

Day after day, week after week, our correctional officers work one of the most dangerous patrols in the country. They devote themselves to keeping violent felons behind bars, ensuring that our families can feel safe in our homes and on our streets. We know from the number of correctional officers who die in the line of duty each year that this is a dangerous profession that requires courage, hard work, and professionalism.

Our correctional officers are people like Bonnie Johnson, a mother of six, who works over 50 hours a week in a prison in Jackson, Michigan. For almost 20 years, Bonnie has put her heart and soul into her job. Or Rodney Olsson—a correctional officer with the Michigan prison system for roughly 14 years. Rodney drives over 60 miles to get to and from work. These fine men and women work holidays, weekends, and double shifts. They deserve our support.

We need to do our part in the weeks and months ahead to pass legislation that will protect the safety and working conditions of correctional officers. We should act to prevent further privatization of our prisons, which puts both our officers and inmate populations at risk. We need to ensure that our correctional officers receive meaningful, reliable pensions, good benefits, and decent wages. And we should invest adequate resources in prison programs that provide constructive activities for inmates that reduce recidivism and prevent violence. The work of our correctional officers gets more and more difficult with each passing day. In my home state of Michigan, the prison population has grown 38 times faster than our general population. And records show our inmate population is getting more violent. I commend Michigan's correctional officers for staying committed to the job despite these additional challenges.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution offered by Representatives Strickland, Sweeney, Horn, and Holden that officially recognizes National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. This resolution also requests that our President issue a proclamation urging citizens to honor our correctional officers and the work they do to protect us. We should pass this resolution without delay and give our correctional officers the respect they deserve for their service.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL
DENNIS L. VIA

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great Army officer and soldier, Colonel Dennis L. Via, and to thank him for his contributions to the United States Army and to our country. On Thursday, June 13, Colonel Via will relinquish command of the 3rd Signal Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas for assignment to the Department of the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, here in Washington, DC.

Colonel Via began his career in 1980, graduating from Virginia State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate and earning a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal corps. He commanded troops as

a Signal Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Battalion Commander before taking command of the 3rd Signal Brigade. Dennis has also served in staff positions from battalion level to the Department of the Army at numerous posts in the United States and Europe, and along the way found time to earn a Master's Degree at Boston University.

Dennis Via is a consummate professional whose performance personifies those traits of courage, competency and commitment that our nation expects and demands from its military leaders. It is with both regret and pride that we wish him Godspeed and good luck as he leaves Fort Hood for his new assignment.

It is important to note that every accolade to Dennis must also be considered a tribute to his family, his wife Linda and their two sons, Brian and Bradley. As a wife and mother, Linda has been a true partner in all of his accomplishments.

Dennis' career has reflected his deep commitment to our nation, and has been characterized by dedicated service, a profound respect for our soldiers and their families, and an absolute commitment to excellence. I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation for a job well done and best wishes for continued success to an outstanding soldier and a good friend—Colonel Dennis L. Via.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. KIEVE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of San Jose broadcaster Robert S. Kieve. I would like to recognize his efforts as a radio pioneer deeply dedicated to the idea of the media providing a community service. He will be honored with the Spirit of San Jose Award on Monday, May 20, 2002.

Since 1967, Kieve had been one of the "mom and pop" owners holding out against large conglomerates, demonstrating the value of local ownership through his editorials, community involvement and loyalty to employees—who own 25 percent of his broadcasting company, Empire Broadcasting. In recently selling one of his radio stations, Kieve shared those profits with his employees in an usual and caring move for the business . . . but not for him.

Kieve, a former Eisenhower speechwriter, has been a pioneer in hiring women in an industry that women are dramatically underrepresented.

He has, for thirty years, been an outspoken, committed and vital force in San Jose, always willing to offer his opinions and provide a forum for others to share theirs.

Always willing to try something new, Kieve recently started three Internet radio stations featuring Beethoven, traditional country and big band.

Kieve will continue to operate two stations, KRTY-FM and KLIV-AM after his recent sale of KARA-FM, a San Jose institution, and will use a portion of the profits to help create a charitable foundation.

