

2. PURPOSE

a. The purpose of this agreement is to recognize and enhance the communications and working relationship among MARAD, GOMSA, and the Partnership in order to address the common goals of advancing short sea shipping in the Gulf of Mexico and ensure that it is safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound.

b. The agreement serves to facilitate periodic meetings among MARAD, GOMSA and the Partnership to identify ways the respective organizations can assist in the sharing of short sea shipping policy, experience and related information.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. MARAD will share with GOMSA and Partnership MARAD's short sea shipping

i. goals, policies, and experience so as to allow these organizations to use their extensive

ii. state and business networks to improve maritime efficiency, commercial viability, and

iii. short sea shipping opportunities as they arise.

b. GOMSA and the Partnership will share information and experience with MARAD so that they can assist in the accomplishment of MARAD objectives to ease traffic congestion, improve transportation safety, and elevate the quality of life in the Gulf States region through cooperative short sea shipping efforts.

c. MARAD, GOMSA and the Partnership will consult and share information in support of a "Gulf of Mexico Trade Corridor Transportation Study", a long-range Partnership project to highlight new commercial opportunities, inventory Gulf of Mexico infrastructure assets, and to identify and assess gaps in existing transportation infrastructure.

d. This agreement is effective upon the signature of the parties. It is informal in nature and may be modified by mutual agreement or terminated by any party at any time. The parties pledge to act in good faith at all times and to use their best efforts to accomplish the purposes summarized herein. This partnership does not obligate MARAD to expend any funds.

Signed the 5th day of November 2003 in triplicate, in Sarasota, Florida in the English and Spanish languages, each version being equally valid.

[Capt. William Schubert, Administrator, for the U.S. Maritime Administration] [Gary L. Springer, Secretary-General, Gulf of Mexico States Accord] [Robert Hendry, Director, Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc.]

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CATHERINE FUREY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Catherine Furey, a constituent of mine who recently passed away, and was proud to call Long Island home. She lived to mark a landmark occasion that many of us strive for but very few of us reach: Catherine lived to celebrate her 110th birthday.

Catherine was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, on April 6, 1893. At age 20, Catherine left her family and friends in Ireland to make a better life for herself in America. When she arrived in Boston, she immediately moved to

Providence, Rhode Island where she joined an aunt to assist with the upkeep of the home of a Protestant minister. Later, Catherine traveled to New York City to serve as a caregiver for a sister struggling with tuberculosis.

After her sister passed away, she began working for a wealthy family in Manhattan, tending the family's summer home in Long Beach. There she met and married Simon Furey. They moved to Hempstead where they raised two children and became active members of this Long Island community.

In the 1950's, Catherine began an 11-year vocation with St. Joseph Catholic School in Garden City where she ran the cafeteria. She helped to see that countless schoolchildren were content and always received a warm meal. After her decade of service to the school, Catherine continued to work and to play an active role in the lives of children by serving as a babysitter for working families in our community, a job she happily performed until her early eighties.

Last April on her birthday, Catherine received a letter from Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, congratulating her on being the oldest living Irishwoman. Catherine Furey was not only the oldest living Irishwoman, but also the oldest living Long Islander at the time of her death on December 2nd at the age of 110.

It is amazing to think of the events Catherine experienced over the course of her lifetime. When she arrived in America looking for a better life, women could not vote and were not able to be full participants in society. She lived not only to see the role of women evolve, but to see this country emerge stronger than ever from World War I, World War II, and the Great Depression. New York was at the forefront of innovation during the past century, and she was right there to witness this tremendous transformation.

Her life is an inspiring story of both strength and wisdom. She is survived by her son and daughter, along with 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING MIGUEL ARIAS AS HE IS SWORN IN AS A UNITED STATES CITIZEN

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a young man who is being sworn in today as a citizen of the United States of America. Over the past 2 years, Miguel Arias has been a member of my staff in my Fresno, California and Washington, DC offices. Over that time, Miguel has shown that he is dedicated to his family, his friends, his community, and his country. I am honored to rise in this chamber and welcome Miguel as a citizen of the United States.

Miguel was born in Apatzingan, a small city in the state of Michoacan, Mexico. He and his mother, Teresa Arias, immigrated to the United States when he was 2 years old. The Arias family settled in Mendota, California, a small farming community on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. It was in Mendota that Miguel began working in the fields picking onions, tomatoes, and melons to earn extra money for his mother, sister, and five brothers.

