individuals and groups in a variety of forms and ceremonies. Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representatives of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and to offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcalls 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, and 64. I would have voted "no" on Rollcalls 55 and 62.

TOBACCO LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FARMERS ACT OF 2002

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Tobacco Livelihood and Economic Assistance for our Farmers Act of 2002. This bill couples my legislation, the National Youth Smoking Reduction Act—which would allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco—with legislation to end the current tobacco marketing quota program. I would also like to thank my colleague Mr. McIntyre, the sponsor of this bill, for his hard work and leadership.

For someone who never touched a cigarette, I now know a great deal about tobacco. It is an extremely complex issue in which the public health, the needs of farmers, and the rights of Americans must all be taken into consideration. Often, it appears an impossible task to bring the stakeholders together; nevertheless, I am convinced there is a solution. When I introduced the National Youth Smoking Reduction Act last June, it was my intent to put forward the idea that we could devise a regulatory scheme to keep tobacco products away from those too young to legally purchase them while simultaneously maintaining the rights of adults to make their own decisions regarding tobacco use. This bill expands upon that concept by demonstrating that a solution for our farmers is complementary to the other elements of this debate.

For centuries, tobacco has been a cornerstone of the agricultural economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia and other tobacco growing states. American tobacco has always been regarded as the highest quality tobacco available. Despite this fact, American growers are increasingly vulnerable to lower quality—but less expensive—foreign leaf. While the quota marketing system has been a valuable tool to support and stabilize the income of the tobacco farmer, it has also created an artificial cost that has made it all the more difficult for the American grower to compete. Growers and their communities are dependent on tobacco for their economic survival; however they now find themselves trapped—forced to continue growing an increasingly unprofitable crop without the necessary resources to transition away from the current dysfunctional system.

Ending the quota is something we must do in order to save the economic viability of our tobacco farmers. We must also recognize that the quota system has created an asset—the quota itself—the value of which must be compensated to those who own or use it. Farmers have been increasingly supportive of the idea of a buy-out, as was the President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health in its report published last year. Until now, the question of how to fund a buy-out was always a major obstacle. This bill, however, takes an innovative approach by proposing to fund the buy-out through the imposition of user-fees. These user-fees will initially provide the resources to fund both FDA regulatory actions and the buy-out. Once the buy-out has been completed, the user-fees will be used to fund FDA actions and other tobacco-related programs.

I realize it is a mistake to consider tobacco growers as a homogeneous lot. The needs and concerns of flue-cured growers differ from the needs and concerns of burley growers. The needs and concerns of Virginia growers are not the same as the needs and concerns of North Carolina growers. However, a vital concern to all growers is the question—what will the post buy-out world hold for me? We have taken steps in this bill to ensure fair compensation so that those who choose to stop growing tobacco can do so. For those that choose to continue to grow tobacco, not only will they be compensated for their quota's loss of value, but they are guaranteed that tobacco production will remain in those areas where it has been traditionally grown.

I have no tobacco farmers in my district, but I am a Virginian. Tobacco is a part of our culture—it was this crop that made the Colony of Virginia economically viable almost four hundred years ago. As we transitioned from colony to commonwealth, tobacco remained a keystone to our way of life. To this very day, the golden leaf adorns our statehouse. With this in mind, I say to the small farmers and rural communities whose fortunes have been tied to tobacco for generations, I will continue to work with you to ensure tobacco can remain a viable option for you. I recognize more may be necessary to keep all production from transferring to large farms. I am confident that by working with the other members of the Virginia delegation, the Virginia Farm Bureau, and all organizations dedicated to the well being and prosperity of tobacco growers in the

Commonwealth of Virginia that our small tobacco farms can survive and prosper in a post-bacco world.

In closing, let me state that I am eager to start the debate on tobacco. I hope my colleagues will join in so that a constructive, beneficial solution can be crafted.

CONGRATULATING SAINT PATRICK
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Saint Patrick Roman Catholic Church in East Chicago, Indiana, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary as a congregation, on March 17, 2002, the Feast Day of St. Patrick. The anniversary celebration will begin with an afternoon Mass celebrated by Bishop Dale J. Melczek. Following the Mass, the parishioners will enjoy an evening filled with entertainment and dancing as they observe this milestone in the church's history.

Nestled among the smokestacks of the steel mills in the Indiana Harbor, St. Patrick Church has risen from its humble beginnings to serve as a cornerstone of the East Chicago community. Founded in 1902, the parish of St. Patrick was the first Roman Catholic Church established in the Indiana Harbor. Under the guidance of Father Thomas Mungoven, eight families met for Sunday Mass in Klein Hall on Michigan Avenue. With the strength of their faith to bolster their spirits, this small congregation constructed a church of their own. On January 25, 1903, the parish of St. Patrick celebrated its first Mass in its new home. By 1909, the parish grew to include 87 families from mostly Irish and Slavic backgrounds.

Over the years, as other ethnic groups were drawn to the area by the opportunities offered in the steel mills, the composition of East Chicago grew more diverse. Irish and Slavic families now welcomed Hispanic and African-American Catholics into the congregation. In 1986, in an effort to involve new parishioners in Sunday services, Father John Ambre instituted Masses in Spanish.

