

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MICHAEL RUTAN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Michael Rutan has demonstrated professionalism and a dedication to safety; and

Whereas, Michael Rutan has logged 1 million miles, the equivalent of circling the earth's equator 40 times, without a single preventable accident; and

Whereas, Michael Rutan must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth over his years at Yellow Transportation;

Therefore, I join with the Motor Freight Carriers Association and the residents of Ohio 18th Congressional District in congratulating Michael Rutan for his outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO HOLY FAMILY PARISH ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 100th Anniversary of the Holy Family Parish in Sugar Notch, Pennsylvania on their centennial celebration on Sunday, September 14th.

One hundred years ago, Holy Family Parish was established when Bishop Michael J. Hoban named Father Stanislaus A. Dreier as the first pastor. The parish consisted of approximately 150 families. Life was hard, with many men working in the mines from dawn to dusk. With knowledge of the many accidents and various mine disasters, the strong roots of their Catholic faith helped them to endure their personal hardships.

In 1911, Father Franciszek Kasaczun, the second and most influential, pastor was named. His 31 years as pastor was during a time of heightened influx of immigrants from Europe who were looking to a church to meet their spiritual needs. These new immigrants established strong ties to the church, showing their loyalty to their new country, and keeping their ties with Poland. Because of his fluency in Polish, Lithuanian, and English, Father Kasaczun was just the man to accomplish this. He recognized the importance of education to help the immigrant families better themselves. The school began as just four rooms operating in the church basement, but through Father Kasaczun's efforts moved into the rectory. In 1916 Father Kasaczun invited the Bernadine Sisters of Reading, Pennsylvania to take over the work of teaching and caring for the Sanctuary and Sacristy.

Father Kasaczun organized many humanitarian efforts benefiting the community. Among many other accomplishments, he organized the Children's Relief Fund for Poland, helped WWI veterans with their transition back to civilian life, remodeled company homes, cov-

ered the swamps with clean fill, fixed the main street, and convinced the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company to build a playground for the children in the community.

On July 7, 1992, Father John S. Terry was named the sixth, and current pastor of Holy Family Parish. Father Terry, in addition to overseeing the renovation of the church, introduced new practices and devotions to the parish. Children's masses were celebrated monthly and on holidays. A special mass for the deceased would be held on All Soul's Day with the participation of family and friends. Meals were delivered to the shut-ins and needy during Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving.

The past one hundred years has brought many changes to the Holy Family parish and community. Gone are the coal, rail and garment industries that employed their parish members. They held together during the tragic world events that brought them unity and emotion. Today, The Holy Family Parish has become an important historical landmark in Sugar Notch, Pennsylvania, and a home to their growing population of parish members.

Mr. Speaker, on their 100th Anniversary, I recognize both the efforts and positive impact of Holy Family Parish and Father John S. Terry in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the enactment of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) was an important step toward protecting retirement benefits for millions of American workers. Over the years, ERISA has developed into a complex legislative framework. Congress regularly revisits this important area of law in an effort to perfect it.

In its efforts, Congress may be making it better as it seeks to enhance the protections provided to many workers and their beneficiaries, but this is not without added complexity. For those of us who are not comfortable making casual conversation on such topics as actuarial assumptions and technical funding rules we have valued the service EBRI has provided over these many years. EBRI is a nonpartisan research organization that specializes in employee benefits. It collects and analyzes the relevant data and make it available in a format that is easily understood by all of us.

The service EBRI provides is invaluable. Many of us in Congress find it particularly useful because of the balanced format in which the information is presented. This makes the information EBRI distributes acceptable by all sides in the debate. In addition, it provides a common base of knowledge that helps us evaluate conflicting proposals.

EBRI has now been doing this important work for a quarter of a century. As EBRI celebrates its 25th anniversary, I want to take this opportunity to wish the valuable organization well. It is my hope that they keep these analyses coming. We will need them more than ever in the months ahead.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW BEGINNING CENTER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the New Beginning Center on the recent groundbreaking and renovation of their domestic violence shelter in Garland, Texas.

