

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO ST. STEPHEN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 10, 2003*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the accomplishments of an outstanding institution. St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, located in Paterson, NJ, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Wayne Manor on Sunday, October 12, 2003.

As a lifelong resident and former mayor of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that has meant more to the community than St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church. For the past 100 years, the men and women of St. Stephen's have given generously of their time, talents, and energy, and have made an indelible mark on countless people's lives. I feel that it is only fitting that St. Stephen's be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

The history of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church is a long and colorful one. Incorporated "in abstracto" as St. Stephen's Polish Roman Catholic Church on December 14, 1903, the first vespers service was held in the basement of St. Michael's Church in Paterson. One year later, St. Stephen's pastor, Rev. Joseph Zielinski, purchased the former Methodist Episcopal Church on Beech Street together with 12 nearby lots with the intention of building a permanent structure for the Church and surrounding outbuildings. The building project was not undertaken, however, until 1909—a year after a terrible fire destroyed the Beech Street church and all of its contents.

In the aftermath of the fire, St. Stephen's built a combination church and school, as well as a rectory on their property, adding a convent for teaching sisters seventeen years later. Over the years, the parish grew exponentially, and numerous improvements were made as the property and the church underwent numerous renovations. On November 15, 1962, tragedy struck when a disastrous fire completely destroyed the church and school building. For the next 6 years, services were held in various venues until, Easter Sunday, April 14, 1968, when the first Mass was celebrated in the new St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church.

Throughout its history, the work of the congregation of St. Stephen's has been inextricably intertwined with the history of the city of Paterson. As the needs of the community surrounding the parish have changed, St. Stephen's parish has shown a remarkable ability to adapt to reflect its needs.

Originally founded as a church to serve the Polish people of Paterson, St. Stephen's has gradually evolved into a multicultural parish that welcomes the cultural diversity of its congregation. Celebrating masses in Polish, English, and Spanish, St. Stephen's has played an integral role in the lives of all of the members of its community: it has reached out

to local children by permitting the Head Start Program to use its school building for classes, it offers a nutritional center and leisure club to the senior community who reside at the nearby Governors Towers, and it has turned over the occupation of its convent to Straight & Narrow—a local drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the men and women of St. Stephen's epitomize the noble spirit of community service and volunteerism that we all strive to achieve. The sense of altruism and spirit of humanitarianism demonstrated daily by the congregation of St. Stephen's is living proof of the difference that a handful of people can make in the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a U.S. Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the members of exceptional institutions such as St. Stephen's. I ask that you join our colleagues, the people of the city of Paterson, and myself in recognizing the men and women of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church for 100 years of ministry to the community of my hometown, Paterson, NJ.

### HONORING MILDRED A. O'NEILL

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 10, 2003*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to mark the passing of Millie O'Neill, the beloved wife for 52 years of our late, and also beloved Speaker, Tip O'Neill. At the same time, I am honored to stand before you to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman, who was widely admired for her warmth, her unbiased honesty and her uncommon sense of perspective.

Tip O'Neill dedicated his autobiography, *Man of the House* to her: "For Millie—The Speaker of My House." And she was. She had such a strong sense of family. Together they had five children and many more grandchildren, and no one doubted where her priorities lay. Millie never failed to make the point to members and their spouses that while the all-encompassing work that we do here is significant, it is our families to whom we owe our first loyalty and responsibility. She lent that critical perspective to new members. It was good advice, and it was greatly appreciated.

It was common knowledge that Millie was her husband's equal in political judgment. She was his eyes and ears, always in touch with the politics back home, providing advice and helping him become the immensely popular and effective Speaker that he was for so many years. As the *Washington Post* pointed out, "She scouted the opposition and reported on the grassroots. In 1966, she hosted a tea for 800 and ran 120 women volunteers on shifts for a phone bank." She was a very good judge of character, and more than a political

wife, she was her husband's political partner ensuring his success throughout their long and remarkable marriage.

