

leader without forgetting his humble origins. He did not look at the world in terms of color or creed but appreciated and celebrated all cultures while speaking five languages with near fluency. His activism was motivated by his deep beliefs in the dignity of humanity and the tenets of the Civil Rights Movement.

Ted Velez will be remembered as a hero not only in El Barrio but also in the great City of New York. His presence and noble determination will be sorely missed. Mr. Velez is survived by his wife Linda, son Jon, daughter Judie, two brothers and two grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING FATHER JOHN
TERRY ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT THE CATHOLIC YOUTH CEN-
TER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I call the attention of the House of Representatives to the Very Reverend John Terry, who will celebrate his 25th year as director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, tonight.

Father Terry is a Scranton native who attended St. Michael's elementary school in Jessup. He went on to Scranton Preparatory High School, where he was influenced by the Jesuit priests who taught him. It was at a school retreat in Easton, Pennsylvania, that he first expressed his interest in the priesthood. He credits Father Burner, SJ, Father John Dugan, SJ and Scholastic Jesuit Robert Waldman for helping him explore the priesthood as a vocation.

Father Terry studied different religious communities and their missions, but realized he felt the call to do parish work in the Scranton Diocese. Upon his high school graduation in 1967, Father Terry applied to the Diocese of Scranton. He met with Monsignor Thomas Horan, director of the Saint Pius X Seminary.

Father Terry was accepted as a pre-seminarian and began studies at the University of Scranton. After two years at the University, Father Terry continued on at Saint Pius X. Father Terry recalls that when he was assigned to his room, he knelt and prayed, saying "Oh God, if this is your will, help me."

Monsignor Andrew McGowan was in charge at the Seminary, assisted by Father Banish, Father Kelly, Father Bergamo, Father Louis and Father Walsh.

In the Spring of 1971, Father Terry was sent to Our Lady of Angels Theological Seminary in Albany, New York. Halfway during his second semester, the Seminary closed because of budgetary shortfalls. Father Terry then went on to St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York.

In May 1974, Father Terry was ordained as a deacon and assigned to a small community in Ellicottville, New York—an assignment that helped him understand what parish life really meant. Father Terry was then assigned to the Diocese of Buffalo Seminary in East Aurora, New York. In that year, Father Terry spent a good deal of time in the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop J. Carroll McCormack of Scranton assigned Father Terry as a deacon to St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception

in Wilkes-Barre. He served with Monsignor Joseph Madden as pastor and mentor.

Father Terry was ordained on May 2, 1975 by Bishop McCormack in the Diocese of Scranton. He was assigned to St. Mary's in Wilkes-Barre. During this time, Father Terry's mother was diagnosed with cancer. She died a few months after her son was ordained, and the parishioners at St. Mary's helped Father Terry during this tragic time. Father Terry also began working with children, which was a great boost for his morale.

In 1979, Monsignor John Dougherty, Chancellor of the Diocese, asked Father Terry to become director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre and to serve as an assistant at St. Patrick's Parish in Wilkes-Barre. Working with young people and youth programs was a dream come true for Father Terry.

Father Terry also worked with GAR High School's football program, and was named "Our Angel in the Backfield" by the students he coached. After three years at St. Patrick's, he went to Holy Savior/St. Christopher Churches.

Father Terry enjoyed devoting his time and energy to working with troubled youth and helping to solve their problems. The assignment at the CYC also afforded Father Terry the opportunity to work with Tony English, Jr., executive director of the CYC. The success of the CYC is a result of the wonderful working relationship between the two.

In December 1990, Father Terry was assigned on a temporary basis to Sugar Notch to minister to the Churches of Saints Peter and Paul and St. Charles Borromeo until Father Tom Hudak returned from the Persian Gulf. In 1992, Father Terry was named Pastor of all the churches in Sugar Notch, including Holy Family.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent a man who has devoted his life to making the lives of others, especially young people, better. Please join me in congratulating Father Terry today on 25 years of service.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ GABRIEL
RAMÓN CASTILLO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Gabriel Ramón Castillo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ramón Castillo is a teacher by training. As a teacher, he was interested in helping to instruct and inform his impressionable students. After learning about the propaganda mandated by the regime, he was unable to continue with the charade of manipulating young minds with lies instead of truth. Because of his strong belief in truth and democracy, Mr. Ramón Castillo eventually became the director of the Independent Culture and Democracy Institute. He also began to work as an independent journalist, chronicling the reality of deprivation and misery that truthfully characterizes the totalitarian regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Ramón Castillo was repeatedly subjected to persecution and harassment by the regime from the beginning of his involvement in the

movement to peacefully create a free and democratic Cuba. On March 19, 2003, Mr. Ramón Castillo was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial he was sentenced to 20 years in the tyrant's sub human gulag.

