

Mechanic School at Scott Air Force Base in Bellville, Illinois. After graduation, he was assigned to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California where he spent the entire war fighting the battle of San Francisco. In 1955, he went to work for General Motors and worked his way up to Export Manager.

In the summer of 1956, he was introduced by a mutual friend to his lovely wife of 45 years, Mary Anne, in Rockaway. They were married in June of 1957 and had three wonderful children, Peter, a Civil Court Judge, Anne Marie, a Democratic District Leader—and my talented District Chief of Staff—Carleen. They now have a loving daughter-in-law Cathy, a terrific son-in-law Robert, and have been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, Christian, Bobby, Brian, and Meghan.

Mr. Kelly attended night school and graduated from Pace College in 1963. When his wife Mary Anne was elected District Leader in 1970, he was drafted into the Powhatan Democratic Club where he served very effectively as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He served in every capacity and performed every job associated with the organization. His dedication and untiring effort on behalf of the community and club earned him the respect of everyone who has ever known him.

Since retiring in 1991, Mr. Kelly has been devoted to being a loving husband, father, and more importantly, a grandpa. He can be spotted at his grandchildren's games on a regular basis. Although he has faced a recent health setback, he still possesses a great sense of humor and is loved by all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge, here on the floor, the lifetime of contributions Peter Kelly has made to his country, his community and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 80, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING BERNARD BECKER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday April 10, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bernard Becker, South Florida's National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Mr. Becker has been a strong voice and a driving force behind the Jewish War Veterans as an influential leader in the fight against anti-semitism. Like all men and women of the Jewish War Veterans, Mr. Becker has courageously served our nation in the armed services, and is now working to ensure good relations between the U.S. and Israel—an increasingly meaningful objective.

Bernard Becker, an active member of the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1954, proudly served our nation during the Korean

conflict. He subsequently served in the Air Force Reserve until 1958. Mr. Becker then served in a number of veteran leadership roles, and eventually with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, both as the National Commander and as a National Convention Co-Chairman. During his tenure with the organization, Mr. Becker has been consistently recognized for his outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard Becker has served his country with honor and pride. I am confident that as the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America continue to fight bigotry and hatred, Mr. Becker will continue to lend his knowledge and leadership to this cause.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 81, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

APRIL 12, 2002, GRAND OPENING OF PANASONIC'S DIGITAL TECH- NOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Panasonic for the April 12, 2002 grand opening at Hollywood's Universal Studios of a center that consolidates and expands Panasonic's R&D efforts to develop next-generation digital video compression technologies for the entertainment industry. This proximity to the entertainment community will result in new and better products for American consumers, while reinforcing Hollywood's preeminent position as the center of the global entertainment industry.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, Ltd., best known by its brand name Panasonic, and a worldwide leader in the development and manufacture of electronics products for consumer, business, and industrial needs, has a long record of close cooperation with Hollywood in developing new digital technologies for the studios, ranging from next generation optical disc development to advanced technologies for digital cinema and broadband distribution. Matsushita Electric established its High-Definition Telecine Center on the Universal Studios lot in 1993 with the mission of converting film-based content to High Definition video. Today HDTC is a leading high-definition center—digitally converting, restoring, and enhancing film for theatrical, cable and home video purposes.

In 1996, on the same lot, the company opened the Digital Video Compression Center, a pioneering DVD authoring center. The DVCC currently authors numerous studio titles and provides video compression, complex special editions, and multi-angle/multi-story authoring capabilities. Five years later, Panasonic Hollywood Lab, a division of

Panasonic Technologies Company, opened a research center to develop next-generation digital video compression and technologies for broadband distribution of video and other digital content. The new center, under the direction of Mr. Masayuki Kozuka, now will add a digital image evaluation facility to its areas of focus. Here industry professionals will interact with lab engineers to evaluate High Definition image quality for digital cinema, digital TV and next-generation optical disks, as well as highly compressed imaging for future mobile devices.

