

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE MANSOUR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a great educator, Theodore Mansour, as he retires from his position as Director of State and Federal Relations for the Genesee Intermediate School District.

Ted, as his friends know him, joined the United States Army in 1944 after he graduated from St. Matthew High School that year. He served in the field artillery during his time in the Armed Forces. Resuming his education at the University of Notre Dame after his discharge from the military, Ted earned a degree in Business Administration majoring in Accounting. He put his business skills to work and served as the president of Mansour's Supermarkets for 15 years. He went on to be a partner in Lisa's Red Carpet Travel Agency, president of Mansour's Budget Market and is the current owner of the Jolly Olive Deli and Bar.

Paralleling his years of business experience, Ted also served in the public sector. During the time he was the supervisor of Flint Township, the landscape of that community was changed forever with the building of Genesee Valley Mall, the development of sewer and water systems and the construction of Carman High School. In addition to being a supervisor, Ted held the posts of Genesee County Supervisor and County Commissioner, a Michigan State Legislator for the 83rd District, a Flint Township Trustee, a member of the Michigan State Tax Commission and the Flint Township Planning Commission. Always committed to improving the quality of life in the Flint area, Ted has actively participated in the Genesys Health Systems Board, the Genesee Memorial Hospital Board, the Flint Heights Senior Citizens Housing Board, the Genesee County Food Service Advisory Board, the Boy Scouts of America, Tall Pines Council Executive Board, and the American Arab Heritage Council. In 1972 he was named Director of Government Relations for Genesee Intermediate School District.

As the father of 6 children, Ted knows firsthand the hopes and dreams of parents for their children. This understanding of the vital need for quality education fueled Ted's fight for the right of every student to be able to learn in a safe, clean, modern environment. He worked with the Michigan State Legislature in 1978 to get the school zone speed limit law passed. He vigorously lobbied in Lansing and Washington to obtain funding for the schools in the Genesee Intermediate School District. Time and time again he has fought on behalf of individual school districts for disputed money. Ted is effective at communicating to legislators the needs of educators in their struggle to provide an up to date education to their students. He has earned the respect of educators, administrators, and legislators. I have trusted his advice and welcomed his input for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and honor the service of Theodore Mansour to the people and children of Genesee County. His ethics, commitment and effectiveness have set an example that

public servants will try to emulate for years to come.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JESSICA TURNER**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Jessica Turner has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Jessica Turner has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Jessica Turner has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jessica Turner must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Granville and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jessica Turner as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO JOANN ORFAN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joann Orfan, who has been a tireless civil servant in the great city of Sun Prairie for over twenty years. This spring, much to the regret of the Sun Prairie residents, Mrs. Orfan will be retiring from her post as Mayor. The indelible mark that Joann Orfan has left on the city will be long felt after her tenure as Mayor is over.

Joann has described herself as a farm girl from Nebraska who sought to find a city with small town values to settle down in and raise her family. While Sun Prairie is the third largest city in the Second District of Wisconsin, it has been able to retain a friendly, small town appeal. Through her hard work over the last twenty years Sun Prairie continues to be a great place to raise a family.

Joann Orfan has served the city in many capacities. She began serving as Mayor in May of 1990 after being a member of the Sun Prairie City Council for sixteen years. While serving on the City Council, she was a leader on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Joann was a charter member of the Prairie Industrial Corporation, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and has on the Colonial Club Long Range Planning Committee. Each decision she made in these various positions has shaped Sun Prairie into a town that all residents can be proud of.

Since October of 2002, Joann Orfan has been confined to a wheelchair as a result of neuropathy in both her legs. With the same spirit, strength and courage that the people of Sun Prairie have seen so many times she has taken on this new challenge. As Joann Orfan retires as Mayor, the people of Sun Prairie will

miss her leadership, but Joann's friends and family look forward to spending more time with her. Today, I join Joann Orfan's friends, family, and colleagues in sincerely thanking her for her service to Sun Prairie and its residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the members of Florida's 22nd Congressional District who have been selected as recipients of The Congressional Award Gold Medal. At this time, there are nearly 13,000 young Americans participating in The Congressional Award program. Of these participants, Congress has presented its highest award attributed to young people, The Congressional Award Gold Medal, to 150 outstanding individuals. I would like to recognize six students living in Florida's 22nd District who have been honored with this award, as well as, two other Congressional Gold Medal recipients from 2001.

