

IN HONOR OF DR. ROSS J.
SIMPSON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Dr. Ross J. Simpson. Dr. Simpson who was honored on Saturday, January 18, 2003, by the Richard A. Rutkowski Association at a gala dinner-dance at the Hi-Hat Caterers.

A captain in the U.S. Army, Dr. Simpson served our country as the chief of chest surgery at the Osaka Army hospital in Japan during the Korean War, and was honored with the United Nations and Korean Service medals for his service. Upon his return from the war, in 1952, he started his surgical practice in Bayonne. His medical career was extensive, and Dr. Simpson worked as a chief of surgery at Bayonne Hospital and the Pollack Hospital, and as an attending surgeon at St. Francis Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Morristown General, and the French Hospital in New York City.

Dr. Simpson has held leadership positions ever since his service in the Army. At Bayonne Hospital, he served as president of the medical staff, president of the Board of Trustees, and chairman of the Board of Trustees.

He has not only been a surgeon, but also a professor of surgery at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry. He is published in the Annals of Surgery and in the AMA journal for his nationally renowned work on foreign bodies of the chest and heart. Dr. Simpson is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the International College of Surgeons, and a diplomat of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

A founding member of the Simpson Barber Foundation for the Autistic, Dr. Simpson will serve as the Chairman of the 1st Annual Regatta of the Foundation. He is a communicant of St. Henry's Church, and in 1995, he received the Brotherhood Award from the Bayonne Chapter of Christians and Jews.

Dr. Simpson is married to Marguerite O'Reilly, the proud father of five, Ross Jr., Thomas, Christopher, Mary Anne, and Marguerite, and proud grandfather of fifteen.

Dr. Simpson earned his B.A. from St. Peter's College, and his medical degree from NYU Medical School.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Ross J. Simpson for his outstanding contributions to the medical community, for treating the injured and the sick, and for saving countless lives in times of war and peace.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MICHIGAN
STATE SENATOR DON KOIVISTO

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Don Koivisto, a former senator in the Michigan State Senate from the 38th Senate District, which is comprised of ten counties in my congressional district.

First elected to the Senate in 1990, Don Koivisto has just concluded his service in that body because of the Michigan term limits law. This law was enacted at the will of the voters of Michigan, but I must confess that I believe the law turns effective public servants out of office. Don has represented both the community where I grew up and the community where I and my family now live.

Born August 18, 1949 in Bessemer, Don earned a bachelors degree in political science from Central Michigan University. Don and his wife, Pam, have four children.

Prior to his twelve years in the Michigan State Senate, Don served three consecutive 2 year terms in the Michigan House of Representatives after first being elected to the House in 1980. In addition to his service in the Michigan legislature, Don has been a political consultant to former Michigan House Speaker Lewis Dodak and former Michigan State Representative Michael Griffin.

Don is a former school board member and served as a high school teacher and basketball coach. He also worked as a Ontonagon County Juvenile Officer.

It should be clear from my remarks, Mr. Speaker, that Don Koivisto has spent much of his adult life in public service.

Mr. Speaker, Don's last day as a state senator was January 2, 2003. Don is too young a man for retirement and I am certain that he will find a way to continue to serve the residents of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting Don Koivisto, a public servant who has spent much of his life working for the betterment of others.

INTRODUCTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS ONLY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act. This act forbids the federal government from providing Social Security benefits to non-citizens. It also ends the practice of totalization. Totalization is where the Social Security Administration takes into account the number of year's an individual worked abroad, and thus was not paying payroll taxes, in determining that individual's eligibility for social security benefits!

Hard as it may be to believe, the United States Government already provides Social Security benefits to citizens of 17 other countries. Under current law, citizens of those countries covered by these agreements may have an easier time getting Social Security benefits than public school teachers or policemen!

