

HONORING ROBERT B. HILLE

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine and of the Bergen County community, Robert B. Hille, who is about to become the 105th President of the Bergen County Bar Association. Robert Hille and I began our careers together as young lawyers in the Bergen County Bar Association. It was there that I got to see firsthand what a remarkable person Robert Hille is. He has been and continues to be an extraordinarily gifted attorney and loving husband of Leslie and father of Erin and Tara.

Throughout the course of his career, Robert Hille has handled himself in a highly professional and dignified manner that has won him the great admiration and respect of his peers. His election as the 105th Bergen County Bar Association President is a reflection of the high esteem that not only I have for him, but that everyone in the Bergen County legal community has for him.

Robert Hille is a man who strives to do what is right and just in his profession. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him and his family on his election as President of this most prestigious organization, I wish him the very best.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 832, PERMANENT PARTNERS IMMIGRATION ACT

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 832, the Permanent Partners Immigration Act would allow US citizens and lawful permanent residents, who are in a permanent partnership, to sponsor their partner for immigration purposes in the same way that opposite-sex spouses now can. This proposal would also hold these partners to the same legal commitments of a legal marriage, in that if a person is found to have entered into a fraudulent permanent partnership for the purpose of obtaining a visa for another person, they will be subject to the same five year maximum imprisonment, or \$250,000 maximum fine, or both.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, this legislation would affect the status of thousands of couples who currently are separated or risk permanent separation from the ones they love. Fourteen countries—including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Israel, the United Kingdom and South Africa—recognize same sex partnerships for purposes of immigration.

I have co-sponsored H.R. 832 because I strongly believe in its purposes and I am confident that its text will be fine tuned as it goes through the legislative process. I called upon the Congressional leadership to begin that process.

HONORING NINE NEW MEMBERS OF THE INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate the nine new members of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. The 2003 honorees for this prestigious designation include: Louie (Lou) Karras, Mike Jennings, Bob Johnson, Larry L. Johnson, Keith A. Johnson, John Forchetti, Tom Herbert, Roderick G. Moore II, and George Pappas. These men have shown a commitment to high school and collegiate football programs across Northwest Indiana, and they will be honored at a reception on May 18, 2003 in Merrillville, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, Lou Karras graduated from Gary Emerson High School in 1945 after earning All-State honors for three years. He went on to have an outstanding career at Purdue University from 1946–1950. As a senior, he was chosen as the Most Valuable Player and was selected to play in the East-West Game, the Hula Bowl, and in the Chicago All-Star game against the Philadelphia Eagles. He started for the Washington Redskins as a rookie before an eye injury cut his career short. Lou's mother is the only woman inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame for raising three NFL players: Lou Karras, Alex Karras, and Ted Karras. After his playing career, Lou served as President of the Purdue Alumni Association in Lake County, Indiana. He also presided as the Democratic City Chairman in Gary, Indiana, as well as President of the Gary City Common Council.

Mike Jennings attended Gary Wirt High School and excelled in football, basketball, and track. He graduated in 1957 having earned All-City, All-Conference, and All-State honors. He went on to attend Southwestern Missouri University, where he was a four-year letter winner and a three year starter as a full-back and linebacker. He also attended Texas A&M, where he honed his skills under the legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. After his playing career, Mike became the head coach at Chesterton High School, where he amassed a record of 95–81–1 in 18 seasons.

Bob Johnson was an outstanding football player for Valparaiso High School until his graduation in 1976. He was named the Most Valuable Player in 1975, and was named to the Duneland All-Conference Team, the All-Area Team, and the All-State Team in 1974 and 1975. Bob's excellence on the field also earned him a position on the North-South All Star Team in 1976. After high school, Bob attended Manchester College, where he was named to the All-Conference Team in 1978, 1979, and 1980. He was also named an NAIA All-American in 1980, and was named the Most Valuable Player for that season.

Larry L. Johnson was a standout at Munster High School in football, wrestling, and track. By the time he graduated in 1970, he had been named the captain of his football and wrestling team. He was named to the All-Conference Team in football, as well as the 1st Team All-State. He also played in the North-South All-Star game. He attended the University of Michigan, where he was a four-year

letterman and was awarded the Arthur Robinson Award for Most Outstanding Student Athlete on the football squad. In 1975 he was awarded the prestigious Fielding Yost Award.