It is unconscionable that any man can be sentenced to 20 years in the grotesquely inhuman quarters of Castro's gulag for a belief in democracy. Mr. Ramón Castillo is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that Mr. Ramón Castillo is languishing in the totalitarian gulag 90 miles from our shore simply because he believes in freedom and democracy. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of José Gabriel Ramón Castillo, and every prisoner of conscience suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 450, I was present, but the voting machine did not record me. I should have been recorded as a "yes."

THANKS TO JOE ZAWADSKI

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, every now and then nice things happen to those in need. This is just what happened to the students at Helms Middle School after Joe Zawadski visited the school and saw the terrible conditions that existed. Joe Zawadski made a command decision that the students deserved better and he and his company, Signature Properties, were going to do something about it.

With the support of Jim Ghielmetti, the owner of Signatures Properties, Helms was able to make major improvements to its safety, sanitation and playing field conditions. What a wonderful example for those who want to help improve the educational environment in our schools.

Thanks to Joe Zawadski and Signature Properties, the students at Helms Middle School will start the year in a safer and brighter learning environment. Thank you Joe Zawadski.

Mr. Speaker I would like to share with my colleagues a news story and editorial from the Contra Costa Times.

PICK UP A PAINT BRUSH

Signature Properties Vice President Joe Zwidski usually is responsible for developing the foundation of neighborhoods, building things from the ground up. Recently, however, he stepped in to help in the maintenance of a school in San Pablo, one of the

areas in which his Pleasanton company builds.

He donated supplies and his company's services to paint the exterior, repair the lawn; install sprinklers, and fix bathrooms and broken windows at Helms Middle School.

He looked at this dilapidated school—scheduled for overhauling from Measure D money and that he has tried to earmark his fees to West County School District for—and decided the school's needs shouldn't be put off. He said: "This is something we can do."

That's true. Good for you, Mr. Z. Now why didn't people right there in the community say that? Why didn't neighbors and parents do something? Do plumbers and painters and handy people not have children going through the schools?

As schools throughout the area, throughout the state, wait for state funds or for local bond money, parents and businesses in the community could be giving money, supplies, time and skills to make sure their area schools aren't falling down, that their kids and their neighbors aren't going to schools that bring grown men to tears.

When the state or bond money comes, it will go further and more will get done in the long run. But in many cases, attention is needed now.

A decrepit school can have psychological connections and results. As Zawidski said, to kids in attendance at schools like that, "it's apparent no one cares about them."

That's how their young brains process it anyway. Then the kids in turn don't care about themselves and don't strive to get the benefits that a good education brings.

Parents and the community must be involved. They must be active in all aspects of youths' education. That means: making sure your kids do their homework, meeting their teachers, seeing that they are learning. It also means making sure money for schools is spent as it should be; it means volunteering so that teachers have help and extra curriculum programs remain available; and there is certainly no reason it shouldn't mean that every couple of years you pick up a paintbrush and a screwdriver, to keep the school up to par.

Our schools, all of them, can use the extra help.

SAN PABLO SCHOOL GETS UNEXPECTED GIFT (By Jackie Burrell)

Developers don't often get to play hero, but a crumbling San Pablo middle school started this school year with a free facelift thanks to a Pleasanton company's Good Samaritan gesture.

And the builder didn't even toot its own horn afterwards.

Like any developer, Signature Properties coughed up the requisite developer fees to the West Contra Costa school district as it planned a new neighborhood of 3-bedroom homes and townhouses. Then Signature's vice president of forward planning Joe Zawidski stopped by Helms Middle School for a tour.

"We were disappointed with the state of the school," Zawidski said.

Helms principal Harriet MacLean was less circumspect. Zawidski nearly cried, she said, and then he made some calls.

Helms is on deck for a near-rebuilding under West Contra Costa schools' Measure D, a \$300 million bond measure voters passed in 2002 to renovate more than a dozen middle and high schools.

Signature, the same company currently embroiled in litigation with the Pleasanton School District over construction of Neal Elementary School, wanted its fees earmarked for improvements at Helms when the school was rebuilt, a two-year process expected to

begin in 2005. The company also offered to install a new playing field when it did landscape work at the development across the street.

