

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN
PETER LYNCH

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and sorrow that I announce to the House the passing of a good friend and former staff member, Stephen Peter Lynch.

Steve was a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, the whaling and textile capital of the world. He was a Vietnam War Era Veteran and was recommended for the Seventh Army Commendation Medal. After his honorable discharge in 1970, he attended Saint Louis University in pursuit of a post-graduate degree in Political Science. He was a seasoned Capitol Hill staffer for almost thirty years and was an active member in the Irish community, along with many other civic efforts.

Steve's work on Capitol Hill began in the fall of 1973, where he served as a research assistant to the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Criminal Justice. There, his research on the Federal Rules of Evidence and the development of Special Prosecutor legislation were to hold the key to his work on Capitol Hill for the remainder of his professional career. In addition to his research duties, he also assisted in the investigations of the firing of Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, the pardon of President Richard M. Nixon, and the subsequent attempt to reopen the pardon investigation. This work also included being a special assistant to the Subcommittee Chairman on the impeachment investigation of Richard Nixon and serving as a Committee representative to the staff and security force of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller during his Vice Presidential confirmation hearings.

His other service on Capitol Hill included: Staff Director on the Regulatory Agencies and Export Opportunities Subcommittees of the House Committee on Small Business (1975–1983); Minority Professional Staff Member on the Subcommittee on Export Opportunities and Special Small Business Problems, House Committee on Small Business (1984–1991); House Committee on Small Business, Minority Staff Director (1991–1993); and House Committee on Small Business, Majority Director of Special Projects (1994–1996).

In 1998, after a short retirement, Steve returned to Capitol Hill to serve on the House Judiciary Committee's staff on the Impeachment investigation of President Clinton, where he conducted research analysis and acted as the archivist for the Committee until 2001. His consummate knowledge of the history of the Nixon investigation made him invaluable to the committee.

As an active member of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. since 1983, Steve was instrumental in getting many prominent individuals to serve as parade Grand Marshal, including House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (1986), the First Lady of the American Theater, Helen Hays (1987), and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Carmencita Hederman (1988). As Chairman of the Parade Committee (2000–2002), Steve expanded the parade's visibility nationally. He began by having a web site created, reorganizing and expanding the Committee, and establishing the office of Chairman Emeritus in tribute to past

parole chairmen and naming Cecilia Farley as the first Emeritus.

Steve's participation in the Irish-American community went beyond his parade activities. He was a founding member of the American Foundation for Irish Heritage with the late John O'Beirne. Since 1990, Steve served as Secretary on the Board of Directors. The American Foundation for Irish Heritage was instrumental in getting Congressional legislation passed to designate March as "Irish-American Heritage Month" by Presidential Proclamation.

In addition to pursuing his Irish roots, Steve also shared his love for people and history by volunteering with other organizations. He served as co-chairman of the Friends of the Negro League Baseball Players Association, as well as historian for the Capitol Hill Philatelic Society.

Steve passed away on March 9, 2003, at his home in Takoma Park, Maryland. He is survived by his sister, Diana L. Coyne; his niece, Elizabeth Coyne; his nephew, Michael Coyne; brother-in-law, Jay Coyne, and half-brother, Frank Lynch.

All of us who knew Steve enjoyed his warm and caring spirit. We will miss him. I conclude with the old Irish Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
Godspeed, old friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 65, 66 and 67. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall numbers 65, 66 and 67.

HONORING PHILLIP HALLE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Phillip Halle, a community leader, political activist, loving family man, and a great Floridian. Born originally in New York, Mr. Halle moved to Florida after practicing law in New York City for many years.

Mr. Halle will be long remembered by residents of Plantation for his staunch commitment to civic affairs in the town and in the greater region of South Florida. Over the years, Halle fulfilled numerous civic posts. As a prominent member of the Lauderdale West community in Plantation, Halle served as their representative to the city and to the Broward County Commission.

In addition to representing his local community, Phillip Halle was once named chairman of the Broward County Consumer Protection Board and the Sanitary and Health Control

Board. Clearly, Halle felt passionate about serving his community and helping his neighbors.

Halle volunteered his time and resources to various causes, including acting as president emeritus of the Broward Coalition of Condominiums, a group representing 67 condominium groups, and being director of the Jewish National Fund, B'nai B'rith, and Temple Beth Israel.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion for me to honor Mr. Halle. His earnest efforts to assist his neighbors and be active in the community serves as an example to us all. His enthusiasm and dedication to many causes will be a legacy that stands to last forever.