For almost two decades, the New Beginning Center has been a silver lining for the victims of domestic violence in the North East Dallas area.

Through crisis intervention, counseling, education and advocacy programs, the New Beginning Center provides a safe environment for women and children fleeing life-threatening situations. But the services they provide go well beyond shelter or legal services. The Center's staff and volunteers are responsible for rebuilding lives, restoring hope and opening up new opportunities for families under some of the most difficult and dangerous circumstances imaginable.

I recently had the opportunity to tour the New Beginning Center to learn more about the important service they provide to our community. I was touched by the stories I heard from the staff and volunteers. During my visit I was able to see firsthand how we can pull together to help end the scourge of domestic abuse.

With the help of HomeAid Dallas and Beazer Homes, the New Beginning Center's new 1,300 square foot Shelter Service Building will expand the center's capacity by 38 percent so they can provide safety to more families.

Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the New Beginning Center, HomeAid Dallas, Beazer Homes, and the 31 other local sponsors who made the beginning of this new facility possible. I thank the hard working staff and volunteers there. Most importantly, I applaud the Center's efforts to put an end to domestic violence in our community.

A TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RICHARD SCHIFTER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ambassador Richard Schifter, one of America's finest champions of international justice and global cooperation. Ambassador Schifter celebrated his 80th birthday on July 31st, marking a milestone in a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Ambassador Schifter's passion for human rights bears deep roots, as it reflects his personal experience with totalitarianism and bigotry. Dick's childhood in Vienna was rudely interrupted by the Nazi take-over of Austria in 1938. A Jewish Austrian, his life was in peril before his 15th birthday. Dick was able to escape to the United States that December; his parents, however, were not then eligible for immigrant visas, and they were forced to remain in Vienna. They were later murdered in

the Maidanek death camp along with dozens of Schifter family members.

Ambassador Schifter arrived in our great country alone, a young man barely in his teens in a totally unfamiliar land. Yet, in the finest American tradition, Dick built his life anew. He graduated summa cum laude from the College of the City of New York and Yale Law School, served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II, and embarked on a highly successful legal career. Dick and his charming wife, Lilo, started a family that now includes 5 children, 5 children-in-law, 9 grandchildren, and 1 grandchild-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, while the young Ambassador Schifter had a great number of professional and personal obligations, he never neglected his responsibilities to his Maryland community. Dick served for twenty years on the Maryland State Board of Education, and he chaired both the Governor's Commission on Funding the Education of Handicapped Children and the Governor's Commission on Values Education. He stood up for his progressive convictions as the Chairman of the Montgomery County (MD) Democratic Committee. As President of the Washington, DC, chapter of the American Jewish Committee, he fought to ensure that the fate of his family in Austria would never be repeated.

When Ambassador Schifter retired from his legal career during the early 1980's, he devoted himself to public service on a full-time basis. Dick's passion, energy, and undeniable brilliance proved invaluable in a wide array of positions. He represented his country as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (1983–1986, 1993), Deputy U.S. Representative in the United Nations Security Council (1984–1985), Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs (1985–1992), Special Assistant to the President and Counselor to the National Security Council (1993–1997), Special Advisor to the Secretary of State (1997–2001), and in numerous other important roles. Dick served Presidents from both political parties, reflecting his commitment to a bipartisan foreign policy as well as his clear and unambiguous passion for advancing human rights and American values around the world.

Ambassador Schifter's service as Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) bears particular significance. SECI's principal goal—to enhance regional cooperation among the countries of Southeastern Europe by encouraging joint and cooperative solutions to shared economic and environmental problems—could not have had a more principled champion than Dick Schifter. His agile mind and diplomatic skills added immeasurably to the progress of former Communist nations transitioning to democratic, free market structures. The success of this evolution added strength and stability to America's transatlantic partnerships.