I am proud and grateful to thank Robert S. Kieve for reminding us all that one person can truly make a difference in the lives of many.

MONSIGNOR GEORGE C. HIGGINS:
AMERICA'S LABOR PRIEST

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, America lost its preeminent "labor priest" on May 1st when Monsignor George C. Higgins died at the age of 86 after a half-century career in the Nation's Capital devoted to the cause of social justice and the rights of labor. As head of the Catholic Bishop's Social Action Department for 35 years, Msgr. Higgins was an influential church figure and respected authority on the labor movement who dedicated his life to promoting the rights of workers around the world.

No one did more to advance the church's social teachings on a just economy and the rights of working people. Msgr. Higgins brought the church and labor closer together by showing working men and women that the church's social teaching was on their side—that work must be valued and workers honored, and that a just society demands that workers have the right to organize and bargain collectively.

Generations of American workers—who never knew his name—owe Monsignor Higgins a debt of gratitude for devoting his life to fighting injustice and defending their rights.

I would like to insert in the RECORD for the benefit of my colleagues the following statements by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney on Msgr. Higgins death, and an essay by E.J. Dionne entitled "The Great Monsignor."

MSGR. GEORGE HIGGINS, DEAN OF CHURCH
SOCIAL ACTION MOVEMENT, DIES

WASHINGTON (May 1, 2002).—Msgr. George G. Higgins, the "labor priest" who was generally regarded as the dean of the U.S. Church's social action ministry for the last half century, died May 1 at the age of 86.

After a long illness, Msgr. Higgins died at the home of his sister, Bridget Doonan, in LaGrange, Illinois, his native city. He had returned to LaGrange in January to speak at St. Francis Xavier Church, the parish in which he was raised. After delivering the talk on January 19, he fell ill with a severe infection and was hospitalized for a period of three months.

"Msgr. George Higgins was without parallel the authority on the Church's social teaching and on labor-management issues," said Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "He was a forceful and articulate figure in the Church and a major influence on the lives of several generations of Catholics dedicated to the cause of social justice. He was, above all, a good and dedicated priest. I pray for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his family and the many persons in all walks of life to whom he will always be a vibrant and lasting inspiration."

A priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who spent 60 years of his life working in the nation's capital, Msgr. Higgins was probably the best known and most influential priest in the United States. He was widely admired within the Church and in the secular realm for his knowledge of the labor movement, ecumenism, Catholic-Jewish relations and many other fields, and for his talents as a skillful negotiator.

"The best informed priest in the United States," as U.S. Church historian John

Tracy Ellis once described him, Msgr. Higgins was an advisor to labor leaders and presidential commissions, a friend to bishops and to everyday Catholic people. Above all, he was a champion of ordinary men and women and of the workers' right to organize.

He headed the Social Action Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference for 35 years, and his syndicated column, "The Yardstick," appeared in Catholic papers from 1945 until he penned his last piece in September, 2001, by which time macular degeneration had seriously impeded his vision. By then he had written nearly 3,000 columns. Most were on some aspect of the labor movement but his range of topics was vast. He had a special interest in Catholic-Jewish relations.

Msgr. Higgins was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1940. He came to Washington to study at the Catholic University of America, where he earned a doctorate in economics and political science, and took on a supposedly temporary position with the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) was then known. The following year he became assistant director of the department and, in 1956, its director.

While guiding that office, he used his column to teach on a wide variety of topics important to the Church, while using his personality and old-fashioned political skills to mediate labor disputes from coast to coast. He counseled Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, and was a mediator between workers and growers in California and the Midwest. For 35 years he was chairman of the United Auto Workers' Public Review Board, an agency that handles grievances between rank and file workers and the union.

Msgr. Higgins was a peritus (expert) at all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and was on the preparatory commission which drafted the council's laity document, the first U.S. priest to receive such an assignment. He became one of the best known interpreters of the Council to the English-speaking world as a daily member of the U.S. Bishops' press panel. After retiring from the Bishops' Conference in 1980, Msgr. Higgins was an adjunct lecturer in the Theology Department of the Catholic University of America, 1980-1994, and later professor emeritus.