As the parish mission statement attests, the members "strive to be a welcoming community celebrating our cultural diversity; foster harmony and reconciliation among parishioners and the community . . ." Embracing the Christian ideals of loving thy brothers and sisters and honoring thy neighbors, the parishioners have opened the doors of St. Patrick to those in need of a spiritual home. When other ethnic parishes in East Chicago closed, St. Patrick welcomed these Catholics with open arms. In 1987, when St. Francis of Assisi Parish closed, St. Patrick installed the cornerstone of this church in its vestibule walls, a symbolic gesture affirming the acceptance of these new members into the church community. Again, when Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish closed in 1998, rather than allowing the church to fade from the memories of its former parishioners, St. Patrick added the altar to its own sanctuary. St. Patrick represents more than a building where worshippers meet once a week for a service; it truly embodies the tenets of the faith it espouses.

Since 1997, the current pastor, Father Fernando de Cristobal, has used his position as a spiritual leader to promote various cultural activities in order to better educate the entire congregation. For the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a holy day revered in Mexico, the celebration includes Las Mananitas, or morning songs, offered to the Virgin Mary and mariachi music, followed by a midnight Mass. On June 24th, the parish honors Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of Puerto Rico, with a bilingual mass and a banquet. Keeping with this spirit of diversity, the centennial celebration will feature Irish dancers and bagpipes in an effort to pay tribute to the parish's Irish heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me today in commending the parish family of St. Patrick Church, under the guidance of Father Fernando de Cristobal, as they prepare to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their founding. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of the love and the devotion they have displayed for their church.

GUN VIOLENCE IN LYNBROOK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my deepest sympathy to the families of Reverend Lawrence Penzes and Eileen Tosner, both of whom were fatally shot Tuesday morning during 9 a.m. mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, New York.

Reverend Penzes, 50, was ordained in 1978, and he became pastor at Our Lady of Peace in 1994. It is safe to say he was the backbone of the church. Parishioners remember him as a wonderful, generous and outgoing lay leader who touched countless lives. Other members of the Rockville Centre diocese commend his commitment to the Catholic faith and community.

Penzes has been instrumental in helping his church community of 2,400 families through the 6 months following September 11. He organized several sessions on dealing with stress, and continued his regular trips to U.S. armed forces stationed around the world. Other notable ways he served our country was his time as a chaplain in the local police force, and the air force.

Eileen Tosner, 73, was a devout Irish Catholic whose life revolved around her family, friends and community. She was a quiet but active woman who was always willing to help with whatever task was at hand. She worked at the church and volunteered on Sundays at the local VFW Post 2307 during bingo games. Up until two years ago, she helped other senior citizens by working as a companion and a helper. Often she could be found at the Lynbrook senior citizens center with her friends.

She was married to her husband Frank for more than 50 years, and together they had five children. Tosner's life wasn't easy; she had two paralyzed siblings, and two of her sons died of cancer. But all throughout her life, despite her difficulties, she remained deeply religious.

My heart is with the parishioners, the clergy and staff of Our Lady of Peace who witnessed this brutal violence. We must all say a prayer and light a candle for the community near Our Lady of Peace that was affected by this tragedy. The neighbors, police, emergency personnel and the nearby schools were all senselessly victimized as well.

I was in the vicinity of the church when the shooting occurred. Many of the local roads were blocked; those living nearby were basically under house arrest. Police covered the streets as they looked for the shooter, who had taken cover in a nearby home. Four hundred schoolchildren were being held indoors at the church school.

This isn't a new occurrence. Random acts of gun violence against innocent people happen all the time. A lot of Americans don't think it can happen to them, but my neighbors and I know all too well the pain that gun violence brings. It has happened everywhere: on trains, in schools, homes, the workplace. And now, in a place of worship.

It is unbelievable, yet it's true.

I have processed the details of what happened yesterday. I'm not standing here on a soapbox. I'm not talking about a certain piece of legislation.

I'm talking about safety. I'm talking about our children's safety, our neighbors' safety, the safety of different religious worshippers.

I think it's obvious. Gun violence wreaks havoc in our lives in various ways, not the least of which is the loss of safe places in our community. If we can't be safe at church, at school, on commuter trains, in our workplaces or at home, where does that leave us?

I urge you to seriously consider the havoc gun violence creates in our society. Better yet, consider its effect on your community. Please take a minute to think about it before it's too late.

May God be with us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS ON THE
THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THEIR BECOMING A CABINET DE-
PARTMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the thirteenth anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs becoming a Cabinet Department. As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am privileged to work with thousands of dedicated employees of the Department to improve the delivery of benefits and services to our nation's 25 million veterans and their families.

On October 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Act (H.R. 3471 in the 100th Congress), legislation I cosponsored and strongly supported. This Act led to the Veterans Administration (VA) becoming the 14th federal Department of the Executive Branch.

Subsequently, on March 15th, 1989, thirteen years ago this week, the Honorable Edwin Derwinski, was sworn in as the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Finally, the nation's veterans had a full and permanent seat at the President's Cabinet table.