Christopher Balogh, from Jupiter, Florida earned the Bronze Medal on July 6, 2001, the Silver Medal on July 16, 2002, and the Gold Medal on March 24, 2003.

Peter Brannen, from Palm Beach, Florida, earned the Bronze Medal on May 7, 2000, the Silver Medal on April 18, 2001, and the Gold Medal on November 19, 2002.

Elizabeth Counts, from Jupiter, Florida, earned the Bronze Medal on April 6, 2000, the Silver Medal on April 18, 2001, and the Gold Medal on March 24, 2003.

Chelsea Ewer, from Palm Beach, Florida, earned the Bronze Medal on May 18, 2001, the Silver Medal on April 11, 2002, and the Gold Medal on March 24, 2003.

Matthew Mills, from Jupiter, Florida, earned the Bronze Medal on July 18, 2000, the Silver Medal on July 5, 2001, and his paperwork is currently in review for the Gold Medal.

Chad Vezin, from Jupiter, Florida, earned the Bronze Medal on April 6, 2000, the Silver Medal on April 17, 2001, and the Bronze Medal on January 29, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these students on this honor and wish them the best of luck in their bright futures.

HONORING WILLIAM T. "BILL" ROBINSON III AS HE RECEIVES THE CINCINNATI BAR ASSOCIATION'S THEMIS AWARD

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a friend and constituent, William T. "Bill" Robinson III, who will receive the Cincinnati Bar Association's (CBA) prestigious Themis Award on May 2, 2003.

The Themis Award, given only three times before in the history of the Cincinnati Bar Association, is presented to an individual who

provides extraordinary service to the Bar Association, the legal profession and the general community.

Bill Robinson has been a dedicated member of the CBA for more than thirty years. He served as President of the Kentucky Bar Association; founding Chair of the Kentucky IOLTA Fund; President of the Kentucky Bar Foundation; and Co-Founder and President of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law American Inn of Court.

At the national level, Bill's service is unparalleled. He is currently Chair of the Finance Committee and Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association (ABA). He has also served as State Delegate to the ABA Nominating Committee; President of the National Caucus of State Bar Associations; Member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Bar Presidents; and Chairman of the ABA's Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and the ABA's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse. He is an invited Fellow of the International Society of Barristers; a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; and a Sustaining Member of the American Bar Foundation.

Bill has been critically involved in our region's growth and economic development. Currently, he serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and Chair of its Finance Committee. He co-founded the Metropolitan Growth Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, and serves as Vice Chair for Economic Development for the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Partnership for Greater Cincinnati, and a Founding Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer of the Tri-County Economic Development Commission.

Bill's community involvement also includes service as Board Member, Treasurer, Co-Chair and Board Member Emeritus of the National Conference of Community and Justice; Advisory Trustee of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; and board memberships for the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts; and Mount St. Joseph College.

His previous awards are impressive: the Cincinnati Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award; the Greater Cincinnati Foundation's Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award; and the Governor's Economic Development Award for Kentucky.

Bill is Member-In-Charge of the Greater Cincinnati offices of Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC. He and his wife, Joan, have two sons and one granddaughter.

All of us in Cincinnati thank Bill for his extensive service to our area, and congratulate him on receiving the CBA's prestigious Themis Award.

THE TERROR MASTERS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues this provocative piece by Steven Emerson from the Wall Street Journal on Friday, April 18, 2003.

THE TERROR MASTERS

(By Steven Emerson)

Eighteen years after the execution of American Leon Klinghoffer on the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro, the U.S. has demonstrated by the capture of Abu Abbas that it will not wipe the slate clean on international terrorism. For years, however, diplomatic niceties and misplaced State Department priorities subverted this principle, enabling purveyors of terrorism to literally get away with murder. The war of liberation in Iraq now provides the U.S. with an opportunity to ensure that those Arab leaders and regimes who have carried out or threatened attacks against this country and its citizens are subject to American justice.