Obviously, this program provides a threat to the already fragile Social Security system, and the threat is looming larger. Just before Christmas, the press reported on a pending deal between the United States and the government of Mexico, which would make hundreds of thousands of Mexican citizens eligible for U.S. Social Security benefits. Totalization is the centerpiece of this proposal, so even if a Mexican citizen did not work in the United

States long enough to qualify for Social Security, the number of years worked in Mexico would be added to bring up the total and thus make the Mexican worker eligible for cash transfers from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, press reports also indicate that thousands of foreigners who would qualify for U.S. Social Security benefits actually came to the United States and worked here illegally. That's right: The federal government may actually allow someone who came to the United States illegally, worked less than the required number of years to qualify for Social Security, and then returned to Mexico for the rest of his working years, to collect full U.S. Social Security benefits while living in Mexico. That is an insult to the millions of Americans who pay their entire working lives into the system and now face the possibility that there may be nothing left when it is their turn to retire.

The proposed agreement is nothing more than a financial reward to those who have willingly and knowingly violated our own immigration laws. Talk about an incentive for illegal immigration! How many more would break the law to come to this country if promised U.S. government paychecks for life? Is creating a global welfare state on the back of the American taxpayer a good idea? The program also establishes a very disturbing precedent of U.S. foreign aid to individual citizens rather than to states.

Estimates of what this deal with the Mexican government would cost top one billion dollars per year. Supporters of the Social Security to Mexico deal may attempt to downplay the effect the agreement would have on the system, but actions speak louder than words: According to several press reports, the State Department and the Social Security Administration are already negotiating to build a new building in Mexico City to handle the expected rush of applicants for this new program!

As the system braces for a steep increase in those who will be drawing from the Social Security trust fund, it makes no sense to expand it into a global welfare system. Social Security was designed to provide support for retired American citizens who worked in the United States. We should be shoring up the system for those Americans who have paid in for decades, not expanding it to cover foreigners who have not.

It is long past time for Congress to stand up to the internationalist bureaucrats and start looking out for the American worker. I therefore call upon my colleagues to stop the use of the Social Security Trust Fund as yet another vehicle for foreign aid by cosponsoring the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act.

MARSHA SHARP SELECTED FOR
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HALL OF
FAME

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Marsha Sharp for her outstanding dedication to the athletic and academic achievement of her student-athletes. Her efforts have gained her an induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame for spring 2003.

Marsha Sharp will be among the fifth class of inductees into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The six individuals inducted in this class will bring the total number of individuals in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame to 73. Marsha Sharp is more than a coach; she is also a leader and role-model for many athletes and students not only at Texas Tech, but all across the country.

Her commitment to excellence has earned many successes for both her and the teams that she has led. Coach Sharp is in her 21st season as the head coach of the Lady Raider Basketball program and in that time has established a career record of 479–153. She guided the Lady Raiders to the NCAA National Championship in 1993 and has led Texas Tech to the NCAA Tournament 15 times, including 13 straight. She has taken her team to the Sweet 16 nine times and the Elite Eight three times. She has also led her teams to numerous conference titles.

The Women's Basketball News Service and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association named her coach of the year in 1993 and 1994, respectively. Marsha Sharp has not only led her teams to success on the court, but also in the classroom, as 99 percent of her student athletes have graduated during her tenure at Texas Tech.

It is with great pride that I commend Marsha Sharp for her active involvement and leadership both on and off the court, and I congratulate her on being inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

HONORING MORRIS S. HODKIN AND JOSEPH HODKIN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the works of Morris S. Hodkin and Joseph Hodkin. These outstanding individuals from Long Island were honored last night at the B'Nai B'Rith Banking and Finance Distinguished Achievement Award Dinner.

Mr. Morris Hodkin and Mr. Joseph Hodkin of Daley-Hodkin Corporation have dedicated years of service to the corporate credit industry in New York. They are also to be commended for their continued activities in charitable endeavors.

IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption Church. The church celebrated its anniversary on Saturday, November 2, 2002, which Bayonne Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., proclaimed as Our Lady of the Assumption Centennial Day.

In the early 1900s, a group of Italian-speaking immigrants decided that the Bayonne community needed a national parish that would truly serve the needs of the people. They peti-

tioned the Bishop of Newark to establish a parish that would use the Italian language at mass and other services, allowing for both native and non-native English speakers to benefit from the service. The parish was officially established in June of 1902, and Monsignor Michael Mercolino delivered the first mass in a small store on 21st Street on June 3, 1902. Monsignor Mercolino's participation with the Church did not end there; he dedicated and devoted his time to the parish until 1945.