In spite of his long and hard hours in the fields, Miguel excelled academically at Mendota High School and found time to participate in numerous extracurricular activities, including wrestling. Upon graduation from Mendota High School, Miguel enrolled at California State University, Fresno, where studied criminology while working for both the Mendota High wrestling team and the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission. In May 2001, he became the first person in his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor's degree in criminology from CSU Fresno.

Following his graduation, Miguel began working for me as a staff assistant in my district office, where he made a very strong impression both with me, and with the constituents contacting my office. He was promoted to caseworker, where he specialized in immigration issues facing the people of my district.

It was in this role where Miguel provided his most significant contribution to his community. Miguel has become an expert in the process of immigration to the United States by helping many people in my district obtain visas, work permits, and citizenship.

Miguel was a leader in developing and executing the Mendota Project, which counseled parents and students at Mendota High School on the timeline of the immigration process and advised students on how to continue their education in colleges and universities while they waited for their legal immigration papers. The Mendota Project provided significant assistance to many people in my district who were struggling with immigration issues. Because of Miguel's leadership and dedication to the people of his community, the Mendota Project was an incredibly successful immigration education venture. His expertise on immigration policy was also apparent when, earlier this year, he counseled a summer intern in my office through the process of obtaining citizenship. Miguel's commitment to improving and assisting the immigrant community has not only been important to my office, but to the residents of the San Joaquin Valley.

I want to express my congratulations to Miguel as he reaches the culmination of a very long process that required a lot of hard work. Miguel has set a tremendous example for many of the immigrants he has helped while working in my office. Because of his hard work, determination, and community involvement, I have no doubt that he will continue to be an important role model in his community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Miguel Arias today as he is sworn in as a citizen of the United States of America.

LOCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL/CLASS 8A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lockport High School's football team, the Porters. Under the leadership of head coach Bret Kool, the Porters recently beat the Maine South High School Hawks, 48-27, to capture their second straight Class 8A state championship in football.

As any athlete will tell you, although it is hard to win one championship, it is a true test of greatness to come back and repeat as champion. All season the Porters have passed this test with flying colors, which is why I know the entire community is proud of Coach Kooi and the team.

In their drive for back-to-back championships, the team featured a high powered offense with one of the most prolific passing attacks in the history of Illinois High School Athletics.

Mr. Speaker, although this is a great accomplishment, it is just the newest chapter in Lockport High School's storied history. Over the years, teams from Lockport High School have won state championships in a number of sports including bowling and cross country.

But Lockport High School's successes are by no means confined to the athletic field. In the academic field, there's more good news. Since 2000, the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses has risen to 420, an increase of 60 percent. In addition, Lockport High School students scored well above the national average on the ACT exam, and last year, 91 percent of Lockport High School students went on to college.

Congratulations, Porters, for your many athletic and academic successes this year, last year, and over the years. Keep up the good work.

HONORING BARRY McNUTT

HON. W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, we are on the verge of an historic moment in the 108th Congress as we move to pass a significant revision of our Nation's energy policy. But indeed, this is also a sad time for us and for everyone in the energy community. I have learned and announce with regret, the passing of Mr. Barry McNutt, a distinguished energy policy analyst and outstanding public servant who served at the United States Department of Energy since its inception. Many of us who have been close to energy policy issues over the years will recognize Barry's mark on this energy legislation because he was a strong advocate for increasing domestic energy supplies and improving energy efficiency. While we may have disagreed with Barry's analysis at times, we always respected it because we knew it was coming from a man with great intellectual gifts and unblemished integrity.

Barry McNutt was only interested in good policy not politics, but he recognized that good policy happens through the legislative process. He worked tirelessly to formulate policy options that informed and enlightened the process. He always knew his role as a Federal employee and he understood the important part he played in forming policy. Barry often told his colleagues that the most important thing is to produce solid analysis that will stand the test of time and he did that with talent and great care. Barry was 57 years old when he died on Sunday, November 16 at his home in Arlington, Virginia, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He leaves behind a beloved wife Andrea and a brother, and many colleagues who will miss him, but he

also leaves behind a legacy of outstanding public service that should inspire us all throughout our years of service to this country.