Keith A. Johnson attended Munster High School and was a three-year letterman. He was awarded All-Star honors in 1971 as a defensive back while leading his team as a captain. He went on to attend the University of Michigan, where he was a three-year letterman at wide receiver. His team was named the Big Ten Conference Co-Champion in 1973–1974, and he was a participant in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day in 1976.

John Forchetti has been the team physician for Chesterton High School for over 37 years. He graduated from Villanova University in 1958 and Jefferson Medical School in 1962. He served as a medical doctor for the United States Navy from 1963 to 1965, when he began his career as the Trojan's team physician.

Tom Herbert graduated from Gary's Lou Wallace High School in 1965 and went on to attend Ball State University. Considered the dean of Big Ten officials, Tom has been with the prestigious conference for 25 years, and has officiated in ten bowl games. His most recent game was the Holiday Bowl in San Diego on December 27, 2002.

Roderick Moore has spent his career as an athletic trainer with the Valparaiso community. He was the athletic trainer for all of the high schools and junior high schools in Valparaiso from 1972–1976. He was associated with the 1975 State Championship Team and the 1985 State Runner-up Team. He is currently the head athletic trainer for his alma mater, Valparaiso University, and was a charter member of the Indiana Athletic Trainers Association.

George Pappas played high school football for Hammond High School and was twice selected as an All-State player. In 1960, George was chosen as a High School All-American. He played on two undefeated teams, and in four years his teams lost a total of two games. He was named the Most Outstanding Lineman in 1959 and 1960. George went on to attend Purdue University, where he was selected by his teammates as the Most Valuable Player and Outstanding Freshman Lineman. After his playing career, George became a Graduate Assistant at Purdue from 1965–1966. He was an assistant coach at North Central High School in 1969, and he became the head coach at North Central in 1975. During his 17 years as head coach, George compiled an impressive record of 126–53.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these nine men for their achievements within the Indiana football system. Their success serves as an inspiration to those involved in Indiana athletics, and our youth can be proud to have them as role models after whom to pattern their careers.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF EDWARD JOHN WOJNIAK, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Edward John

Wojniak, Sr.—Beloved family man, World War II veteran, community leader, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Wojniak was born in 1919 in the St. Hyacinth area of Cleveland. As a young boy, he moved with his family to West Virginia where his father found work as a coal miner. Tragically, in 1935, Mr. Wojniak's father died in a mining accident. His family remained in West Virginia for a few years. After Mr. Wojniak graduated from high school, his family relocated to Pittsburgh. Soon after, World War II broke out. Mr. Wojniak enlisted in the U.S. Army 815 Engineers Corps, and fought in Italy and Northern Africa. He returned to Cleveland after the war, and enrolled in college at Western Reserve University. In 1951, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1954, he graduated with a Master of Science degree in Social Administration. During college, he met and married Jennie Pogroszewski.

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Wojniak raised four children. His life revolved around family, community, faith and heritage. His professional life was dedicated to helping others. For more than a quarter century, Mr. Wojniak worked on behalf of our elderly at the State of Ohio Department of Aging. His deep affection for his Cleveland community and his Polish heritage were clearly reflected through his civic involvement and volunteer spirit. Mr. Wojniak worked diligently to secure an official proclamation to name the Broadway-Forman area of Slavic Village as "Solidarity Square." Throughout his adult life, Mr. Wojniak was highly active in veterans' groups and Polish fraternal organizations, including the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress. Notably, Mr. Wojniak was the longest-serving President of Polish-Americans, Inc.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Edward John Wojniak, beloved husband of Jennie, beloved father of Barbara, Elizabeth, Edward and Michael; beloved grandfather of nine; beloved brother, and trusted and loyal friend to many. Mr. Wojniak's joyous life was defined by his deep dedication to family, and his exceptional service to community and country. His strong spirit, energy and good works have served to uplift the lives of countless individuals, families—and the entire Cleveland community.

#### INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CUBAN OPPOSITION DAY

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following Proclamation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners be included in the RECORD.