Leaders from around the world have recognized Ambassador Schifter's record of achievement. He is a recipient of the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award, Austria's Golden Honor Insignia with Star, the Order of Commander of Romania's Star, and Bulgaria's Order of Stara Planina, First Class.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Schifter is a genuine example of the American Dream, and he has devoted his life to extending its values to every corner of the world. He is an idealist

and an optimist. Four years ago, at a conference in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, he concluded a speech by quoting the unforgettable words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "The only limit of our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." Indeed, few public servants have done as much to build a global future of peace, prosperity, and morality. I am honored to be Ambassador Schifter's friend, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing his tremendous service.

HONORING MORRILL ELEMENTARY
AND RAYBURN ELEMENTARY
FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to recognize our public schools and their wonderful accomplishments. Today, I rise to honor two schools from the 28th Congressional District of Texas, Morrill Elementary and Rayburn Elementary, for being selected as 2002–2003 National Blue Ribbon Schools. These two schools are among an elite number of elementary and secondary schools recognized this year by the United States Department of Education for their success in educating our next generation of leaders.

Morrill and Rayburn Elementary Schools, both in San Antonio, join only 325 Texas schools that have received Blue Ribbon status since 1982. I am proud to have them in my Congressional District, as they reflect the South San Antonio working family community. They are proof that tight knit communities such as ours can foster quality institutions. In addition, they realize it is important to involve parents in the education process. Through their parent/teacher programs, they bring closer the relationship between the home and the school so parents may cooperate intelligently in the education of our children.

I would like to recognize Principal Linda Aleman of Morrill Elementary and Principal Shannon Allen of Rayburn Elementary for their leadership and commitment to making their respective schools exemplary. They both recognize that our children are America's most valuable resource and, as such, their education is of the utmost importance.

Most importantly, I would like to recognize the students of these two schools who have persevered to obtain success. Many of them have had to overcome various obstacles in the course of their educational career. I am proud of their efforts and I know they will continue to succeed in their future endeavors, including the lifelong pursuit of education.

Congratulations to the Morrill Elementary and Rayburn Elementary communities for achieving the coveted Blue Ribbon Award.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because of a family medical emergency, I was unable to be present for this week's votes on H.R. 2989. Had I been present, I would have voted for its passage.

I did have a number of concerns about the bill, and about the process under which it has been considered. In particular, I was very disappointed that the Republican leadership refused to allow the House to consider an amendment to suspend the cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. I thought the House should have the chance to vote on that question, especially now when the unemployment rate is so high and the federal budget deficit is so large.

Overall, however, I think the bill's good provisions outweigh its flaws.

The bill includes substantial funding for a number of transportation projects in Colorado, including ongoing work to upgrade highways in the Denver metropolitan area and other parts of our state.

I strongly support these provisions, which will help Colorado address some of its most pressing transportation needs and will also help our state's economy not only by a short-term stimulus of jobs and purchases of supplies but also by infrastructure improvements that will yield big dividends in the years ahead. I commend Chairman ISTOOK, Ranking Member OLVER, and the other members of the appropriations committee for including these items in the bill.

Another reason I support the bill is because it also provides for other forms of transportation such as rail and buses. Highways are important, but highways alone do not constitute a sound or balanced transportation system, in Colorado or anywhere else. That is why I favor continued support for Amtrak's service to our state and other parts of the Nation and why I also support having a portion of federal transportation funding go for such "enhancements" as pedestrian, bike, and trail facilities.

In addition, the bill provides essential funding for other Transportation Department purposes as well as for the Treasury Department, the Executive Office of the President, and other important parts of the federal government.

Among other things, it includes funds for continued implementation of the Help America Vote Act. I strongly supported enactment of that measure, and am glad that the bill includes provisions that will allow the General Services Administration to distribute grants under that Act if the new Federal Election Assistance Commission—which is supposed to perform that function—is not in operation by the start of the next fiscal year.

The bill also includes funds for the Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Trust Fund and for the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. These are the accounts associated with the Morris K. Udall Foundation, and I am sure our colleagues understand why I have a particular