Mr. Halle is survived by his wife of 71 years, Kate Halle, along with son Michael Halle and daughter Gilda Siegel, in addition to seven grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHE-
VILLE MEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the University of North Carolina at Asheville Men's Basketball Team. In the University's rich seventy-six year history, the 2002–2003 Men's Basketball Team is the first to represent the school in the NCAA Tournament.

This accomplishment was achieved through the incredible effort the men's team demonstrated during the Big South Conference Tournament. The team had three consecutive wins and defeated Radford University, 85–71, to clinch the Big South Conference title.

Not only did the men's team win their division championship, but they continue to represent the school well in the NCAA Tournament. The UNC-A Men's Team, on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, defeated Texas Southern, 92–84.

This proud moment in the University's history could not have been achieved without the leadership and effort of several individuals. Coach Eddie Biedenbach and his assistant coaches, Thomas Nash and Nicholas McDevitt, have done an incredible job guiding these outstanding men. In addition, the support of Chancellor James Mullen, Athletic Director Dr. Joni Comstock and her staff, and Drs. Eric Iovacchini and Kevan Frazier with the Office of Student Affairs have been instrumental in the success of the program.

Finally, I would like to mention the Senior leadership of the men's basketball team. Andre Smith, Alex Kragel, and Ben McGonagil have devoted themselves to this team, to this effort, and to this University. On behalf of North Carolina's Eleventh District, I would like to congratulate the team, the staff, and the student body on their success, both present and future.

SECURING PEACE THROUGH
SHARED SACRIFICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we stand on the brink of an invasion of Iraq, we must ask ourselves if there are better ways to secure long-lasting peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

I invite you to read excerpts of my remarks against an invasion of Iraq and in support of national service that I delivered Sunday, March 9, 2003 at Riverside Church. I was really moved by the sermon delivered by the Reverend Dr. James Forbes, Jr. that morning. The reading from the Bible was the parable of the weeds in the wheat field. It tells how the weeds will be destroyed but only after the weeds and the wheat grow up together and the wheat is allowed to mature. It was a great analogy as we take a look at a world today—a world that would have us believe that the weeds would be Saddam Hussein and that some are saying we have to destroy the entire wheat field in order to get him.

UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

Every minute of every day of every year that we live is actually part of history. We never really perceive what it is we do, how important it is, what we could have done or what we didn't do, until that day is over.

Well, I can share with you now that I was not excited about that trip. I didn't intend to walk and I asked Percy why didn't he walk down there if he felt so excited about this? But he said no and set it up with Andrew Young and John Lewis. I was running for office and he said how important it would be at least for me to go down and have my picture taken.

Well, having my picture taken seemed like it made a lot of sense. So I got a roundtrip ticket, and took my cashmere coat, my Stingy Brim hat, my Florsheim shoes, and went down there to have my picture taken.

I had bad feet so I knew I wasn't going to march. But when the rain started coming. I saw these poor farmers, sharecroppers and young people just finding plastic to wrap their feet in. I heard them start singing the hymns and the civil rights songs. When I saw and heard all this, I knew that I just could not return to the airport. So I switched my shoes with someone that was coming back to New York, got his sneakers (kept my cashmere coat, however) and started that march from Selma to Montgomery.

I cursed every step of the way of that march, wondering why in the world was I marching with no cameras, no TV, no reporters, in the darkness with a group of white Southern guardsman allegedly there to protect me. But it was only after that event was over that I fully recognized the power of Dr. Martin Luther King and fully understood the power of people who believed that they could make a difference.

How little did I know in marching in that march that, as a result, Americans who had been treated as a fraction of a man would be given the power to vote in the Deep South. It was a country where lives could be taken through lynchings, where people could be beaten to death and segregated, and people would say there's nothing that we could do about it. This march, and the subsequent incidents with dogs, allowed the best of America to come out—and not only turn it around, but provide for a kid from Lennox

Avenue to succeed the late and the great Adam Clayton Powell. It allowed me to be here today and say that as a result of that Voting Rights Act, we now have 39 African-American men and women serving in the House of Representatives. God is good.

It means that no matter how many weeds are growing that, if we are strong enough to be the wheat to provide the light, there is no sense in giving up on this country. It's all that we got.

We are the country. It is not just those people who come to Washington. It is us who decide just how strong we're going to be or how frightened we're going to be, or show silent we will be against the injustices that are taking place under our flag.

AN UNJUST AND UNWISE INVASION

On September the 11th, when enemies of the United States struck the World Trade Center, I think all Americans put aside whether they were Republican or Democrats, liberals or conservatives. For the first time in our history we felt the pain of hatred attacking us, and the things that we believed in. For the first time in my congressional career, New York City members were treated as members of Congress, and not merely as members of the New York delegation. We sang, "God Bless America" and said, under the President's leadership, that wherever this threat had come from, we were prepared to do whatever was necessary so that we would never feel the pain the way we did then.

