

have our vote in the House and the Senate. We put you on notice in your own official record that we are coming straight at you for our vote. Look for us on May 15.

HONORING FATHER BILL
SANGIOVANNI FOR HIS OUT-
STANDING SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Father Bill Sangiovanni. Father Bill has been a fixture in our community for many years and because of his seemingly endless contributions, we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

As a spiritual guide, he has nourished the souls of many—often providing much needed comfort in the hardest of personal trials. From South Dakota to Connecticut, Father Bill has touched the lives of thousands. His commitment and dedication is unequalled and as he celebrates the anniversary of his ordainment, I know that he is reflecting on his many experiences.

Father Bill has served in an array of positions in the public arena. For a number of years, he served as assistant to former Congressman Stewart B. McKinney and later as special assistant to the Minority Leader of the Connecticut General Assembly. Appointed by former Governor Lowell Weiker, Father Bill served on the Connecticut Ethics Commission in 1991 and was elected Vice-Chair just a year later. He would then go on to serve as the interim Chairman. Even with his extensive involvement with the government at both the state and federal level, perhaps his most cherished memories are from his many years in education.

Graduating from Fairfield University with a Masters in Education, Father Bill has and continues to be the consummate educator. I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented educators, ready to help our children learn and grow. Father Bill is a true reflection of this ideal. He spent two years at Assumption School and five as the Director of Ministry at Sacred Heart University. For the last sixteen years, Father Bill has been a teacher and administrator at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield, Connecticut. I have always held the firm belief that education is the cornerstone of great success. An invaluable resource to many of our young people, he has helped hundreds to obtain the knowledge and skills they will need to enjoy successful futures. Father Bill is loved and respected by students, parents, and faculty alike. This is his legacy.

On a personal note, Bill and I grew up together. We argued and challenged each other but learned the values that guided our respective ways since.

Father Bill has left an indelible mark on the hearts of many. His unparalleled commitment and dedication has made a real difference in countless lives. It is my great honor to stand today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Father Bill Sangiovanni for all of his good work.

H.R. 2715

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2715, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, is a simple bill that ensures that all infants who are born alive are entitled to the same protections we all share under federal law.

This bill says that if a child is born and is showing signs of life, this child is entitled to the full protection of law. We are talking about babies who are breathing, have a beating heart, or whose muscles are moving. These children are our future and deserve to have every opportunity to embrace the privileges that were granted to each of us.

I believe that life begins at conception, and a child exhibiting these signs of a living, breathing little boy or girl should receive the full protection of law, rather than being left to die a horrible death. I am extremely saddened that today in Congress we have to debate this legislation. What is happening in America that these precious, innocent children are born alive and not protected by the law?

The right in our society to terminate a human life is a grave threat to human principles. It is the most vulnerable members of our society, our newborn children, who fall victim to this fundamental legitimization of infanticide. I believe all children should be welcome and protected under the law.

I was a co-sponsor and strong supporter of this legislation. I commend the House for passing H.R. 2715, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act and I urge the Senate to take swift action on this legislation.

“MAYOR” MICO MICONI

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, on April first, the Washington Post carried the sad news that Mico Miconi will retire after more than three decades as the Clerk of the District of Columbia Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. Unfortunately, for the Congress, and the people of Washington, DC, the announcement was no April Fool's joke. I had the honor of working with, and some might say working for, Mico during my two year stint as Chairman of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee. Mico's broad and deep knowledge of the District's government provided a steady hand as we attempted to chart a course through the city's fiscal crisis, the school construction crisis, and the final two years of Mayor Barry's term. Mico and the citizens of Washington can be proud that our landmark legislation established true fiscal responsibility for the District.

I know my colleagues and the people of our National Capital will join me in thanking Mico Miconi for his three decades of service. I commend the following appreciation which appeared in the April 1, 2002 Washington Post.

D.C. “MAYOR” RETIRES FROM CAPITOL HILL

(By Spencer S. Hsu)

On Capitol Hill, he is known simply as “Mr. Mayor.”

After 31 years as an unseen power behind congressional members in charge of the District's finances, Americo S. “Mico” Miconi retired Friday as clerk of the House Appropriations subcommittee on the District.

