

New Haven, Larry served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council and was appointed by former Governor Lowell Weicker as Chair of the Connecticut Board of Governors of Higher Education. Larry was also selected by former President George W. Bush for an appointment to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, a group which oversees the accreditation of institutions and associations in higher education.

In addition to his distinguished career in education, Larry has also served in public life where he demonstrated a unique commitment to public service. He served five terms in the Connecticut State Senate as well as one term as the United States Representative for Connecticut's Third Congressional District. After his term in the United States House of Representatives, Larry went on to serve as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. He was also appointed by former President George W. Bush as a member of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine—a position which he held for 4 years.

It is not often that you find an individual who so willingly dedicates himself to the betterment of his community. In addition to his professional contributions, Larry has worked with numerous local business and service organizations aimed at providing a better quality of life for the residents of the Greater New Haven area. Our communities would not be the same without people like Larry, who give their time and energy to make a difference in the lives of others.

Through his contributions, Larry has left an indelible mark on our community. For all of his good work, I am proud to rise today to join his wife Mary Lou; his four children, Larry, Jr., Gregory, Mark, and Lesley; family, friends, and colleagues in extending my thanks and appreciation to my friend Lawrence DeNardis. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

#### HONORING COX COMMUNICATIONS' MOVIES UNDER THE MOON CHARITY EVENT

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to honor Cox Communications for hosting Movies Under the Moon, a series of nine free movies shown at George Mason University's Robinson football field during the summer of 2003.

Movies Under the Moon drew over 75,000 Fairfax County residents. Through proceeds derived from on-site food vendors, the event raised \$23,500 in proceeds for Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children and Special Love Camp Fantastic, a support group for families coping with cancer. This year's lineup of movies promises to be as popular.

Mr. Speaker, Cox Communications developed a unique and rewarding program to provide entertainment to the people of Fairfax County while simultaneously assisting Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children and Special Love Camp Fantastic. The efforts made by Cox

Communications to serve the Fairfax community are much appreciated and greatly admired. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Cox Communications for a job well done.

#### WATER SUPPLY, RELIABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 9, 2004*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2828, the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, to reauthorize the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and implement water supply technology and infrastructure programs aimed at increasing and diversifying domestic water resources. This reauthorization will help address the critical water crisis in the Southern California region, effectively improving water supply reliability and water quality while enhancing the environment. In addition, this bill provides a model for how to make progress in enormously complex natural resources issues through a partnership of state and federal agencies.

Many states today are faced with the formidable task of providing reliable and safe water resources for a rapidly increasing population. This is no exception to California and its growing population of more than 30 million people. Southern California's arid climate makes it difficult for this region to find viable and dependable sources of water. The Interior Department's ruling to reduce the availability of Colorado River water to Southern California exacerbated the area's water supply problems by diverting approximately 700,000 acre feet of water this year alone. The lack of a reliable source of water discourages economic growth, jeopardizes the environment and compromises the health and safety of Southern California residents. It is for this reason that Congress must work to find innovative and effective solutions to the challenges posed by such debilitating water shortages. H.R. 2828 offers such viable solutions.

One of the most important elements of this legislation is it will finally allow us to begin the process of developing and constructing water supply, storage and delivery projects. H.R. 2828 will augment the conveyance of water through the Delta, California's most important watershed. This will reduce the demand on imported water from the Colorado River and other unreliable remote water sources. Through the water recycling, desalinization, and groundwater replenishment projects authorized by this legislation, California will become more self reliant and a better steward of its water resources.

H.R. 2828 recognizes the importance of improving management and coordination of existing water supply projects for meeting present and future demands for water in California. The bill would bring a focus to developing integrated, regionally-based water management plans as a necessary means to help resolve growing conflicts and foster cooperation between agencies, utilities, and public interests. It also stresses the need for water

users to better cooperate and integrate their actions to improve water management to solve broad, multi-dimensional issues.

This bill equalizes environmental protection and water supply demands and effectively provides for the agricultural, municipal, commercial, and recreational water needs of the state. Ecosystem-restoration projects will help return California's bays, deltas, rivers, and other natural habitats to their original ecological state. Projects will be authorized as long as the activity has been subject to environmental reviews and approvals under applicable federal and state law.