However, soon the President started talking about "the axis of evil." He spoke about North Korea, Iran, and Iraq. And somewhere along the line, it was forgotten that our attackers were funded and had come from Saudi Arabia. Also lost was the fact that Osama bin Laden was the person we were searching for. Somehow the message got blurred. Soon, the President started connecting—without facts—Osama bin Laden with some force on television. And before you knew it, Saddam Hussein was transformed into the link to the tragedy that befell us at the Trade Center.

Let me tell you, I have listened to President Bush privately and publicly. I have heard from the CIA and the FBI. And I can tell you without fear of contradiction that the President of the United States, has not given one scintilla of evidence to connect the actions of Saddam Hussein with the tragedies that struck us here in New York City. And, if Colin Powell, the CIA, and the FBI have evidence that Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction, why in the heck didn't they give it to the U.N. inspectors so they could get these weapons out?

I want to make it abundantly clear that what I learned on Lennox Avenue applies to me today. If somebody is around the corner waiting to hit me in the head with a pipe, I want him taken out right away. Preemptive strikes don't bother me. But for this great country, without any evidence that we're in imminent danger, to select a developing country that's defenseless against our power, and deliver in ultimatum that they must show evidence of how they disposed weapons of mass destruction, or we will drop bombs on them until they're senseless—3,000 high tech bombs in 48 hours—that's not the great America that I'm proud to be a part of.

An attack against Iraq would be the first time that our country has ever struck another country without provocation. Doing so, we will lose the moral authority to tell other countries that God made us to live and work together. If Pakistan and India decide that they don't trust each other, if the Taiwanese and the Chinese don't trust each other, if the North Koreans fear that they're

going to be attacked by South Korea, do they also have the right to a preemptive attack? What international body could we appeal to in good faith and say that they were wrong?

They tell me that there will be little collateral damage, but how much is "little" when you're talking about the lives of people? They tell me we have the technology to reduce the loss of life of Iraq's people—mothers and children, innocent people. But if we have that technology to determine where the innocent people are in Iraq, why couldn't we use that technology to locate the weapons?

LET'S TALK ABOUT OIL

Why Iraq? Why now? Why the rush? At the end of the day, the question has to be: Will we in New York, will we in the United States, will we on this planet, feel any safer after bombing Iraq senseless?

It goes beyond Iraq or weapons of mass destruction. It has to, because we know as a fact that weapons of mass destruction are in North Korea. And take my word for it, these people in North Korea are the meanest people in the world. I know. I've dealt with them. You can't imagine people starving to death in North Korea, with 40,000 American troops in South Korea, being isolated by their former friends, the Russians, who have collapsed, the Chinese, who look at them suspiciously, the Japanese, who have had problems with them historically. The only thing they got are these dangerous weapons which they're selling, and we are saying that we got to negotiate with them while we bomb Saddam Hussein.

It would seem to me if we're prepared to go to the international community to contain North Korea, that that is the least we can do for civilization and the United Nations to contain Saddam Hussein.

But let's think about it, because we have to be practical about it. There ain't no oil in North Korea.

Now, let's talk about oil, because some of my colleagues in Washington may be listening to me here, not just because I'm at The Riverside Church, but because C-Span is here, and we like to watch each other. So, to my colleagues that may be watching, let's talk about oil. For years we have been addicted and dependent on foreign oil and gasoline. 55-percent of the oil that we consume today comes from foreign countries. We have been promising ourselves since the days of sweater-wearing Jimmy Carter that we were going to do better. But each year we import more and more oil from abroad.

Any economist will tell you—and those of you that came to church late may have seen some of them on TV this morning—that the one thing that could possibly turn this economy around would be cheaper oil prices. That, if the price of oil continues to rise, then what we know in our community to be a recession could become a depression for us and a recession for other people in this country.

The largest reservoirs of oil are in this region, with Iraq controlling most of it. But the countries in the region that do have oil have joined together in order to make certain that they keep the price of oil high so that they would get an income. They have decided that they will control the supply of oil from the region in order to get what they think would be a fair price for oil.

Now, the President of the United States has said to me privately and, if you listen to him carefully, he has said it publicly, that we have to have as our first mission to seize the oil wells in Iraq. That we will be sending airborne troops there to prevent Saddam Hussein from destroying them. Once we seize those oil fields, he has said, we will bring in American and European technology. To do