

HONORING THE WORK OF GERALD
T. HALPIN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Gerald T. Halpin for his years of service in his workplace and community. Mr. Halpin currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of WEST*GROUP MANAGEMENT LLC, a corporation he founded in 1962.

As President of WEST*GROUP, Mr. Halpin has been responsible for the development, re-development, and construction of over 13 million square feet of office, retail, residential, and industrial space. With his co-founders, WEST*GROUP initiated the development of the area known as Tysons Corner, Virginia, upon the purchase of a 125-acre farm in 1962. Since this initial development, Mr. Halpin has since opened four beautifully landscaped office parks located near major transportation arteries in Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland.

Having served as Chairman of Alexandria Management Corporation, Mr. Halpin has also acquired extensive experience in the development of hotels and resorts. He was an owner and key developer of the luxury resort The Cottonwoods, as well as two other hotels in Scottsdale, Arizona. In residential real estate, Mr. Halpin has also achieved a high level of expertise. Mr. Halpin has plans to construct four high-rise condominium towers in Tysons Corner, Virginia.

In addition to his professional achievements, Gerry Halpin has given back to his community. He served for more than eight years as a member of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority and its predecessors. Mr. Halpin was also appointed to the Governor's Advisory Board on Industrial Development, and has served on the Board under three governors. Currently, Mr. Halpin serves as Chairman of the Washington Monument Visitor Education Fund. In addition, he also chairs the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, an organization that he founded. Mr. Halpin has also served as a Trustee of the American Museum of Immigration, the National Parks and Recreation Association, and the Wolf Trap Foundation.

Mr. Halpin has been honored for his many accomplishments throughout the years. Most recently, he was recognized as the Ernst & Young Greater Washington "2002 Master Entrepreneur of the Year." Also in 2002, he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities from Shenandoah University. Other significant awards include the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year Award, the prestigious Ellie Doyle Service Award from the Fairfax County Park Authority, as well as a Virginia Senate proclamation honoring Mr. Halpin as an "Outstanding Virginian for a Lifetime of Dedication to Fairfax County."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that we extend this recognition to Mr. Gerald Halpin. His dedication to his business

and community deserves to be commended. We call upon all of our colleagues in joining us to applaud Mr. Halpin for all of his accomplishments.

GODSPEED RON KEENEY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Ron Keeney who will soon retire after nearly 37 years of great service to our Nation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I would emphasize the term "great service" because the contributions Ron Keeney has made to bettering the lives of the people who reside within the jurisdictional area of the Huntington District of the Corps of Engineers is beyond description here. Indeed, Ron is more than a dedicated public servant and wonderful person, I also view him a friend not only to myself but to the people of West Virginia.

Ron will be retiring from the Huntington District where he is the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management and the Chief of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. From my experience, Ron brought to this job not just the credentials of a seasoned Corps of Engineers veteran in terms of planning and constructing civil works projects, but a very real and deeply held belief that the mission of the Corps is more than just building locks and dams and flood control projects. That in effect, the Corps' mission includes improving our environment and providing opportunities for economic development so that our children and future generations to come will live in a better world.

Ron Keeney was born in Huntington, West Virginia, and began his rise through the ranks of the Corps of Engineers in 1966. He graduated from Ohio University with a BBA in Economics, *summa cum laude*. Over the course of his career he has received 30 outstanding/exceptional performance ratings and awards, the Silver de Fleury Medal, named USACE Planner of the Year, LRD Planner of the Year twice and received the Director of Civil Works Special Act Award.

I have had the privilege to work with Ron on many projects over the years and can say without hesitation that no challenge was ever too great for him. And challenge him we did indeed. Whether it was providing flood control along the Tug Fork River, implementing one of the first in the Nation Corps of Engineers environmental infrastructure programs, or building a relationship with Marshall University's Geotechnical Center, Ron Keeney responded to the challenge. I know for a fact that when he looks back at his career he will remember the work we did together at the Bluestone Dam facility as a highlight.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my staff, including Kent Keyser and Jim Zoia, we wish Ron Keeney Godspeed on his future endeavors. The best to him and his family, and may he continue to reside and prosper in the great State of West Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO OMERIO SABATINI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life's work of a retired American diplomat and longtime Alexandria, VA resident Omero Sabatini. Mr. Sabatini's crowning achievement is his modern translation of Italy's most treasured novel, *I Promessi Sposi*, or *Promise of Fidelity*, written by Italy's foremost novelist Alessandro Manzoni.

With extensive experience in promoting intercultural relations and translating from and into Italian, Mr. Sabatini has interpreted at the highest levels of government in both the United States and Europe, and has published numerous booklets, articles and human-interest stories in both English and Italian. He is active in several Italian-American organizations and is a member of a number of associations of retired U.S. Foreign Service Officers.

Born in Indiana, Mr. Sabatini lived in Italy from the age of three until his early twenties. He attended Italian high schools, and it was there that he became an admirer of Italian literature and all things Italian.

He devoted most of his professional life to promoting U.S. exports, but in retirement chose to spend a large share of his time translating this Italian literary masterpiece. He undertook this task as an act of love, and out of a desire to make this great Italian classic better known in the United States and other parts of the English-speaking world.

When the novel that he has translated was first published in its original Italian, Edgar Allan Poe, and the great German poet, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, praised it enthusiastically. Sir Walter Scott called it the "greatest romance of modern times," and Giuseppe Verdi, who composed his Requiem Mass to honor Manzoni's memory, thought that it was one of the greatest books ever written. This novel is also included in the original Harvard Classics series, under the old English title, "The Betrothed".

Throughout the years, several attempts have been made to translate this novel into English, but most of them have failed to capture the intensity and vividness of Manzoni's imagination. Mr. Sabatini's work, however, has been highly praised and admired by scholars from prestigious universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Though set in 17th century northern Italy, "Promise of Fidelity" is a timeless and universal tale that touches on every human feeling, passion and behavior. It tells the story of two young fiancés separated by the events that marked Europe's dramatic political and social scene.

I concur with the vast majority of experts who feel that this novel is required reading for anyone interested in learning about Italian and world literature, but also those intrigued with how Italian social, intellectual, and artistic patrimony has helped shape our own American culture and our outlook on life. I salute Mr. Sabatini's work, as it will continue to provide learned enjoyment for many generations to come.