Msgr. Higgins received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in White House ceremonies in 2000. The previous year he was awarded the Laetare Medal, the highest honor given by the University of Notre Dame.

In June, 2001, the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee (sponsored by the Holy See and the International Jewish Committee for Interregligious Consultations) honored Msgr. Higgins as one of the great pioneers of the dialogue worldwide.

A dinner planned as a tribute to Msgr. Higgins last September 11 was postponed, but a reception in his honor was held two months later at the time of the U.S. Bishops' fall meeting. It was co-hosted by Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, then President of the Bishops' Conference, and Mr. John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO.

The Mass of Christina Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 7, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. A visitation and Liturgy of the Eucharist will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier, La Grange, May 6.

STATEMENT BY AFL-CIO PRESIDENT JOHN J. SWEENEY UPON THE PASSING OF MSGR. GEORGE HIGGINS

How like Msgr. George Higgins for his last day on earth to have been on the Feast of St.

Joseph the Worker—and International Worker's Day!

Throughout his entire life, this "labor priest," as we fondly and admiringly referred to him, fought for and lifted the lives of working men and women—hundreds of thousands of them. Wherever working people were joining together to build a better life, George Higgins was there. He prayed with striking miners in Wyoming, celebrated an organizing victory with meat cutters in Texas, stood with hospital workers and mediated between farm workers and grape growers in California, and testified on Catholic social teaching in a case before the Education Labor Relations Board in Illinois.

More than any other American in the 20th century, Msgr. Higgins argued that Christian beliefs must prominently include the notion that work must be valued and workers honored. His preaching on Catholic social teaching educated generations of leaders within his church and helped them apply the justice Gospel in their own areas.

And for more than 60 years, Msgr. Higgins championed the right of working men and women to join freely in unions to improve their lives, giving unremitting energy and effort and vision and wisdom to American's unions, in good as well as challenging years.

One venue for his inspiration was AFL-CIO conventions, at which he delivered invocations for more than 20 years. In 1999, in the opening invocation at the community convocation preceding our Los Angeles convention, he spoke of his belief in organizing as a path of justice:

"We will not have a decent society in the United States until a much larger percentage of the workers are organized into unions," he said.

Msgr. Higgins was a certain force in bringing labor and the church closer together, and his efforts over many years laid the ground work for the strong and growing partnership between the union movement and the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice.

And while his preaching of the justice Gospel won him well-deserved praise, his pastoral attention to working families was also remarkable: many who suffered disappointment or disillusion were uplifted by his resolute faith in the reign of God and hopefulness in God's ultimate triumph over injustice. When I visited with him last Saturday I was struck by the gifts Msgr. Higgins had given to so many of us who were privileged to know him.

All workers—whether they are farm workers, health care workers, poultry workers, steel workers, immigrants, people of color, whites, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim or Protestant—owe a debt of gratitude to Msgr. Higgins.

So while we are saddened by his passing, we are—even more so—ever mindful of and deeply grateful for the conscience, courage, intellect and love that Msgr. George Higgins committed to America's workers and America's unions.

THE GREAT MONSIGNOR

(By E.J. Dionne Jr.)

There is no such thing as a timely death. But just when you thought all the stories on American priests were destined to be about evil committed and covered up, one of the truly great priests was called to his eternal reward.

Monsignor George G. Higgins was the sort of Catholic clergyman regularly cast as a hero in movies of the 1940s and '50s. He was an uncompromising pro-labor priest who walked picket lines, fought anti-Semitism, supported civil rights and wrote and wrote and wrote in the hope that some of his argu-

ments about social justice might penetrate somewhere.

He got attached to causes before they became fashionable, and stuck with them after the fashionable people moved on. Cesar Chavez once said that no one had done more for American farm workers than Monsignor Higgins. In the 1980s, he traveled regularly to Poland in support of Solidarity's struggle against communism and became an important link between American union leaders and their Polish brethren.