“Clerk” is deceptive. From his corner office in the U.S. Capitol, the 60-year-old son of Italian immigrants has been one of the most influential anonymous figures in District life since Congress granted home rule in 1974.

A telephone call from Miconi to the right city bureaucrat was known to help resolve, say, the circumstances around a pesky \$20 parking ticket. His legislative handiwork helped when the federal government bailed out the District's \$2 billion unfunded pension liability in 1997.

“Daniel Patrick Moynihan [D-N.Y.] used to say: Everyone is entitled to their own opinions—but they are not entitled to their own set of facts,” said Miconi, who bade an upbeat farewell to the District as he packed up his small, chandeliered suite last week. As chief investigator and briefer to the representatives who hold the city's purse strings, Miconi determined which facts made it to members.

Miconi, a tall man whose craggy features strike friends as Lincolnesque and detractors as more like Ichabod Crane, was praised for his dedication and vigilance.

“He was much more demanding of the city government and how the agencies operated, sometimes, than many of the elected leaders. He seemed to care more,” said John C. Allbaugh, chief aide to Rep. Ernest J. Istook Jr. (R-Okla.), chairman of the subcommittee from 1998 to 2000. “I think every agency, from secretary to budget officer, knew his name.”

Tom Forhan, minority clerk on the panel and aide to the ranking Democrat, Rep. Chaka Fattah (Pa.), said, “He plays his cards very close to the chest, but I always believe he was working in the best interests of the District.”

Miconi, whose father was a West Virginia coal miner who named his son Americo in tribute to his adopted land, said his hard-scrabble background shaped a career spent combating bureaucratic waste and political featherbedding.

He was recruited to federal service just before graduation in 1963 from Fairmont (W.Va.) State College, near his native Caroline (population 500). He came to Congress on temporary assignment from the Treasury Department's Bureau of Accounts in 1971 and never left. After seven years as an assistant to Earl Silsby, budget chief to longtime D.C. subcommittee Chairman William H. Natcher (D-Ky.), he became chief clerk in 1978.

In a reflection of his standing among both parties, as well as his mastery of a small, arcane segment of the federal budget, Miconi was one of only two out of 13 senior House Appropriations staff members who were asked to stay on after the Republican House takeover in 1994.

Miconi, who lives with his wife in Alexandria, has had many run-ins with city officials. Over the years, some leaders of the majority-black city have chafed at congressional rule, sensing an undercurrent of racism in what they considered meddling inquiries from white, suburban aides to white, nonresident bosses.

That raw antagonism has moderated over time. Miconi has become a quiet patron and constituent to the current generation of District leaders.

“Mico Miconi is an outstanding public servant who represents institutional history. He will be missed,” said the District's chief financial officer, Natwar M. Gandhi, whose independent financial watchdog agency Miconi says is his proudest legislative achievement.

"He knows more about the District's relationship with Congress than any other living human," said Tony Bullock, a spokesman for Anthony A. Williams (D), a former chief financial officer who became mayor.

Miconi's legacy includes the mundane and the landmark, both shaped by his tenacity in the face of bureaucratic resistance. After a 20-year battle with federal deadbeats, most notoriously the Pentagon, Miconi drafted a law a decade ago to force agencies to pay water bills on time through the Treasury, a measure that sends \$25 million a year to the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority.

After District police dismantled their helicopter unit in a cost-cutting move, Miconi helped find \$8.5 million in 1998 for the Interior Department's U.S. Park Police in Washington. He crusaded for district courts to use \$30 million as it was intended, for legal services for the indigent, before the courts were transferred to federal control in 1997.

He has done so while remaining in the background.

"The amazing thing about Mico Miconi is, you can spend 2½ hours in a meeting with him and not know what his position is. If he played poker, he'd be a millionaire many times over," Bullock said. "He doesn't forget anything, and he's very, very shrewd."

Miconi's departure follows the retirement of his longtime aide and sidekick, Mary Porter, a 40-year veteran of D.C. government and the Hill. Miconi said he plans to help with the transition to a new House staff before leaving. With a parting word of caution, he is optimistic about the District.

