

Today, the vast majority of the Puerto Rican society favors the immediate and permanent cessation of the bombings and shellings. Past Presidents of the United States, under similar circumstances, have ordered the immediate and permanent cessation of military operations in other locations. For instance, in 1975, President Gerald Ford, by an Executive Order, terminated the use of the island of Culebra for military purposes. Likewise, President George Bush, on October 22, 1990, directed the Secretary of Defense to discontinue the use of the island of Kaho'olawe for bombing and target practice.

Your fellow Americans are seriously concerned about the ailing health, the violation of human and civil rights of the Viequeses, as well as the impact on their environment and natural resources. Under the Constitution of the United States, you have the authority to call for the immediate cessation of the bombing and the shelling that are affecting these rights. Therefore, the undersigned urge you to order an immediate and permanent end of the bombing in Vieques.

Respectfully,

Anibal Acevedo Vilá (D-PR), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Jose Serrano (D-NY), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), George Miller (D-CA), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Patsy Mink (D-HI), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Bobby Rush (D-IL), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Edward Markey (D-MA), Hilda Solis (D-CA), Major Owens (D-NY), Mike Honda (D-CA), Sam Farr (D-CA), Elliot Engel (D-NY), Cynthia McKinney (D-GA), Carrie Meek (D-FL), Eva Clayton (D-NC), Louis Slaughter (D-NY), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Nita Lowey (D-NY), John Larson (D-CT), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Brad Carson (D-OK), Mark Udall (D-CO), Tom Udall (D-NM), Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX), Donna Christensen (D-VI), Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Albert Wynn (D-MD), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Joe Baca (D-CA), Robert C. Scott (D-VA), Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-GA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), Robert Underwood (D-GU), Rod Blagojevich (D-IL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Karen McCarthy (D-MO), David Phelps (D-IL), Nick Rahall (D-WV), Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), David Bonior (D-MI), Howard Berman (D-CA), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), William Jefferson (D-LA), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Sen. John Corzine (D-NJ), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-IL), Bob Filner (D-CA), William Lacy Clay (D-MO), Ted Strickland (D-OH), Lane Evans (D-IL), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Robert Brady (D-PA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), John Olver (D-MA), Lois Capps (D-CA), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), Melvin Watt (D-NC), Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), James E. Clyburn (D-SC), James McGovern (D-MA), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), John Conyers Jr. (D-MI), Martin Meehan (D-MA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Barney Frank (D-MA), Jerry F. Costello (D-IL), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Michael McNulty (D-NY), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Gene Green (D-TX), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Earl Hilliard (D-AL), Maxine Waters (D-CA), James Oberstar (D-MN), Janice Shakowsky (D-IL), Nick Lampson (D-TX), Bill Delahunt (D-MA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), William Lipinski (D-IL), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Thomas Allen (D-ME), Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), John LaFace (D-NY), Lynn Rivers (D-MI), Robert A. Borski

(D-PA), James A. Barcia (D-MI), Chaka Fattah (D-PA).

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF PHIL LELLI

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Phil Lelli, a good friend of mine and a great leader of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union from Tacoma, Washington.

Philip M. Lelli was a born longshoreman; he began his career on the Tacoma, Washington waterfront in 1949 and retired in 1993. He was President of the Tacoma Longshore Union Local 23 from 1966 to 1993, and I recall quite well the advice and counsel he freely gave to me and to other political leaders throughout his tenure of Union leadership. Afterward, he remained deeply engaged in community affairs in the Puget Sound area, serving as a Port of Tacoma Commissioner and the Harry Bridges History Chair Trustee at the University of Washington.

Today in the House of Representatives, I would like to express my sincere wishes of sympathy to the Lelli Family, Mr. Speaker, and to extend my thanks and the appreciation of a grateful community for the many contributions that Phil has made. I would also like to include in today's News Tribune newspaper from Tacoma, Washington.