Perhaps one of the most important elements of this bill is that it injects accountability into the process by requiring a cross-cut budget detailing the way in which the various agencies intend to use federal CALFED dollars. Only through such a process will we know if progress is occurring in a reasonable time-frame and, if not, how best to revise the program to accomplish the results that we expect.

I would note that H.R. 2828 is the result of several years of work and bipartisanship, which is a true credit to Chairman Pombo and Chairman Calvert. Their decade of effort has given hope to a reality of enhanced water resources for all Californians. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

#### HONORING THE REVEREND ABRAHAM MARSACH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 12, 2004*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of one of our most outstanding leaders, and my dear friend—Reverend Abraham Marsach—as he celebrates his retirement. However, I am quite sure that his retirement does not mean the end of his advocacy and activism.

As we have seen across the nation, the Hispanic community in New Haven has grown and flourished over the last several decades. As it has grown so has its demands for strong, vocal advocates willing to stand and fight for the needs of its members. Reverend Marsach has been just this kind of advocate—a passionate, active leader who has made a real difference in the lives of many. It is not often that you find such dedicated individuals who commit themselves so fully to the betterment of their community.

As both a community and spiritual leader, Reverend Marsach has touched the lives of thousands in New Haven. In his role as President of the Asociacion Ministerial Evangelica Hispana de New Haven he helped to unite religious leaders across the community and worked with municipal leaders to effect change in the community. The founder of Junta for Progressive Action, he created a social service agency which has helped thousands in New Haven's Hispanic community access the programs and services they need to improve their quality of life. Mentor, leader, advocate, and friend—Reverend Marsach is a true community treasure.

Reverend Marsach has been a fixture in our community for many years and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for the multitude of contributions he has made that have enriched all of our lives. As a spiritual guide at the Star of Jacob Christian Church in New Haven, he has nourished the souls of many—often providing much needed comfort in the hardest of personal trials. I would be remiss if I did not personally thank him for the wonderful tribute that he made to Maria Perez—a member of my staff who passed away just over two years ago. He shared a unique friendship with Maria and his words were of great comfort to her family and my staff during a most difficult time.

Through his hard work and unparalleled dedication, Reverend Marsach has left an indelible mark on the New Haven community and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. For his innumerable contributions and selfless dedication, I am proud to stand today to extend my deepest thanks and sincerest appreciation. It gives me great pleasure to join his wife, Margarita, his three daughters, family, friends, and the New Haven community in congratulating Reverend Abraham Marsach as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am honored to speak in strong support of H. Con. Res. 257 considered by this body on July 6, expressing the sense of Congress that the President posthumously award the Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

President Truman established the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1945 to recognize notable service during war. In 1963, President Kennedy reinstated the medal to honor the achievement of civilians during peacetime. The Medal of Freedom may be awarded to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to (1) "the security or national interest of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) other significant public or private endeavors." As I share with you today the remarkable wisdom and foresight of Mr. Colmery, I believe my colleagues will agree he is highly deserving of this prestigious award.

The book *The G.I. Bill and the Making of Modern America*, and domestic policy experts, economists, business leaders, and educators acknowledge Mr. Colmery as the visionary who drafted the far-reaching legislation that made the United States the first overwhelmingly middle-class nation in the world.

Mr. Colmery's roots were in Braddock, Pennsylvania, and he worked his way through the University of Pittsburgh Law School graduating while teaching at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University). During World

War I, he joined the fledgling Army Air Corps as a pilot instructor.

A lawyer who earlier argued two cases successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court, during his term as National Commander of The American Legion, Mr. Colmery drafted in long-hand over Christmas and New Year's of 1943–44, the legislation that became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill of Rights. He drafted this comprehensive bill a full six months before D-Day. President Roosevelt signed Mr. Colmery's vision into law on June 22, 1944, 16 days after the Normandy Invasion. Colmery was already anticipating the needs of America's 15 million sons and daughters who would wear the military uniform during the war.

Harry Colmery knew from his own military service that ordinary Americans can do extraordinary things. He didn't want World War II veterans to stand in the unemployment lines or sell apples on street corners, as was often the case after World War I. Indeed he was determined not to allow impoverishment to define World War II veterans after the cessation of hostilities: "The burden of war falls on the citizen soldier who has gone forth, overnight, to become the armored hope of humanity. Never again, do we want to see the honor and glory of our nation fade to the extent that her men of arms, with despondent heart and palsied limb, totter from door to door, bowing their souls to the frozen bosom of reluctant charity."