"As long as there's an independent chief financial officer, you won't have a control board come back," Miconi said. "I think the future is very bright."

CORRECTING THE RECORD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 24, just after we entered our spring recess, the New York Times Sunday magazine published a very interesting interview with Richard Holbrooke, who served as U.N. Ambassador during the Clinton administration. In a short interview, the questioner put several important questions and Ambassador gave very cogent answers. Because Ambassador Holbrooke effectively counters a good deal of mistaken argument in this relatively short

space, I ask that some of the remarks relevant to current policy disputes be printed here. Ambassador Holbrooke brings to some of our ongoing debates important perspective and a keen intelligence. In particular I commend to Members Ambassador Holbrooke's argument that with regard to the military effort in Afghanistan, "the military leadership in this country was essentially the same group of senior officers that served the previous administration. The military budget was the budget submitted by the Clinton administration. On the military side I think any President would have responded the same way." He then draws on his significant experience in dealing with the aftermath of a successful military effort to note, accurately, "the true test of a military action is the peace that follows it. Right now, because of the strict limits that the Pentagon has placed on the international peacekeeping force . . . the country is in extreme danger in falling back into the hands of warlords and drug lords and terrorists."

Furthermore, in his comment on foreign policy in general, Ambassador Holbrooke points out that "there are some people in Washington right now who are so hostile on a visceral level to what was done in the Clinton administration that they haven't looked at the successes of that time."

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Ambassador Holbrooke for speaking out in ways that some will find controversial, but which are in fact lucid and persuasive, and very relevant to our current policy discussions.

Question. With all that has been happening in the world these days, has it been hard to sit on the sidelines?

Answer. There are plenty of times when you look at things and you say: "They did that well, or they should have done that differently. I might have done that differently." I think everyone second-guesses public officials, and people who have been in public affairs are more likely to do so. But it's not a healthy way to live. And those people who stand around and say, "I would have done it this way instead of that way" are going to waste their lives thinking about things that are too hypothetical.

Question. During the first few months of the war in Afghanistan, a log of people, including Democrats, said that they were surprised to find themselves feeling grateful that Bush had won, because no Democratic administration would have prosecuted this war as well as his administration has. Is there anything to that?

Answer. I've heard that from people, but I reject it completely. First of all, the mili-

tary leadership in this country was essentially the same group of senior officers that served the previous administration. The military budget was the budget submitted by the Clinton administration. On the military side, I think any President would have responded the same way. And we can win any military victory at any time at any place against any enemy in the world. But the true test of a military action is the peace that follows it. Right now, because of the strict limits that the Pentagon has placed on the international peacekeeping force—5,000 troops, no Americans, limited only to the capital city of Kabul—the country is in extreme danger of falling back into the hands of warlords and drug lords and terrorists. And if this happens, Afghanistan will once again become a sanctuary for attacks against the United States.

Question. So what advice would you offer to those in power now?

Answer. We should apply what we learned in the Balkans to Afghanistan. But there are some people in Washington right now who are so hostile on a visceral level to what was done in the Clinton administration that they haven't looked at the successes of that time. This was particularly evident in the Middle East, where they thought the president was too engaged, so they decided to be unengaged. Would the deterioration of the situation have occurred had the United States been more actively involved? I can't say, but it's hard to imagine the situation being more dangerous than it is today.

Question. Has the administration taken this military victory as a sign that it can afford to go it alone in general?

Answer. There are people in the administration who have made strange noises—atonal noises—that have a unilateralist component. If there are people who hold these views, they will come up against the harsh reality of the world, which is that not even the U.S. can go it alone.

Question. What about Milosevic? You have made it clear that you have admiration for his wiles, even if you deplore his principles. Now he's defending himself in the special tribunal. How has he been doing?

Answer. His performance has been what anyone who knows him would have predicted. He has a legal background, he's smart, he's tricky, he's very dangerous, he's in possession of many facts that he can twist to his own purposes. But I have no doubt that he belongs in The Hague, on trial, that he's responsible for the four wars of the Balkans. This is probably his final strut on the world stage, and the stage is getting smaller—it's no longer southeastern Europe; it's a courtroom.