

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.

Dr. Arciniega's teaching career began in El Paso, Texas and later he served as Dean of Education at San Diego State University and as Provost at California State University-Fresno. His appointment as the third president of CSU-Bakersfield in 1983 ushered in an era of steady expansion and achievement at the university. As a result of Dr. Arciniega's leadership, the university's multi-cultural enrollment has more than doubled and its budget has more than tripled.

CSU-Bakersfield's success has been due in large part to Dr. Arciniega's efforts to focus public attention on the needs of low-income and minority students, who form the country's fastest-growing school-age population. Many of Dr. Arciniega's peers have credited him with helping to make higher education a reality for thousands of students for whom college would have been impossible a generation ago. He is a widely published expert on higher education administration, bilingual education, and multi-cultural education. During his distinguished career, Dr. Arciniega also served as a technical consultant to the Ministries of Education in Honduras, Bolivia, Panama, and Guatemala.

Dr. Arciniega is a highly respected community leader in the Central Valley and continues to inspire young people around the country to pursue higher education as a means to improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Tomas A. Arciniega for a highly successful career on the occasion of his retirement as president of CSU-Bakersfield. I wish him the best of luck and continued success.

THE LEGEND AWARD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this year the Franklin and Williamson County Chamber of Commerce gave three of our friends and neighbors the "Legend" award.

All three have worked to make our community a better place and they deserve thanks and recognition.

Louise Lynch has dedicated countless hours to saving the county's archives and preserving a historical record of Williamson County. Because of her many years of efforts, the Williamson County Archives is recognized not only as one of the best in the state but in the nation. Married to County Commissioner Clyde Lynch for 50 years, Mrs. Lynch is a sixth generation Williamson Countian. She previously earned the "Lady of the Year" award from Beta Sigma Phi; the Williamson Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award, and the Jane Langston Service Award for her preservation efforts.

Ronald Ligon has never wanted any credit for his work on behalf of Williamson County. While he would rather "remain in the background," we could not fail to recognize him. In 1959 he established Christus Gardens of Gatlinburg and served as vice chairman of the board at Harpeth National Bank. His extensive volunteer community service includes Boy

Scouts, Franklin Rotary Club, and Williamson Medical Foundation.

Roy Barker was awarded a Purple Heart as a result of his military service in the Battle of the Bulge. Upon returning to Williamson County after World War II, he entered the insurance and real estate business and gained respect as a business and community leader. He served in the Tennessee Constitutional Convention and the Tennessee House of Representatives.

These friends and neighbors are the reason Franklin and Williamson County are such wonderful places to live and work. We honor them for their dedication to our community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICOLAS R. SINCORE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor a truly patriotic and courageous American, who through his military and public service has come to exemplify true commitment to one's nation and community.

Born in Homestead, FL, Mr. Nicolas R. Sincore graduated from Coral Shores High School in Tavernier. A proud American, Mr. Sincore served his country in various capacities, spending from 1948 to 1952 on active duty, and serving in the 11th Airborne Division, the 31st Infantry, and the 7th Division in Korea. After completing his tour of duty, Mr. Sincore enrolled at John A. Gupton College in Nashville, TN, where he excelled and earned a degree in Mortuary Science in 1959.

Following a strong desire to fulfill his civic duty, Mr. Sincore was first elected to the city of Homestead's City Council in 1971 as vice mayor/councilman, and re-elected as vice-mayor/councilman again in 1975. One year later, Mr. Sincore was appointed Mayor and re-elected to that position until 1981. He was elected again in 1983, and was re-elected as councilman until November 2003. Mr. Sincore's commitment and dedication to serving the citizens of Homestead, is a testament of his great devotion and affinity towards the community.

In addition to holding elected office, Mr. Sincore has served the city of Homestead through his leadership as the city's representative at both the Florida League of Cities and as a board member of the Florida Municipal Electric Association. Furthermore, Mr. Sincore has served as past commander of the American Legion Post 43, director of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce and director of the Senior Citizens Club of Homestead.

Mr. Nicholas Sincore's dedication and commitment to serving his community, his state, and his country deserves the highest praise and admiration. For many generations to come, the people of Homestead will continue to reap the benefits and rewards of Mr. Sincore's unparalleled devotion to his community. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Sincore before this body of Congress for his

more than 30 years of service to the citizens of Florida and the city of Homestead.

10 NEW NATIONS OF EUROPE WILL ENTER THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 1, we will witness yet another historic event in the evolution of the European Union. On that day 10 new nations of Europe will enter the European Union. This enlargement will represent the largest expansion ever undertaken by the EU.

It is clear that a strong and mature transatlantic relationship is critical to the long-term political, economic and security interests of the United States. It is also clear that one of the central ingredients to a successful transatlantic partnership is a stable, integrated and dynamic Europe.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the 10 newest members of the European Union. I hope that the addition of these new members will help continue to strengthen our enduring friendship and critical partnership with the countries of Europe and the European Union. As the U.S. chairperson of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, I look forward to meeting and working with the Parliamentarians of these newest members who will soon take their seats in the European Parliament.

HONORING AMBASSADOR C.J. CHEN OF TAIWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in bidding a fond farewell to Ambassador C.J. Chen of Taiwan. He will be returning to Taipei next month. During the last four years, he has been the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, DC.

A great advocate for his country, Ambassador Chen has helped us understand difficult issues such as Taiwan's peace referendum and the just concluded Taiwan presidential elections. At the same time he has helped his people better understand American values and strengthened the relations between Taiwan and the United States.

On Capitol Hill Ambassador Chen, known to many as simply "C.J.," is widely respected. Many of us admire his high intellect and industry as we have been privileged to see the personal depth within this very public man. Indeed, we have been enriched in having had this opportunity to get to know him and his lovely wife, Yolanda Ho.

As Ambassador Chen leaves Washington for Taipei, we can be sure that both our countries shall benefit from his efforts for years to come.