

HONORING MO FELLING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Mo Felling for attaining the honor of being the longest serving skilled trades committeeman in the history of UAW Local 599 in Flint, MI. On September 18, 2004, the UAW local 599 members will honor Mr. Felling during their annual Walter Reuther award ceremony.

Mo Felling began his leadership career with in UAW Local 599 in 1977 when he was elected to the post of alternative committeeman. In 1980 he was elected to the post of committeeman, a position he has held successfully to this date. His impeccable service and love for his fellow members is commendable. He is committed to upholding the mission set forth by Mr. Walter Reuther; which is to help people, and ensuring human dignity and social justice for all who are employed within the manufacturing automobile industry. I salute Mr. Felling for his great attention to detail and on a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from the leadership and service of Mr. Mo Felling. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on obtaining his mark in history and in wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

HONORING XAVIER CORTADA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the generous volunteer efforts and incredible artistic abilities of Mr. Xavier Cortada.

A Miami-based artist, attorney, and activist, Mr. Cortada has worked in collaboration with diverse groups across the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Africa to create pro-social community murals. I have been proud to observe his innovative works commissioned by such esteemed institutions as the White House, State Department, World Bank, Florida Capitol, and the International AIDS Conferences in Geneva and Durban.

Xavier's commitment to volunteer work around the world is not only commendable, but inspirational as well. He has been the rightful recipient of several prestigious awards, including the "Millennium International Volunteer Award" from the U.S. Department of State/USA Today and the "Florida International Volunteer Corps 1999 Outstanding Achievement Award".

It is my pleasure to recognize the contributions that Xavier continues to make to both our local communities and people worldwide.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the amazing dedication of Mr. Xavier Cortada.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESERVISTS' EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reservists' Employment Act of 2004. Due to the limited time commitment typical of an inactive reserve member, most of these men and women sustain full-time careers outside of their military service. Although many of them serve their country in federal service positions, most of our reservists are employed by private industry. While most employers should be familiar with the responsibilities of our reservists, the War on Terror has greatly altered the nature of activation, and, in most cases, increased the frequency of deployment.

Since the War on Terror began, the fundamental organization of our reserves has changed dramatically and will continue to do so as the war progresses. With increasing unpredictability in deployment, the stability of a reservist's participation in their civilian jobs has too been altered. As many employers rely heavily on their reservist employees, their temporary absence often proves detrimental to these businesses. Although current law prohibits employers from terminating these reservists during activation, this provision does not correct the potential uncertainties employers may harvest regarding the capabilities of a reservist employee.

During their tenure in the armed forces, our reservists acquire several personal attributes that private employers find imperative in today's business world. While serving in the armed services, these men and women consistently demonstrate a high level of adaptability; the ability to work within a team; a strong work ethic; and, more often than not, exemplary leadership qualities.

Alongside these attributes, these men and women further illustrate their dedication and hard work by sustaining both reservist and civilian employment simultaneously. Given their exemplary character and training, we cannot give private industry any justification for not hiring these men and women. As some of the most well trained and productive members of our workforce, our reservists' credentials should promote their employment, not inhibit it.

In response to the need to preserve private industry opportunities for our reservists, and to further support their employers, I am honored to introduce the Reservists' Employment Act of 2004. It is my strong belief that our reservists provide some of the most valuable service both within and outside of our armed services. Now more than ever, we must show our support for their dedication, and, in turn, those private industries that support our troops.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND DR. JOHN L. ASHBY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a true public servant, a man of God

and a trusted and loved friend to many, the Reverend Dr. John L. Ashby.

Reverend Ashby dedicated his life to serving others. He first answered the call to service as a young man when he proudly entered the U.S. Army during the Korean war. He later attended and graduated from Norfolk State University, from the United Christian College as valedictorian with a bachelor of theology degree and from the Baltimore Bible College with a doctorate of divinity degree.

Reverend Ashby served on numerous state and local boards, commissions, and associations throughout his life, and continued to challenge the status quo and strived to improve the lives of his fellow man. To Reverend Ashby there was no mountain too high and no challenge too overwhelming; he knew no strangers and cared for everyone. In addition to caring for his church family, Reverend Ashby was also a loving father.

While Reverend Ashby's journey with us has ended, I know that his legacy of selfless service will continue to shine as an example to future generations of how one man can make a profound difference.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hungarian Presbyterian Church, in the Borough of Wharton, Morris County, NJ, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On October 3, 2004, the good citizens of Wharton are celebrating the Hungarian Presbyterian Church's 100th anniversary.

The first idea of a Hungarian church in Wharton was initiated in 1904 by a small group of Hungarians who had recently come from Hungary and were anxious to hear the Word of God in their native language. Before they had their own sanctuary, two local churches allowed them to worship there.

The church was completed 2 years later, and a thanksgiving service was held on September 16, 1906.

For the next 20 years, the congregation was served mainly by theologians from Bloomfield Seminary, but on March 1, 1926, Reverend John Dezso accepted the call and served the church with dedication and distinction for almost 30 years. In addition to preaching, he was responsible for maintaining the Hungarian culture. Some of the present congregants still remember the little poems, songs, and verses they had learned as children from Reverend Dezso.

Until the 1950s services were only conducted in Hungarian, but the children of the immigrants as well as some of the spouses requested English services as well, and the church has been bi-lingual ever since.