As it happens, even the day of Monsignor Higgins' death, at the age of 86, was appropriate. He passed from this world on May 1, the day that many countries set aside to honor labor and that the Catholic Church designates as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

If Higgins had been there when that famous carpenter was looking for a place to spend the night with his pregnant wife, the monsignor would certainly have taken the family in. He would also have handed Joseph a union card, told him he deserved better pay and benefits, and insisted that no working person should ever have to beg for shelter.

Yes, Higgins sounds so old-fashioned—and in ever good sense he was—that you might wonder about his relevance to our moment. Let us count the ways.

One of the most astonishing and disturbing aspects of the Catholic Church's current scandal is the profound disjunction—that's a charitable word—between what the church preaches about sexuality and compassion toward the young and how its leaders reacted to the flagrant violation of these norms by priests.

Higgins, who spent decades as the Catholic Church's point man on labor and social-justice issues, hated the idea of preachers' exhorting people to do one thing and then doing the opposite. And so he made himself into a true pain for any administrator of any Catholic institution who resisted the demands of workers for fair pay and union representation.

"These men and women mop the floors of Catholic schools, work in Catholic hospital kitchens and perform other sometimes menial tasks in various institutions," he once wrote. "They have not volunteered to serve the church for less than proportionate compensation."

"The church has a long history of speaking out on justice and peace issues," he said. "Yet only in more recent times has the church made it clear that these teachings apply as well to the workings of its own institutions."

Where some religious leaders complain that they get caught up in scandal because they are unfairly held to higher standards, Higgins believed that higher standards were exactly the calling of those who claim the authority to tell others what to do.

It bothered Higgins to the end of his life that the cause of trade unionism had become so unfashionable, especially among well-educated and well-paid elites. For 56 years, he wrote a column for the Catholic press, and he returned to union issues so often that he once felt obligated to headline one of his offerings: "Why There's So Much Ado About Labor in My Column."

His answer was simple: "I am convinced that we are not likely to have a fully free or democratic society over the long haul without a strong and effective labor movement."

To those who saw collective bargaining as outdated in a new economy involving choice, mobility and entrepreneurship, Higgins would thunder back about the rights of those for whom such a glittering world was still, at best, a distant possibility: hospital workers, farm workers, fast-food workers and others who need higher wages to help their children

reach their dreams. He could not abide well-paid intellectuals who regularly derided unions as dinosaurs, and he told them so, over and over.

It is one of the highest callings of spiritual leaders to force those who live happy and comfortable lives to consider their obligations to those heavily burdened by injustice and deprivation. It is a great loss when such prophetic voices are stilled by scandal and the cynicism it breeds. Fortunately, that never happened to Higgins. He never had to shut up about injustice and, God bless him, he never did.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVE
SARTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Dave Sarton for his contributions to the State of Colorado. As a member of the Board of Directors of the South-eastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for sixteen years, he is moving his talents and experience to other endeavors. Dave has been an integral part of securing and distributing Colorado's most precious resource, water. As he reflects on his service to a grateful board, community, and state, I would like to commend him for his efforts to improve the lives of his fellow Coloradans.

Dave has proven himself a valuable community, business, and governmental leader over the years and has served on countless committees in support of his community and state. He has served on the Colorado Springs City Council, on the Energy and Environment Committee of the National Association of Regional Councils, as director of the Colorado Springs Department of Public Utilities, as director and chairman of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Government, as president of Sunset Sertoma Club, as chairman of the El Paso Task Force on Alcoholism, as chair of the ARK Board of Directors, and as vice-chair of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. In addition to his community duties, he is a proud business owner and operates a quality service for Colorado Springs as the president of Sperry & Mock/The Floor Store, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring the accomplishments and achievements of David Sarton before this body today. His leadership, hard work, and dedication to improving the lives of his fellow Coloradans is an example for all aspiring community leaders and it is for this reason that I wish to bring his accomplishments before this body of Congress, and nation. Thank you for all your hard work Dave, I wish you all the best, and good luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN KIRK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as Mary Ann Kirk prepares to leave Maryland to join her family in Colorado, I salute her lasting con-

tribution of public service to our State during the past fifty years.

