

Bill went on to manage his family's business, with the help of his brother Chuck, and quickly became an entrepreneur and inventor. Bill helped the business grow by inventing new corrugated tray designs for containing produce, increasing their shelf life. He also started the Samco Plastic Company which invented and produced the green mesh baskets used for strawberries in the spring. He later invented the clamshell package designed to store many varieties of produce ranging from potatoes, beans, peas, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and cherries. Samco Plastic Company also holds a patent on MIXIM packaging which produces extremely efficient packaging materials that condense the produce into smaller areas without damaging them. In addition to his agricultural successes, Bill also became the founding director of the Pajaro Valley Bank, and later the director of the new First National Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Bill's family and honor him by celebrating his life and contribution to society. Furthermore, anyone who has purchased strawberries or raspberries can thank Bill for the packaging that keeps them fresh. Bill was admired by all for his dedication to both his business and community, and will be greatly missed.

HONORING LENNEX BURROUGHS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. KILDEE, Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the Flint Community School district, to honor Mr. Lennex Burroughs for 33 years of dedicated service to the children of Flint, Michigan. On Friday, March 12, 2004, the Flint Community School district will honor Mr. Burroughs during a special retirement dinner to be held at the Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Mr. Burroughs was born and raised in Inskter, Michigan. He graduated from Inskter High School, where he was noted as an outstanding athlete. He received letters in football, basketball, and baseball. In 1966 he was awarded the esteemed Willie Heston Scholarship-athletic award. Upon graduation from high school he immediately enrolled at the University of Central Michigan on a football scholarship. He graduated from the University holding a Master of Educational Leadership/Administration degree in 1978. In January of 1971 he began his career with the Flint Community School district as the physical education teacher and community school director for Dewey Elementary School. During the span of his career, Lennex held positions at the elementary, middle and high school level. He holds tenure at Dewey, Manley, Cook, Scott, Cummings, Merrill, Washington, Coolidge, Sobey, Civic Park Elementary, Bryant & Whittier Middle Schools and Northwestern High School, and for the past fourteen years he has held the position of Principal of Civic Park Elementary. Lennex is a strong advocate of community education. He is committed to keeping students, parents, and community involved in all aspects of school functions. He strongly believes that where there is community involvement, a student's education is enriched.

Lennex is going to be a hard act to follow. He is a superb role model for the children of Flint. His words are backed by his actions. He believes in the children and they believe in him. Aside from being an outstanding role model and educator he is also a talented Gospel singer. In 1996, he released two musical tapes entitled *Motivation and Inspiration*. Lennex has received numerous accolades for his community services, but of them all, Lennex considers his most esteemed award to be his recognition by the City of Flint as Father of the Year 1990. Lennex is a faithful family man. His wife of 33 years is Linda. They have two wonderful children named Erica and Sean.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my constituent and friend Mr. Lennex Burroughs and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR JUAN ADOLFO FERNÁNDEZ SAINZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Juan Adolfo Fernández Sainz, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fernández Sainz worked for about 15 years as an interpreter for government agencies before being dismissed for his support of democracy and the rule of law in 1994. After being forced from his government job, Mr. Fernández Sainz began to expose the repression and corruption of the dictator's regime as an independent journalist. He originally joined the independent news agency Nueva Prensa and a year later became part of the Patria agency where he wrote about all aspects of totalitarian Cuban society. Mr. Fernández Sainz contributed to numerous foreign publications and became a correspondent for Prima, the Russian human rights news agency, in July 2001.

Because Mr. Fernández Sainz wrote the truth about a ruthless, repressive, bankrupt, and broken tyranny, he was arrested as part of the brutal March 2003 crackdown against Cuban pro-democracy activists. After a sham trial, where he was accused of supplying information to the U.S. government and endangering Cuban internal security, Mr. Fernández Sainz was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

However, Castro's ruthless machinery of repression does not stop after sentencing innocent Cubans to the totalitarian gulag. According to the U.S. State Department's 2003 Country Report on Human Rights Practices:

On December 6, a common prisoner in Holguin Provincial Prison beat 54-year-old political prisoner Adolfo Fernandez Sainz until Fernandez was unconscious. The prisoner who carried out the beating was authorized by prison guards to exercise control over other inmates. Prison officials told Fernandez the common prisoner should have beaten him harder in order to kill him. In April, Fernandez was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for his work as an independent journalist.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow Mr. Fernández Sainz to languish in a gulag where

he is abused and tortured. My Colleagues, we cannot allow Mr. Fernández Sainz to remain in a gulag with totalitarian thugs who want to murder him. We must demand the immediate release of Juan Adolfo Fernández Sainz and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the totalitarian gulags of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

RECOGNIZING A KANSAS CITY PHOTOJOURNALISM EXHIBIT AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE COMMEMORATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the opening of Ladislav Bielik's photojournalism exhibit at the Art Incubator Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri. Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, along with the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City have arranged for this outstanding public showing from March 5 to March 31. Mr. Miroslav Wlachovsky of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic will officially welcome guests to the exhibit on March 4. The collection commemorates the 35th anniversary of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact armies, pictorially recorded through Ladislav Bielik's photographs.

On the evening of August 20, 1968, Warsaw Pact armies comprised of soldiers from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria invaded Czechoslovakia with the strength of approximately 200,000 troops and 5,000 tanks to squelch the Czech movement toward democracy. Bielik's photograph of one Czechoslovakian's desperate attempt to halt a tank captured the attention of the world and became Life Magazine's 1968 photograph of the year. This exhibit further pictorially illustrates the haunting images of sacrifice made in pursuit of democracy from the first days of the invasion at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

The invasion crushed Secretary Alexander Dubcek's new Action Program that promoted democratic elections and basic liberties. Prior to the invasion, the country had enjoyed a short period referred to as Prague Spring that revitalized their national culture. The impetus that perpetuated the Warsaw Pact wrath was a petition known as Two Thousand Words which called for democracy in Czechoslovakia. The Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968 crushed Czechoslovakia's quest for democracy, seized control of the government and killed hundreds of protesters. In 1993, following the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovakia, through peaceful negotiations, evolved into two independent countries, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

On March 12, 1999, the Czech Republic officially became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at a ceremony I attended at the Harry S Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. The Slovak Republic is expected to become a full member of NATO and the European Union in May of this year, thus completing a long journey for independence and achieving world status with acceptance into NATO.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic in Kansas City, Missouri for arranging this significant cultural exchange.

Mr. Ladislav Bielik's historic photo exhibit celebrates courage and perseverance and serves as a timely reminder of how important democ-

racy is to free thinking people throughout the world.