Indeed Colmery, too, likely was familiar with data cited by Keith W. Olson, Ph.D., in the book *The G.I. Bill, the Veterans, and the Colleges* (University of Kentucky Press, 1974): "Within the first year of the demobilization process there will exist the likelihood, if not the certainty, of a large volume of unemployed, involving as many as 8 or 9 million [American former servicemen and women]." Final Report of the Conference on Post-War Adjustment of Civilian and Military Personnel, June 1943. Undoubtedly these data steered Colmery's commitment and resolve. I would note for the Record, as well, that Dr. Olson later recounted the effects of Colmery's policy goals for the bill in *The Astonishing Story: Veterans Make Good on the Nation's Promise* in the *Educational Record*, Fall 1994.

Mr. Colmery drafted legislation that the late author Michael J. Bennett observed "allowed veterans to achieve the American Dream—an education, a home, a stable and profitable career, and ownership of their own business."

Mr. Speaker, I'll cite Mr. Bennett's insights often today because he is the recognized authority on how Colmery's wisdom produced an enormously successful program that changed America forever.

Said Mr. Bennett, "more than any other law, the GI Bill was responsible for the post-World War II explosion in college graduates, the education of leaders of the civil rights movement, the growth and dominance of the suburbs, and the proliferation of interstate highways, supermarkets, and franchise stores and restaurants. Quite literally, the GI Bill changed the way we live, the way we house ourselves, the way we are educated, how we work and at what, even how we eat and transport ourselves."

Mr. Speaker, at this point I think it very fair to ask how Mr. Colmery's unwavering vision would have such a profound and far-reaching impact—not only for veterans but for America. Some 7.8 million veterans went to college and

other types of training on the G.I. Bill. Mr. Colmery held the view that World War II veterans wouldn't just pass through higher education, but as adult-learners (the average combatant was about 26 years) would be anxious to make up for lost time. He also probably knew from his own military experience that those who defend our free-enterprise system in war would be anxious to equip themselves to participate in that system when the mills of war stop grinding.

Mr. Bennett's 2003 paper titled "A GI Bill for the 21st Century: Continuing an American Way of Life," points out that "in the peak year of 1947, veterans accounted for 49 percent of enrollment. Of a veteran population of 15.4 million, some 7.8 million received skill training, including 2.2 million in college, 3.5 million in other schools, 1.4 million in on job training and 690,000 in farm training. Millions who would have flooded the labor market instead opted for education, which reduced joblessness during the demobilization period. When they did enter the labor market, most were better prepared to contribute to the support of their families and society."

In 1965, the then-Veterans Administration found that due to the increased earning power of GI Bill college graduates, federal government income tax revenues increased by more than a billion dollars annually. It also concluded that in 20 years, the \$14 billion cost of the G.I. Bill—as conceived by Harry Colmery—had paid for itself.

Current Secretary of Veterans Affairs and former chairman of the 1997 bipartisan Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance, Anthony J. Principi observed, "they [WWII veterans] excelled in the classroom, ran the student governments, challenged professors, refused to wear freshman beanie caps, began raising families, and some veterans did something that was seen as unusual—they went to school year round."

Not surprisingly, Colmery's vision applies today, as well. A 2000 Joint Economic Committee of the Congress study titled "Investment in Education—Public and Private Returns" found that in 1998 the average college graduate made \$46,285, while the average high school graduate only earned \$26,592. Workforce training counts.

I note for my colleagues that few in our society attended college prior to World War II and Colmery's notion of large federal investment in same—given our massive war debt—constituted a legitimate argument against his largely unproven, macro-ideas. Robert M. Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago, argued in December 1944 that "colleges and universities will find themselves converted into educational hobo jungles. And veterans, unable to get work and equally unable to resist putting pressure on the colleges and universities, will find themselves educational hobos . . . education is not a device for coping with mass employment."

James Conant of Harvard, an advocate of IQ testing for college entrance, argued that the bill would benefit "the least qualified of the wartime generation." Later Dr. Conant would admit "the GI's were the best students Harvard ever had" though Harvard Professor Seymour E. Harris argued in 1947 that "the GI Bill carried the principle of democratization too far."