Our Lady of the Assumption has grown over the past century from that first group of Italian immigrants to a multicultural congregation that celebrates mass and other services in three languages: English, Spanish, and Italian. Three church buildings have also been established: the first in 1902, the second in 1911, and the third in 1976. The City of Bayonne is a better place thanks to the inclusive and generous ways of the ever-growing Our Lady of Assumption Church.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Our Lady of the Assumption Church Centennial Day, a profound and monumental day in the history of the City of Bayonne.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SOFFREDINE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an individual, who in addition to a long and distinguished career in law enforcement and teaching, has dedicated many thousands of hours to community service in northern Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ralph Soffredine of Traverse City, Michigan.

Ralph Soffredine has dedicated his life to education, law enforcement, community service and teaching. His perseverance and accomplishments have been an inspiration to every one who has met Ralph.

Born in Detroit, Michigan on January 11, 1937, he graduated from Sandusky High School, in Sandusky, Michigan in 1959. Nearly thirty six years ago he married Pam on March 21, 1967 and the couple raised six children: Maureen, Pete, Patrick, Annie, Joseph, and Paula. Ralph and Pam also have nine grandchildren.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force from September 1954 until receiving an honorable discharge as an Airman First Class in March 1958, he continued his academic studies and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in science from Central Michigan University, in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, in June of 1966. While at Central he had a distinguished athletic career as a football player and was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame in October 2001.

A continuing quest for education led Ralph to earn a Masters of Arts degree in community administration from Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in 1970. In addition to his academic work towards two degrees, Ralph is a 1985 graduate of the "Police Staff and Command School" at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois and a 1991 graduate of the FBI National Academy, in Quantico, Virginia.

Ralph began his criminal justice career in 1966 as a police officer in the Flint Police De-

partment. He then moved to the Grand Blanc Township Police Department, where he attained the rank of captain. The Ishpeming Police Department recognized his talents and named Ralph chief in June of 1976. He later served as chief of the Menominee Police Department. He then moved downstate and took the position of director of law enforcement with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department.

Ralph left the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department to become chief of the Traverse City Police Department in 1981. Ten years later, Traverse City added the duties of fire chief to Ralph's responsibilities.

According to Ralph one of his major accomplishments as police chief was bringing community policing to Traverse City. I had the pleasure of working with Ralph in introducing the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to the Traverse City area.

Having an advanced degree, Ralph has taught criminal justice courses at many institutions of higher learning in the United States and abroad. In May of 1998 he spent five weeks in the Ukraine, working under the auspices of the Ukraine Militia, as an adjunct professor teaching and facilitating law enforcement classes to visiting U.S. students from the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice. Closer to home, Ralph has taught criminal justice courses at many colleges and universities including: Northern Michigan University; Northwestern Michigan College; Northwestern University; Michigan State University; and his alma maters, Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University.

Showing his dedication to law enforcement beyond his administrative positions, Ralph has been involved in many related issues such as county jail program development, police school liaison programs, drug enforcement, crime prevention, police/fire training, internal investigation, chief contract negotiation, grievance and discipline, unification and consolidation of police departments, central dispatch, and records. Having a wide range of life experiences beyond law enforcement, Ralph has advised local officials on grants, personnel, management reorganization, community organization, and city, township and county budgeting.

Ralph's community service goes beyond his law enforcement and teaching duties. He currently serves as chairman of the Grand Traverse County Family Independence Agency, the Camp Grayling Regional Training Facility, and The Pavilion's board. Showing his admirable community service, he serves on many other committees and boards including: the Police School Liaison Committee, Northflight Board of Directors, Munson Board of Directors, Women Resource Center Board of Directors, the Traverse City Planning Commission, and the Traverse City Area Public School Board of Education.

He has served as president of Grand Traverse Families in Action and as a member of the Michigan Justice Training Commission.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Soffredine's wide ranging law enforcement, teaching and community service activities are admirable and amazing. Ralph and Pam Soffredine have been great assets to their chosen careers, their fellow workers, and their community. I am proud to call Ralph and Pam Soffredine, friends of mine.