[From the News Tribune, Apr. 28, 2004]

(By Philip Lelli)

HANGS HIS HOOK

Longshore leader Philip Martin Lelli was born December 4, 1929, in Edgewood and passed away April 25, 2004, in Puyallup. He was the son of Martin and Mary (Baller) Lelli and attended Fife schools and Pacific Lutheran University. He married Joanne Williams April 18, 1953, in Fife. Phil and Joanne were the proud parents of five sons: Jay (Judith E. Peterson), Marty, Dean (Susan), Vance (Kimberlie) and Ross, and grandparents of Janelle, Jayson A. (Jennifer), Paula, Rori, Scott, Mathew, and Marina. There are three great-grandchildren, MacKenzie, Kailee and Ryan. Also surviving is his brother Tom (Phyllis) Lelli. One son, Ross, and a sister, Jeanne Retallick, preceded him.

Phil Lelli was a dominant figure on the Tacoma waterfront from the moment he lifted his first 180-pound sack of wheat in 1949 until he retired as a gearman in 1993. He was a born longshoreman: a practical physicist who could come up with the most effective method of moving any size or weight of cargo; a leader of men in times of great technological change; and a stalwart ally who won hundreds of friends in ports all over the world.

His mentor was T. A. "Tiny" Thronson, a veteran of the Great Strike of 1934. Thronson's advice, "Do a hard day's work and you'll get rewarded with more opportunity," was Phil's guiding principle as President of Tacoma Longshore Union 23 from 1966 until 1983. He never abandoned his belief that port-union cooperation would result in a Golden Age. He teamed with Port Executive Director E. L. Roy Perry, Union Business Agent George Ginnis, and Port Commissioner Robert Earley to raise Ta-

coma from a backwater log port to become the fifth largest container port in North America.

During his 55 years on the waterfront, Phil served as Port of Tacoma commissioner, Propeller Club president, Tacoma Longshore pension club president, and University of Washington Harry Bridges History Chair trustee. The Propeller Club awarded Philip its highest honor, Master Mariner, in 1982. The Harry Bridges Chair designated him its Distinguished Supporter in 2003.

After Phil and Joanne's youngest son died in a waterfront accident in 1989, the Propeller Club created the Ross E. Lelli Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Phil Lelli learned the meaning of community service from his father, Martin, who taught his son to care for other people, especially the poor. In the 1980s Phil and Father William Bischoff S.J. organized the Hospitality Kitchen to serve hot lunches to the Tacoma homeless. Phil rescued a stove from the old Knights of Pythias Temple. Longshore workers trucked the stove to the Kitchen, took out a wall, installed the stove, and rebuilt the wall. The longshore union continues its support of the Kitchen, which serves 450 meals a day.

Visitation will be from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Saturday, May 1 (International Workers Day), followed by the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrews Catholic Church, 1401 Valley Ave., Sumner. Rosary services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at St. Martin of Tours Church 2303-54th Avenue East, Fife. Grave-side services will be at Gethsemane Cemetery, 37600 Pacific Highway, at noon May 1. The Longshore Union will honor brother Phil with an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. There is an online guest book at www.mountainviewtacoma.com

Arrangements are by Mountain View Funeral Home, 253-564-0252. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the name of Philip Lelli to the Ross E. Lelli Memorial Scholarship, PO Box 453, Tacoma, WA 98401, or the Hospitality Kitchen, 1323 S. Yakima Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405.

REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who lost their lives and those who are suffering the aftereffects of the world's worst nuclear accident—Chernobyl, April 26, 1986.

The suffering extends outside Ukraine's borders to Russia, Belarus and beyond. I ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor those innocent lives that will be forever changed by such a horrific event.

I applaud the efforts of the United States Department of Energy, the International Atomic Energy Association, and other donor nations in remediation and containment efforts in Ukraine. Estimates indicate that these projects may last at least 100 years. Our commitment must remain firm.