But it is important to point out that Millie O'Neill followed her own compass. She had her own set of priorities about how government should serve the needs of people—and that was recognized by the people who knew and worked with her. She graciously volunteered her time on behalf of people less fortunate, and served as chairman or executive board member for the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, the International Club and an organization called So Others Might Eat. She was the chair of the Ford's Theatre and was awarded the theatre's Lincoln Medal in 1984 for her fundraising efforts.

Millie O'Neill was not one to be taken for granted, least of all by her powerful husband. As the *Washington Post* reported in her obituary, "She kept her own counsel about voting. Her husband made a habit, on Election Day, of asking his wife for her vote as they left the house for the polls. She always replied, 'I'll give it every consideration.'"

One measure of a legacy is the family that one leaves behind. Her children Susan, Rosemary, Tommy, Kip, and Michael before he died—all succeeded and achieved in their own right. They carry the family name, and the solid values instilled by their strong and loving mother.

Millie O'Neill was a role model on so many levels—as a wife, a mother, a politician, a manager and a volunteer. She led a life of fulfillment and she was an inspiration to us all.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 10, 2003*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, during floor votes 535, 536 and 537, I was unavoidably detained meeting with representatives from Fort Hood. Fortunately, these bills were passed overwhelmingly, but had I been here to vote, I would have voted "aye" on each.

### RECOGNITION MR. JACK RYAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 74 OF THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 10, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Ryan on the occasion of his retirement as president of Local 74 of the Service Employees International Union. Jack Ryan is a revered and respected leader of the labor movement who throughout his life has

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

selflessly devoted himself in service to our nation, his fellow trade union members, New York's Irish-American community, and his family and friends.

A remarkable union leader, Jack Ryan served as the president of Local 74 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for almost 14 years. During that time, he increased its membership ranks dramatically through a series of successful organizing campaigns and mergers. Local 74's membership now surpasses 14,000 members, of whom 4,500 are employed in the custodial division of the New York City public schools.

In 1959, Jack Ryan began his career of service to others by joining the U.S. Marine Corps after high school. He proudly served his country as a Marine for 4 years, and then returned to New York, began working for the United Parcel Service in Albany, and commenced his career in the trade union movement. In 1964, he was elected shop steward, representing more than 500 coworkers, and proudly held that position until 1980. During this time, Jack Ryan also served as elected trustee and a member of the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 294 in Albany, becoming the full-time business agent of Local 294 from 1980 through 1983.

After leaving the Teamsters, Jack Ryan became an International Representative for SEIU. In recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities, he was promoted to Regional Coordinator, and then named International Trustee for SEIU's Local 74 by the Union's International President, John Sweeney. Because he was so effective and respected as trustee, Jack Ryan was asked by Local 74's Executive Board to run for its presidency. In June of 1990 he was elected president of Local 74 by an overwhelming majority.

Because of his outstanding leadership abilities, Jack Ryan was also elected to positions in both the SEIU and other prominent labor organizations. He serves on SEIU's Executive Board, and has been elected Secretary of the SEIU New York State Services Council and Vice President of the New York City Central Labor Council. In 1991 he was elected a Vice President of New York State AFL-CIO and 1st Vice President of SEIU's New Jersey State Service Council.

Proud of his heritage, Jack Ryan has also been awarded numerous accolades and honors by New York's Irish-American community. A member of the Irish American Labor Coalition, he was named an honoree at its annual dinner in 1998. He also received the Pro Deo et Patria award from the New York City Board of Education Emerald Society in 1991, was honored by the Emerald Isle Immigration Center, and served as Grand Marshal of the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1995. His achievements have also been recognized by Black Trade Unionists, the Jewish Labor Coalition and the Greater New York Boy Scouts of America.

Jack Ryan has always remained devoted to his family. He is the caring father of three wonderful children, Patrick and Meghan Ryan and Colleen Simmons; and the beloved grandfather of five, Gregory and Alyssa Simmons, and Nathan, Jeremy, and Matthew Ryan.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack Ryan on the occasion of his retirement. He will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GREGG  
FROEHNER

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 10, 2003*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the great heroism of Mr. Gregg Froehner of Chester, New York, who courageously gave his life on the morning of September 11, 2001. The people of Gregg's hometown of Wayne, New Jersey, gathered on Saturday, October 11, 2003, to dedicate Froehner Memorial Park as an eternal commemoration of Gregg's lifetime commitment to serving others.