TRIBUTE TO DOLLY DEIBEL AND HER LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding East Texan and ardent supporter of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Dolores M. "Dolly" Deibel of Tyler, Texas. Dolly has long been one of Tyler's philanthropic and civic leaders, and for the past two years, has chaired the "Light up Tomorrow . . . for the Children" benefit to raise funding and public awareness for the Pediatric Division at M.D. Anderson and the Children's Art Project. This year the event will be held on December 17 in Tyler.

Dolly has served as an Associate Member of the Membership Committee of The University Cancer Foundation Board of Visitors since September, 2000, and has been reappointed every year thereafter. Her efforts on behalf of M.D. Anderson are well-known, and the pediatric benefit has received strong community backing. This year the holiday gala enjoys the generous sponsorship of dozens of community leaders and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I have a special appreciation for—and owe a debt of gratitude to—the dedicated staff and leadership at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Several years ago, my grandson Jay was stricken with cancer, and through the valiant efforts and superb treatment available at M.D. Anderson, Jay was one of those fortunate cancer patients who pulled through. I will be eternally grateful for the treatment that Jay and countless others have received there, and I appreciate Dolly's efforts in supporting the children of M.D. Anderson.

Dolly has been a longtime advocate in the fight to eradicate cancer. Last year, in recognition of her tireless efforts on behalf of The American Cancer Society over the past twenty-five years, the Deibel family joined with the American Cancer Society to name a room in her honor at the new building serving the Smith County Unit in Tyler. Over the years, Dolly has served the Smith County Unit of The American Cancer Society as Board member, public relations chairman, district chairman, committee member of Cattle Baron's Gala, Chili Rose Bowl and Great American Smokeout. She has served as a Board member of the State division of The American Cancer Society, including service on the Communications Committee, Great American Smokeout, Legislative Day at the Capital, and Women and Smoking Committee, among many other activities. She has received numerous awards for her many contributions.

Dolly also has been actively involved in countless philanthropic, civic, and political activities in Tyler, as so many look to her for leadership, inspiration, and support. She has devoted her time and talent to numerous causes, including the Women's Symphony League of Tyler, Tyler Rose Festival, Literacy Council of Tyler, Dallas Summer Musicals,

Distinguished Lecture Series at The University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler Museum of Art, YMCA and other worthy organizations.

Dolly's vivacious, wonderfully engaging personality, her intelligence, her genuine compassion for others, and her willingness to work hard and to accomplish difficult tasks enable her to succeed in any cause or event that she tackles. Tyler and the State of Texas have benefitted greatly from her dedication to improving the lives of others, and she and her husband, John, are one of the dynamic couples in Tyler who are making a difference in their community. As we adjourn today, I want to commend Dolly Deibel for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of others, and in particular her support of the children of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the fight against cancer. Best wishes to all those who are supporting the "Light up Tomorrow . . . for the Children" benefit in Tyler on December 17—and may the light of Christmas shine upon this event. God bless.

DECLARATION OF PARTICIPANTS OF FIRST CONGRESS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following Declaration of the Participants of the First Congress of World and Traditional Religions hosted in Kazakhstan earlier this fall. One of the most important aspects of this gathering was the emphasis on reconciliation and the final declaration recognizing the right of each individual to "freely be convinced of, choose, express and practice his/her religion." Much of the tension in the world today is over the refusal of one group to allow another group or individual to peacefully practice his or her religious beliefs. I would like to commend President Nazarbayev for convening this important conference and I would like to commend all participants in the conference.

DECLARATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

We, the participants of the First Congress of World and Traditional Religions, held from 23 to 24 September 2003 in Astana, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Recognizing the right of each human person to freely be convinced, choose, express, and practice his/her religion.

Considering inter-religious dialogue as one of the most important instruments for ensuring peace and harmony among peoples and nations.

Supporting the efforts of the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations, as well as Governments, civil societies and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of dialogue among civilizations.

Confirming the importance of religion for the well being of all mankind.

Condemning the misuse and misrepresentations of religions and the incorrect use of differences among religions as a means for achieving selfish, disruptive and violent goals.

Conscious of: The declining sense of respect for the sanctity of human life and the dignity of every human person.