Standing side by side with her children throughout their educational process, she also provided top leadership in the Montgomery County Heart Association; chaired numerous political and charitable fund raisers; and tutored elementary school children and political refugees in the ways of freedom in American democracy.

In 1978, she spearheaded landmark legislation in the Maryland General Assembly which created the Maryland Values Education Commission, and, as Vice Chairwoman, chaired its subcommittee work for four years. This Commission devised a list of 18 Character and Citizenship values affirmed by the Maryland Attorney General as Constitutionally sound for teaching in our schools, and served as a foundation, an impetus, for character/citizenship education efforts across our Nation. Today, there is an Office of Character Education within the Maryland State Department of Education and flourishing, growing, programs throughout the State—a direct result of Mary Ann Kirk's visionary work.

In 1978, when the Maryland General Assembly passed this landmark legislation, Senator Jennings Randolph (DWP) noted its passage in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He ended his remarks with these words: "The State of Maryland will be the first to create a Values Education Commission. The flame of faith is now aglow in 'The Free State.' May other States see the light and feel its warmth."

In 1986, she organized and coordinated Maryland's observance of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with the establishment of the FEDERALIST Foundation. This private/public partnership with Maryland State Archives recreated the beautiful, seaworthy Federalist, a 15-foot ship built in 1788 to honor Maryland's role as the seventh state to ratify the Constitution, and later sailed to Mount Vernon as a gift to George Washington. Two hundred years later, a horse drawn Federalist represented Maryland in Philadelphia's national Bicentennial parade; and, today, when not traveling to communities across the State to teach about the Constitution, resides under the dome of our State capitol in Annapolis—ever ready to convey our rich history to this and future generations.

In 1997, Mary Ann Kirk was honored by Governor Parris Glendening and the Maryland General Assembly as Maryland's Mother of the Year. She leaves Maryland as immediate past president of the Maryland Association of American Mothers, Inc., the official sponsor of Mothers Day.

We will miss her and wish her well. Maryland's loss is Colorado's gain.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROVIDE
IMPACT AID FUNDING FOR MI-
CRONESIAN CHILDREN

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to provide Impact Aid funding for Micronesian children living in the United States. You might ask why should we? What is their special status that justifies this payment?

The Compact of Free Association negotiated by the DoD and the State Department with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in 1985, and with the Republic of Palau in 1986, enhanced the security of our nation. The Compact of Free Association gives the United States authority over security and defense matters in this region. It prevents other countries from entering into military alliances with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Such military alliances could threaten the security of our nation.

In the period between 1918 and 1941, foreign powers did occupy these islands. And as history will recall, many WWII battles were fought in the islands fortified and occupied by Japan. After WWII the United States took over jurisdiction, and we inflicted grave harm to many of the islands' residents when the U.S. military tested 66 atomic and hydrogen bombs between 1946 and 1958. The long lasting effects of these tests are still felt by people living at Bikini, Eniwetok, and other atolls, and many have moved to the United States to live and to find health care.

In exchange for the sacrifices they have made in the Compact of Free Association, the United States allows citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau to freely enter the United States without visas as nonimmigrant residents within the parameters laid out in the Compact of Free Association. Their status is as "habitual" residents which places them in limbo and for example, they can not qualify for food stamps.

According to the 2000 Census, 115,247 Micronesians are living in the United States. Many of these families live in low income or public housing, which does not provide local schools with the funds they need to educate Micronesian children. Our public schools accept the financial burden for educating Micronesian children, even though the federal government created this obligation and should pay for it.

Our nation is responsible for the education of these children in exchange for the military benefits our nation currently receives from Micronesia. Our government must take a more active role and help pay for these children's education. It's unfair to make these innocent children unwelcome pawns of our national defense policy.

My bill will treat Micronesian children living in the United States as military dependents and consequently allow schools to count them for the purpose of obtaining Impact Aid funding. It will give local schools the extra funds needed to ensure other children in their district do not pay for the cost of our defense strategy.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and fulfill the obligation created by the Compact of Free Association.

THE 121ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Clara Barton, a true visionary in American history, once stated: "I have an almost complete disregard of