I am including for the RECORD an article highlighting some of the challenges ahead and devastation many have already faced.

[From CBS News, Apr. 26, 2004]

REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

Across the former Soviet Union, people lit candles, laid flowers and held demonstrations Monday to mark the 18th anniversary

of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which spread radiation over much of northern Europe.

In all, 7 million people in the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine are estimated to suffer physical or psychological effects of radiation related to the April 26, 1986, catastrophe, when reactor No. 4 exploded and caught fire.

An area half the size of Italy was contaminated, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to be resettled and ruining some of Europe's most fertile agricultural land, the United Nations said.

Hundreds of Ukrainians filled the small Chernobyl victims' chapel in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, at 1:23 a.m. Monday (6:23 p.m. Sunday ET), the exact time of the explosion. Later, they laid flowers and lit candles at a small hill where marble plates are inscribed with the names of hundreds of victims.

Nearly 1,000 mourners gathered Monday afternoon at Kiev's memorial to Chernobyl victims, a soaring statue of five falling metallic swans. Some placed flowers and photos of deceased relatives at its base.

"Nothing can be compared with a mother's sorrow," said Praskoviya Nezhlyvova, an elderly retiree clutching a black-framed photograph of her son, Viktor. She said he died of Chernobyl-related stomach cancer in 1990 at age 44.

Volodymyr Diunych, a driver who took members of the hastily recruited and inadequately equipped cleanup crews to the site, recalled watching as residents were evacuated "in an awful rush" days after the disaster. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union's traditional May Day celebrations went ahead in Kiev, 80 miles south of Chernobyl, only five days after the accident.

Soviet authorities had withheld much information on the world's worst nuclear accident, both from its own people and from the rest of the world. Only last year, Ukraine's security service declassified secret files documenting malfunctions and safety violations at the plant that caused the release of small doses of radiation from time to time long before the explosion.

Ukraine shuttered Chernobyl's last working reactor in December 2000, but many problems remain.

Ukrainian experts say that the concrete-and-steel shelter that was hastily constructed over the damaged reactor needs urgent repairs, but authorities claim that there are no serious safety threats. Meanwhile, many people injured or displaced because of the explosion complain about inadequate government support.

Sergei Shchvetsov, the head of Russia's Chernobyl Union, said that 40,000 people disabled in operations to clean up the blast live in Russia and the "volume of benefits to which (they) are eligible is narrowing every year," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Greenpeace activists held a small protest outside Russia's Department for the Inspection of Radiation Security, carrying signs that read "No more Chernobyls."

Meanwhile, in the Ukrainian town of Slavutych—built to house Chernobyl workers displaced by the accident—people held a solemn memorial meeting early Monday to honor the memory of their relatives, friends and colleagues.

The accident occurred after officials put the reactor through a test in which power was reduced and some safety devices were disabled.

More than 2.32 million people have been hospitalized in Ukraine as of early 2004 with illnesses blamed on the disaster, including 452,000 children, according to Ukraine's Health Ministry. Ukraine has registered some 4,400 deaths.

The most frequently noted Chernobyl-related diseases include thyroid and blood can-

cer, mental disorders and cancerous growths. The United Nations said in a statement that in some areas of Belarus, thyroid cancer among children has increased more than 100-fold when compared with the period before the accident.

Two years ago, the U.N. reported that 200,000 people still live in highly contaminated areas and 4.5 million residents in three countries are receiving financial help—draining national budgets.

The explosion and fire at Chernobyl's No. 4 reactor contaminated 23 percent of Belarus, 5 percent of Ukraine and 1.5 percent of Russia, according to the report. It also spewed a radioactive cloud across Europe.

CONSIDERATION OF S. 1904, WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following newspaper articles from the Miami Herald and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following my statement:

[From the Miami Herald, April 29, 2004]

U.S. HOUSE OKS BILL NAMING NEW FEDERAL COURTHOUSE FOR LATE JUDGE WILKIE FERGUSON

(By Larry Lebowitz)

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday unanimously passed a bill that would name the new federal courthouse in downtown Miami after the late U.S. District Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. and sent it to the President for his signature.