On this important occasion, my special congratulations go to Sukeichi Miki, chief technology officer and senior managing director of Matsushita Electric; Kazuo Toda, senior managing director of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (Panasonic); Dr. Paul Liao, president and COO of Panasonic Technologies Company and vice president and chief technology officer for Matsushita Electric Corporation of America; and Ron Meyer, president and COO, Universal Studios. I am very proud to have this important digital technology research facility in my district, adding to Hollywood's recognized leadership in the entertainment industry.

TWO PATHS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this OpEd as it appeared in the Washington Times newspaper last week. Entitled, "Two Paths Towards Democracy" this OpEd brings to our attention the great efforts currently underway in the Republic of Congo to re-establish lasting democratic institutions and the rule of law. With parliamentary and municipal elections forthcoming in Congo, it is important that we encourage the country and its leaders along the path of further transparency and liberalization. Recent President elections, in which nearly 75 percent of registered voters cast ballots without fear of intimidation or violence, demonstrates that democratic gains are already being consolidated into a reliable political tradition.

Under President Sassou-Nguesso's stewardship, Congo has shown a remarkable recovery from nearly a decade of civil war. Without any external assistance, the president successfully began a process of national reconciliation, which will reach its crescendo during this month's historic elections. I am grateful to that country's very able ambassador, Serge Mombouli, for keeping me and my colleagues apprised of the many positive developments in his country.

As Africa's third largest exporter of crude oil, Congo is home to nearly \$2 billion worth of U.S. direct investment and is a strategic partner in our search for diversified sources of petroleum. Furthermore, Congo has developed as a key regional peacemaker, opening its door to over 100,000 refugees from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, while serving as a model to other countries seeking a recovery from decades of civilian conflict.

I am joined by my colleagues in saluting the leadership of our friends in the Republic of

Congo and pledge to them our full support and solidarity as they continue down the courageous road of reconciliation, peace and prosperity.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 24, 2002]

TWO PATHS TOWARD DEMOCRACY

So often, the news out of Africa focuses on death, disease and dictators. But there is another "D" which must not be overlooked, lest it be forgotten altogether, that is democracy. This past weekend presented two stark examples of how democratic movements are playing out across the continent.

Presidential elections in Zimbabwe have captured the world's attention for many months now, though not in a way that Africa's fledgling democrats would like. There could perhaps be no better example of either a deeply flawed election process or the slow and steady fall into political and economic anarchy than was seen this past weekend in Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

The demise of this once-strong democracy and economic power has again colored how we in the West engage with Africa, and seems to have lent credence to those in the Bush administration, led by Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who believe that "we have gotten little for all the aid money we have spent." But is it fair to apply this old "bad apple" adage to all of Africa?

On the same day that justice and democracy were purloined in Zimbabwe, they were restored and celebrated in the Republic of Congo, after nearly a decade of civil war and political upheaval. Long overshadowed by its much larger neighbor with a similar name, U.S. assistance and United Nations mediators poured into the Democratic Republic of Congo during that country's own war, while political violence that killed over 20,000 people and left nearly 800,000 homeless went largely unnoticed just across the border.

Since coming to power in 1997, Congo's de facto head of state, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, has had to rebuild the country from the ground up—largely on his own. His first order of business involved demobilizing and disarming former combatants from all political factions. After extending a cease-fire and blanket amnesty to these fighters, Mr. Sassou-Nguesso's government began a wildly successful weapons buy-back program.

The government then went even further, turning domestically conceived peace talks convened in 1999 into a dialogue of "national reconciliation without exclusion." Three years later, over 15,000 guns have been taken out of circulation and a new national police force is in place, composed of the manifold tribal, ethnic and political factions who were once at the center of the country's hardships. As a result, political feuds are now being settled within the halls of government and not on the field of battle. This rang particularly true last weekend when nearly 80 percent of registered voters turned out to vote "in favor of peace," as President-elect Sassou-Nguesso later said in explaining his subsequent electoral victory.