Six weeks ago Zawidski and company owner Jim Ghielmetti couldn't stand it anymore.

"You know these kids are coming in now, this is their school and it's not right," said Zawidski. "The weeds were three feet, ceilings were falling down, the restrooms were not functional. It's not going to enrich those kids. It makes it apparent that no one cares about them. It's a tragedy."

Zawidski called MacLean then showed up with a construction crew to paint the school's exterior, install new spinklers and lawns, replace restroom faucets and repair every broken window.

"You would think he'd only be interested in curb appeal, but he replaced all the broken windows, even the one in the back, faucets in all the restrooms, all because he cares," MacLean said.

"San Pablo is a good community. This is just a way to reinvest in the community," said Zawidski. "This was something we could do and something we wanted to do."

REGARDING THE REINSTITUTION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the 1994 assault weapons ban has expired and our nation is again vulnerable to guns known to most in the law enforcement community as "the weapons of choice for criminals."

My bill would reinstate the repealed criminal provisions relating to assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and make America safer.

The House Republican leadership opposed reauthorizing the 1994 Assault Weapons Act and President Bush, though he had said he supported it, did nothing to help keep the law alive.

Indecisiveness. Flip-Flop. Isn't that what the other party calls "saying one thing and doing another"?

Because the President steadfastly refused to put his leadership—or lack thereof—where his mouth is and help renew the ban, it has expired without so much as even a vote in the House of Representatives.

From this Chamber, for the past 3 years, I have been highlighting the President's efforts on behalf of the rich and big corporations at the expense of working families and small businesses. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I once again must speak of the damage our President is inflicting on the average American.

There is no reason why we should let assault weapons back on the streets. Do people need an assault weapon to protect their home? No! Do people need an assault weapon to hunt? No! Do people need an assault weapon to target shoot? No! Semiautomatic weapons are killing machines with absolutely no positive value in any sensible community and lifting this ban has put these weapons of death back in the hands of criminals.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics survey published in November 2001 reported that almost 7 percent of State inmates and more than 9 percent of Federal inmates carried military-

style semiautomatic weapons in carrying out the crime for which they were convicted. In 1997, roughly 43 percent of inmates who carried a military-style semiautomatic or fully automatic weapon fired it and more than 25 percent of them killed or injured their victim.

Mr. Speaker, the expiration of the Assault Weapons Act favored gangs, terrorists, drug dealers, and other criminals, and put in danger my children and yours, and our heroes and protectors, the police officers.

Our local police are not prepared for the re-institution of assault weapons to our streets. The bulletproof vests that we give our police officers are no match for the guns that are going to be back out in our neighborhoods. And we are going to allow criminals to carry large-capacity clips with over 50 rounds, when our police officers can only respond with 10 to 15 rounds?

Every single law enforcement organization, including the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Sheriffs Association, supports our efforts to reinstitute the Assault Weapons Act. I would support my law enforcement officers, and the safety of our communities and of this Nation over any gun manufacturer any day.

President Bush sent America's youth unprotected—in unarmored HUMVEES and without bulletproof vests—to war in Iraq, and now has been instrumental in bringing back to America's neighborhoods weapons of war to threaten police officers and law abiding citizens.

Moreover, we know terrorists are now exploiting the weaknesses and loopholes in our gun laws. A terrorist training manual discovered by American soldiers in Afghanistan in 2001 advised al-Qaida members to buy assault weapons in the United States and use them against us.

The Assault Weapons Act has respected the rights of gun owners. Only criminals and terrorists have been kept from their guns of choice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SIDNEY LANIER MCFARLAND

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguish life of Sidney Lanier McFarland. Mr. McFarland, who retired in 1975 after 36 years honorable public service, passed away on August 12, 2004, at the age of 89.

Mr. McFarland served for 20 years as Staff Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Interior Committee from the 83rd through the 93rd Congresses. During that time, he coordinated the efforts that authorized and enacted 79 major water projects into law. These laws authorized the U.S. Department of the Interior to build dams and canals that stored and diverted water for use by agriculture, municipalities and industry. The projects made possible the large and productive habitation of arid and semiarid lands, laying the groundwork for the enormous growth that subsequently transpired in the western United States. Among the committee's accomplishments under Mr. McFarland's direction were the Colorado River Storage Project that included Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell; the Trinity River