Because of its conspicuously brazen support for Saddam Hussein in transferring military supplies to Baghdad and providing sanctuary to Iraqi Baathists, and in encouraging Arab fighters to go to Iraq to kill Americans, Syria's role in supporting terrorism and threatening American interests has finally come into focus. That it took actual complicity in the killing of American soldiers in Iraq for us to finally confront Damascus is a measure of how successful Syria was in deceiving the world, with the connivance of even the U.S. All one has to do is read the State Department's annual reports on international terrorism which have stated with mantra-like repetition, that Syria has not been involved in "international terrorism" since 1986.

Given the fact that the Israeli borders with Syria and Lebanon are international borders, I have always failed to see how the State Department could portray Damascus in this light given its direct support, training, supplies and sanctuary extended to Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, to name just a few of the groups that serve as de facto members of the Syrian foreign service. Since 1988, more than 1200 Israelis and some 30 Americans have been killed in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza by groups headquartered in, or sponsored by, Damascus. Recently, the U.S. indicted the head of Islamic Jihad, Ramaddan Abdullah Shallah, on charges including murder. Shallah continues to receive sanctuary in Damascus, where he routinely issues threats against the U.S.

After Sept. 11, Syria pretended to be helping the U.S. in the war on al Qaeda, as evidenced by Damascus' arrest of a senior suspected al Qaeda operative. The State Department even issued a statement lauding Syria's role in the fight against al Qaeda. But the reality was different. Testimonies, court records and wiretaps introduced in Italian trials of Al Qaeda and other militant Islamic leaders show that Syria has been working hand-in-hand with Islamic extremists in Europe for years, providing transit, sanctuary and training for al Qaeda terrorists traveling

between Iraq and the Arab world. An eye-opening expose, by Sebastian Rotella in this week's Los Angeles Times, shows in incredible detail how Syria served as a hub for al Qaeda terrorists shuttling between Iraq, Syria and Europe. U.S. officials believe that at least one of the primary 9/11 plotters spent extensive time in Syria and that Syrian front-companies in Europe worked intimately with al Qaeda.

According to U.S. intelligence, conspirators in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 American servicemen met repeatedly in Syria to plan the terrorist operation—meetings that could not have taken place without the knowledge of the Syrian regime. Syria's role in attacking Americans goes way back. In 1983, Syria—together with Iran and the Hezbollah—coordinated the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Marines.

The capture of Palestinian terrorist leader Abu Abbas has provoked demands from the Palestine Authority that he be immediately released and claiming that the slate had been wiped clean by the Oslo Accords. Under the PA's reasoning, compliance with treaties need only be one-way since both Abbas and the PA brazenly violated the terms of Oslo by continuing to carry out terrorist attacks.

Since October 2000, Abbas's group, the Palestine Liberation Front, has transferred millions of dollars to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers. Abbas has dispatched terrorists trained in his Iraq-based training camps to the West Bank to carry out major attacks on Ben Gurion airport, poison Israel's water supply and attack schools and other civilian targets.

The Palestinian Authority's defense of Abbas is not just symbolic; it's self-protecting. If Abbas goes down, so could Yasser Arafat. If Abbas is prosecuted for Achille Lauro, or for the funding given to the families of suicide bombers (some of whose victims included Americans in Israel), Arafat's complicity in these terrorist plots would almost certainly be exposed. And if a true accounting were to be made, the role of the Tanzim and the al Aqsa Brigades—terrorist groups directly sponsored by Arafat—would show that roles in the killing of hundreds of Israelis and at least 15 Americans in the past 30 months. As for the mass murder carried out by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the PA today continues to protect the killers and masterminds.

The duplicitous role of Saudi Arabia in extending support to al Qaeda, Hamas and other terrorist groups also needs to be fully exposed. In the buildup to the war, Saudi Arabia demonstrated where it really stood on al Qaeda by releasing Sheikh Saeed bin Zuair, a military Islamic cleric whose release had been demanded by Osama bin Laden in a tape distributed last year. (The other person whose release was demanded by bin Laden was Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, convicted for his role in the WTC related conspiracies in 1993.)

In unprecedented ways, the war of liberation of Iraq has provided a unique opportunity to see exactly where Arab nations and Islamic leaders have stood on the issue of international terrorism. If anything, the war has enabled Americans to see an unvarnished reality of true attitudes toward the U.S.