An IMF report, released last month, praised the "home grown nature" of Congo's post-war renewal, noting that President Sassou-Nguesso has laid "the foundations for lasting peace and stable political institutions despite limited external assistance." However the achievement of his campaign pledges of economic revitalization and political stability has not yet been fully realized. In this phase of the country's transformation, the United States has a vital role to play.

Home to one of Africa's largest Atlantic seaports and nestled on the banks of the River Congo, which itself supplies much of landlocked Central Africa with all nature of

supplies; Congo has long been a hub of commercial activity on the continent. Today, as Africa's third largest producer of crude oil, the country is looking toward international markets to assist in its economic turnaround. Congo is already home to nearly \$2 billion in U.S. foreign direct investment, but more is needed if present growth rates are to be sustained and increased.

An ambitious program of privatization of state-owned industries is already beginning to pay off for Congo, with the country's first sell-off, a flour mill, going to U.S.-based Seaboard Corporation. Ralph Moss, the company's Washington representative adds that "Our Congo investment is by no means our largest in Africa, but it has so far been our most profitable."

It is essential that in a balanced policy toward Africa, U.S. officials must do more than criticize the obvious shortcomings of the continent's remaining autocratic regimes. It should laud and provide recompense to those who have successfully enacted the kinds of political and economic liberalizations that will make them trusted and effective partners to the United States. On a day when two countries forged two different paths for the future, the imperative is as clear as ever.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PLATEAU VALLEY SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the students of Plateau Valley School of Colbran, Colorado and thank them for their dedication to helping the victims of the terrible attacks of September 11th. As we all look for a way to help our nation come through these tragic and difficult times, let the efforts of the Plateau Valley students serve as a model for ways to contribute to this great and worthy endeavor. The children have tirelessly worked to raise funds to assist the victims and I am honored to recognize their achievements before this body of Congress and this nation.

Four days after the September 11th attacks on our cities, the students began an effort to raise money to donate to worthy charities in New York City. They began the Pennies for People campaign as way to raise such funding. Accepting pennies at a time, the students have raised the incredible amount of \$3,437.31 to donate to the charity of their choice. What charity would receive this donation has been the concern of great speculation by the students for some time. Recently, through a school wide vote, the Children's Feeding Network was designated the recipient of all the students's hard work. Through the charity, the donated funds will provide the necessary essentials to children who have lost parents in the World Trade Center attack. This is a wonderful charity directly assisting those in need and I am proud Plateau Valley Middle School has selected Children's Family Network as the recipient of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to recognize the students of Plateau Valley School and commend them for their desire to assist their fellow citizens. They have shown great kindness and compassion through their efforts and I am honored to represent them

before this body of Congress today. Their dedication and commitment to a noble cause have brought great credit to themselves, their community, and a thankful nation. I would like to extend to them a thank you, good luck, and keep up their hard work because all of you have made a difference in these children's lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 82, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding group of dedicated young men from Montezuma-Cortez High School in Cortez, Colorado. The group is the boys basketball team and for the first time in the school's last forty years, a sports team has taken home a State championship. This championship is the culmination of months of dedication and hard work and I am honored to bring their accomplishment before this body of Congress and this nation.

This championship team has dedicated long and strenuous hours in training and competing for this high honor. They entered the championship as underdogs to win the State Class 4A Tournament, but kept their spirits high, and diligently competed with the surrounding schools for this top honor. Their dedication, self-sacrifice, and honest commitment to achieving their goal have led this group of young men into Montezuma-Cortez High School history.

I am also grateful to the surrounding community and supporting student body that over the years have remained by the sides of these young athletes, no matter what their record or standing. Local support is the backbone of any great endeavor and I am proud this community has repeatedly risen to the challenge. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate two final people whose guidance and leadership had much to do with this winning season and ultimate State title, Head Coach Wade Mortensen and Assistant Head Coach Bob Archibeque.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their time and efforts to achieving a difficult goal. The Panthers of Montezuma-Cortez High School have made great sacrifices in their lives and have done a remarkable job representing their school, their community, and the State of Colorado. They have proven that hard work and dedication to a dream can ultimately lead to the final victory. Good luck in your future, gentleman, and I look forward to