Perhaps the most devastating time for the church community happened on January 2, 1982, when some young people broke into the church and set it on fire. Fortunately, the Wharton and Mine Hill Fire Departments responded quickly, and because the fire was contained, the building was saved. However, the interior of the church was destroyed. Thanks to a lot of hard work and the inspirational leadership of Reverend Ernest M. Kosa,

the church was rebuilt in 10 months. The church community celebrated with a service of Thanksgiving.

The Church Community is very thankful for their present pastor, Charles Olah, CLP, Certified Lay Pastor, who conducts services every Sunday in both English and Hungarian. Without him and their wonderful congregation, they would not be able to do the great job that they do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hungarian Presbyterian Church on the celebration of its 100 years serving the western part of Morris County.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MT. PLEASANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the Mt. Pleasant Community Church near Stayton, OR, a historic church that has served as a place of worship since its construction in 1854. As the oldest building west of the Rocky Mountains that has been continuously used as a church, Mt. Pleasant Community Church will celebrate its 150 years of history on Saturday.

The permanence of this church is remarkable considering the massive changes that have occurred in the surrounding world since it was built. When Mt. Pleasant Community Church was founded, Oregon was a sparsely populated territory that had not yet become a state; Abraham Lincoln was a former Member of Congress who had retired from politics to return to law; and the union had not yet been torn apart by the Civil War. Over the church's 150-year history, our country has seen amazing technological change, from the Industrial Revolution and the invention of the car and the airplane to the rise of information technology and the birth of the Internet. And the position the United States occupies in the world has changed as well: During this century and a half that Mt. Pleasant has stood in the Willamette Valley, empires have risen and fallen, and the United States has risen to a position of unparalleled power in the world.

Yet despite all these changes, Mt. Pleasant has remained, one small church serving the spiritual and social needs of the community. Even as members have come and gone, the church remains, both as a building and an institution, as a place of worship and fellowship, a vital part of the spiritual life of the community.

CONGRATULATING NEW PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SHAUKAT AZIZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan has installed a new Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz. His installation was reported in the news-

papers September 2. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Aziz on his new position.

Mr. Aziz takes the helm in Pakistan at a critical time for the people and nations of South Asia. I wish him well in his time as Prime Minister and I hope that he will dedicate himself to pursuing peace in the subcontinent.

The best way to achieve peace in South Asia, Mr. Speaker, is to work for self-determination for everyone in the region. Only by allowing everyone in the subcontinent to enjoy this cornerstone of democracy can all the peoples and nations live in peace, freedom, and prosperity.

I would also urge Mr. Aziz to work for a more open border so that Sikhs and Muslims, as well as members of other minorities, can trade and travel freely and raise their standard of living by doing so. This will be good for Pakistan and for India.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release congratulating Prime Minister Aziz, which I intend to insert into the RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER SHAUKAT AZIZ

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 10, 2004.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today congratulated the new Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz, on his ascension to the position.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Aziz and wish his government well," Dr. Aulakh said. "I hope that this will be a step forward for peace in South Asia," he said. "Prime Minister Aziz has done excellent work on Pakistan's finances," said Dr. Aulakh. "We are sure that he can bring that wisdom and expertise to all areas of life in his country," he added.

"Prime Minister Aziz must stand firm, as President Musharraf has done, in supporting the interests of freedom for the oppressed people in South Asia," said Dr. Aulakh. "We urge him to work to open the border, enhance trade in the border regions, establish peaceful relations, and assist the cause of freedom, not just in occupied Kashmir, but wherever people are struggling to be free," he added. "We look forward to easy passage to visit the birthplace of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak, in Nankana Sahib."

"Only when all people and nations in South Asia have freedom and self-determination can the subcontinent live in peace, prosperity, and dignity," said Dr. Aulakh. "Prime Minister Aziz has influence by virtue of his position," he said. "We urge him to use it for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and all the people of the subcontinent by supporting freedom and self-determination."

The Council of Khalistan was constituted to lead the struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland which declared its independence on October 7, 1987. It is the government pro tempore of Khalistan. Khalistan has been under Indian occupation since then. India has sent over 500,000 troops to Punjab, Khalistan, and over 700,000 to neighboring Kashmir to suppress the independence movements there. Yet India is on the verge of collapse. As former Home Minister L.K. Advani said that "if Kashmir goes, India goes."

At the time of India's independence, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were supposed to receive their own sovereign state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their

consent. That promise was broken immediately after independence was achieved.

Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

"Sardar Atinder Pal Singh's question of 14 years ago is still the question facing the Sikh Nation: Why don't we liberate Khalistan?" Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" he noted.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India is holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

"We must move forward with the cause of Sikh freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 757, which condemns the horrific attacks on both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon September 11, 2001, and reaffirms our nation's commitment in protecting our land from terrorists.

The events of three years ago will be forever etched in the memories of the American people. The horrible images from downtown New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania, brought sorrow and sadness as a nation collectively mourned the lives lost.

On this day, we salute the Pentagon employees who perished, the inhabitants of the World Trade Center who had their lives snuffed out in a brutal act of terrorism, and the brave men of United flight 93, who sacrificed their lives to save the lives of people they had never even met.

Mr. Speaker, even as a nation mourned, the collective resolve and faith of Americans nationwide began the process of rebuilding, and we continue that process today.

America is strong and its people are committed to the values of liberty. Even today, Americans nationwide are helping the families and children of those killed three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is engaged in a war against terrorism that continues to this day, and the resolve and faith of the American people will ensure that our nation remains forever strong.