Through his thoughts and actions on the fateful morning of September 11th, 2001, Gregg Froehner demonstrated his great love for mankind in the face of unthinkable terror and confusion. His selfless assistance to the men and women who were trapped in the North Tower, without any regard for his own danger, was an unforgettable manifestation of the unique strength and spirit that makes the people of America so special. It is only fitting that Gregg he honored for his unwavering commitment to others in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Born on March 22, 1955, Gregg Froehner and his family first moved to Wayne, New Jersey when he was four years old. Growing up, Gregg took an active role in the community, volunteering as a Little League Coach, becoming an Eagle Scout, and enlisting as an active member of Preakness Volunteer Fire Company No. 4. By 1978, Gregg had graduated from William Paterson University with a degree in Public Administration, had been promoted to the rank of Captain at the fire house, and was working full time as a dispatcher for the Wayne Police Department. The following year, Gregg was hired by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, thereby realizing his life-long dream of becoming a police officer.

As an officer with the Port Authority, Gregg continually underwent specialized training, graduating from the New York City Police Department Emergency Service Unit's elite specialized training school, attending Army Chemical Identification and NBC Warfare School, completing a counter-terrorism course in toxic bio-chemical agents, graduating from courses in hazardous materials and confined space rappelling, and attending rescue diver training. Gregg applied this training daily during his 21 year career, receiving countless citations and awards for his rescues.

What made Gregg Froehner such a special individual, however, was neither his training nor his frequent acts of heroism, but rather his capacity to give of himself to everyone he encountered. When called upon to assist others, Gregg was often the first one to respond, sacrificing rest and his personal time until the job was completed. Despite his gratitude for the many awards, commendations, and citations that Gregg received during his tenure at the Port Authority, he never let the praise of others be the guiding force in his life. In fact, upon Gregg's passing, his wife was astonished to find a number of citations and medals that she had not been aware that Gregg had received. It was this sense of humility and

compassion that led Gregg to be one of the first responders to the scene on that tragic morning in 2001.

Arriving a mere six minutes after the first plane hit the North Tower on the morning of September 11th, Gregg Froehner led an Emergency Services Unit into the burning tower to rescue the private citizens who were still trapped inside. Without a moment's hesitation, he and his team rushed in and started making their way up through the building, floor by floor, ultimately reaching the 40th floor before the building collapsed.

On a day when Americans everywhere were forced to witness the very worst that mankind had to offer, the actions of men such as Gregg served as a reminder of the compassion that still existed in the world. To this day, foremost among the many unforgettable images that have been permanently inscribed in the minds of the American people are those of the courageous men and women who worked so valiantly to save the lives of others. The great sacrifice and love that was demonstrated by men and women such as Gregg Froehner has left an indelible mark on the lives of every American citizen, and will have a profound impact on generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Gregg's family and friends, and myself in recognizing the great compassion and bravery of Gregg Froehner.

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 10, 2003*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue of great importance to our children—afterschool programs. The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home, and the Urban Institute estimates that at least seven million and as many as 15 million "latchkey children" go to an empty house on any given afternoon. It is during these after-school hours that children are more likely to be involved in crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy. As a result, it is essential that we provide children with organized activities or programs to go to after-school.

To highlight the ongoing need for after-school programs, the Afterschool Alliance—a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to after-school programs by 2010—has organized the fourth annual nationwide day of awareness for after-school programs called Lights on Afterschool! This event is the only national event celebrating after-school programs and the important role they play in the lives of children, families and communities. Sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, with additional support provided by the C.S. Mott Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Open Society Institute, Lights on Afterschool! was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. This year's event will be its largest yet with over 5,000 communities organizing more than 6,000 events. These activities will take place at schools, 4-H clubs, YMCAs, churches, parking lots, on fair grounds, at shopping malls and State capitols.