"His career is an inspiration to hundreds of young attorneys, and his honor and integrity make him a symbol of fairness on the federal bench," said Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Miami. "... Naming the new federal courthouse after Judge Ferguson is an honor that will reinforce his legacy for decades to come." Only seven U.S. courthouses nationwide have been named for black jurists, none of them in Florida. The Senate version, introduced and co-sponsored by Florida Democratic Sens. Bob Graham and Bill Nelson, passed on March 12.

The \$163 million courthouse, which will feature two 14-story towers connected by a mammoth atrium, is located at 400 N. Miami Ave. It is slated to open in late summer 2005.

[From the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Apr. 29, 2004]

MIAMI FEDERAL COURT BUILDING TO BE FIRST IN STATE NAMED AFTER AFRICAN-AMERICAN
(By Ann W. O'Neill)

Congress unanimously approved legislation naming Miami's newest courthouse after the late U.S. District Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr., making it the first federal court building in Florida to bear the name of an African-American.

The bill, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Kendrick B. Meek, was approved Wednesday by a 406-0 vote.

"Now, that's consensus," Meek said of the unanimous roll call vote. "People in South Florida seeking justice can see an example of a man who stood tall."

Meek, D-Miami, and other backers said naming the building after Ferguson shows how South Florida has evolved from a segregated society where, a generation ago, some courthouses housed blacks and whites in separate holding cells.

The \$137 million Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. United States Courthouse, going up at 400 N. Miami Ave., will be completed next year. Only seven federal courthouses across the country are named after African-Americans.

Ferguson, who was 65 when he died last year of leukemia, earned a reputation as an even-handed jurist who championed the underdog. His friend, Miami civil rights attorney H.T. Smith, eulogized Ferguson as "the judge for the least, the last, the lost, the looked-over and the left out."

In his most resonant federal court ruling, Ferguson was credited with improving the lives of thousands of disabled Florida residents. In 1999, he held the state in contempt of court, forcing it to increase funding for home nursing care and other services. The move allowed thousands of disabled people to live at home rather than in institutions.

Ferguson was born in May 1938 in Miami, where his father, Wilkie Sr., was founding pastor of St. Andrew's Missionary Baptist Church in Opa-locka. The elder Ferguson died last year at age 94.

His first landmark case came as a Miami-Dade Circuit Court judge, when he ruled blacks had been systematically excluded from a jury. He served on the state's Third District Court of Appeal in Miami from 1980 to 1993, when President Clinton appointed him to the federal bench.

Ferguson heard most of his cases in Fort Lauderdale.

The new courthouse bearing his name is taking shape as one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings to appear on Miami's skyline in years. It consists of two 15-story glass towers connected by an atrium. When completed and landscaped, it will resemble a ship afloat on a wavy sea of grass.

The bill was backed by 19 South Florida Congress members; U.S. Sens. Bob Graham and Bill Nelson; the Dade County Bar Association; the former Black Lawyers Association, now known as the Wilkie D. Ferguson Bar Association; the Caribbean Bar Association; the Haitian Lawyers Association; the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners and the city of Miami.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOMAS A. ARCINIEGA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Tomas A. Arciniega for his 20 years of distinguished service as the president of California State University-Bakersfield. His retirement in July 2004 concludes a remarkable career noted for his leadership in the development of CSU-Bakersfield as a major regional university. Throughout his career, Dr. Arciniega has been a tireless advocate for expanded access to higher education for low-income and minority students in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Arciniega was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and earned a bachelor's degree in teacher education from New Mexico State University and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of New Mexico. His early career included military service as an officer in the United States Army and an appointment by the United States Foreign Service as a human resources advisor in the Dominican Republic during the late 1960's.