Whereas: As the Apostle of the Cuban Independence Jose Marti once said: "Liberty is very expensive and it is necessary either to resign oneself to live without it or to decide to pay its price;" and

Whereas: Realizing that Cubans are persecuted and exiled in their own land, deprived of their most elemental rights, fired from their jobs, subjected to a cruel and systematic hate campaign, and suffering defamation towards them and their families, the thousands of men and women, that for years

have confronted with civic activism that tyranny, deserve the admiration and support of all; and

Whereas: On Monday, May 13, 2002, coinciding with the 71st Anniversary of Pedro Luis Boitel's birthday, a Cuban murdered by the Castro regimen, a group of Cuban exile institutions have agreed to declare May 13th, "International Support for the Cuban Opposition Day," and

Whereas: The efforts of these Cuban organizations are not only against the Fidel Castro dictatorship, but against all forms of oppression anywhere on earth, because the defense of human rights does not know boundaries of any particular nation, thus the representatives of these organizations invite Cubans, inside and outside the island, as well as those sympathetic to this worth cause, to join this noble effort; and

Whereas: It is fitting and proper that official acknowledgement be given to the organizers, and participants of these plethora of organizations, and wish them complete success in their quest for a Cuba with liberty and justice for all;

Now Therefore: Be It Resolved, That I, Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida, On Behalf Of The Board of County Commissioners And This Community, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 13, 2002, as International Support for the Cuban Opposition Day.

In Observance Thereof: I call upon the good people of Miami-Dade County to join me in recognizing the importance of this endeavor aimed to obtain the most laudable aspirations of the human race—to live in freedom.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 55 YEARS OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that on May 7, 2003 the State of Israel will be celebrating its independence and fifty five years of statehood. Since its founding in 1948, Israel has served as a staunch ally on behalf of America's vital interests in the Middle East and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, being that the citizens of the United States and Israel maintain a deeply rooted friendship based upon a commonality of interests and shared core ideals, including a dedication to democracy and individual freedoms, I ask that we rise up in recognition of Israel's independence.

I would also like to recognize the special sister relationship that the State of New Jersey has forged with the State of Israel, through the New Jersey-Israel Commission. Israel has repeatedly proven itself as a valued partner in trade and mutual cultural exchange, and has earned the support of New Jersey's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize a special group of constituents from the 6th District of New Jersey who will be showing their support for this unique relationship by "Walking For Israel" on May 4th. I ask that my colleagues to join me in commending the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County for sponsoring such an event. It is my hope that America's citizens will mark this occasion and demonstrate their support for the US-Israeli relationship with similar events across the country.

#### HONORING FATHER EVAGORAS CONSTANTINIDES

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate Father Evagoras Constantinides for his numerous contributions to the citizens of Northwest Indiana. Father Constantinides has been a fixture of the community since 1969, and he will be honored at a dinner presented by Friends of Hospice on Friday, May 2, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Father Constantinides was born in Lapithos, Cyprus in 1918 and was educated in his village through his second year of high school, where he graduated with the Gold Medal Award for academic excellence. He entered Athens College in 1932, where he was accepted on a yearly scholarship with the school's science section. Father Constantinides had no trouble maintaining his scholarship for six years, and he graduated with honors while receiving the Delta Public Speaking Prize and the English Language Prize. This dedication and commitment to his studies exemplifies the hard work on which Father Constantinides prides himself.

After finishing his collegiate studies in Greece, Father Constantinides journeyed across the world to America to continue his studies and broaden his experiences. In 1938, he enrolled at Fenn College, which is now Cleveland State University, to study civil engineering. During his four years at the University, he served as a Greek teacher and as the Hellenic Board of Education Secretary for the Greek Orthodox Community of the Annunciation of Cleveland, Ohio. Although he enjoyed his time in Cleveland, his final year was interrupted by World War II. As a British subject, Father Constantinides entered the Canadian Army as a private in the fall of 1942. After completing his basic training, he was enrolled in the officer training program, from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Engineer Corps with proficiency in explosives, mines, and demolitions. His outstanding ability as a military officer, coupled with his excellent intellect, allowed Father Constantinides the opportunity to work for the United States Central Intelligence Group translating Japanese documents and the Greek Constitution into English.

After returning to the United States following his discharge in 1947, Father Constantinides began extensively studying theology, and on March 11, 1956 he was ordained into the priesthood. He was appointed pastor of the SS. Constantine and Helen parish in Gary on September 1, 1969, and his gracious presence has been felt throughout Northwest Indiana since his arrival. In 1971, Father Constantinides was instrumental in the construction of the Hellenic Cultural Center in Merrillville. His efforts also led to the design and construction of the SS. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, one of the ten largest Orthodox churches in the Americas, in 1975. It was during this time that Father Constantinides became deeply involved in the work of Hospice of the Calumet Area.

In addition to the many contributions within his own parish, Father Constantinides has