

IN HONOR OF COLONEL JOHN B.
O'DOWD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John B. O'Dowd for his outstanding work and leadership in the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. His tenure as Chief Engineer has been one of exceptional work and dedication.

Colonel O'Dowd assumed command of the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in July 2001. Since his appointment, Colonel O'Dowd has brought great leadership, focus, and passion to his position. Responsible for the water resource development, navigation, and regulatory activities in parts of New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, Colonel O'Dowd has led by example and has worked tirelessly to achieve his objective.

Prior to his position with the Army Corps of Engineers, Colonel O'Dowd commanded and served as Executive Officer of the 30th Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg. He also served as Executive Officer for the Engineer Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea, and was assigned as the Operations Officer for the 20th Engineer Brigade during Operation "Uphold Democracy" in Haiti.

For his distinguished work and military service, Colonel O'Dowd has received numerous awards and citations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Colonel O'Dowd received his bachelor's degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1978 and a Master's Degree from John Hopkins University in Environmental Engineering in 1989. He is also a loving husband to his wife and dedicated father to his three children.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel John B. O'Dowd for his outstanding leadership, courage, and service to this great country. He will be greatly missed as he leaves the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It has been an honor and a pleasure to have worked with him the last three years and I wish him all the best in his new assignment in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California was established in 1974 with 78 charter members to assist businesses

large and small with the necessary skills to become a successful operation. Providing their members with management leadership skills and safety training, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California have created an industry with high standards and quality employees.

Founded on the belief of the free enterprise system, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California actively promote the Merit Shop Philosophy whereby contractors pay, promote and recognize their employees based on individual merit. It is this philosophy and their commitment to providing employees with adequate wages, benefits and safe working conditions that has made this association a pioneer in the construction industry.

Recognizing the valuable contributions to the industry and the community, I would like to congratulate the Associated Builders and Contractors of Southern California on their anniversary of thirty successful years.

TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE HIGH PRICE OF GAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the increasing pressure rising gas prices are placing on the constituents of Ohio's tenth district, and consumers around the country.

Today, I received a petition, presented to me by WEWS Television Station in Cleveland, Ohio, from those in the Cleveland area who are being harmed by the recent spikes in gas prices. This petition, with over 14,000 signatures, is evidence of the strains placed on consumers in an already bleak economic market. To address these concerns, I, along with 67 other members of the House of Representatives, am sending a letter to President Bush expressing my concerns.

Effectively addressing high gasoline prices will take six steps—none of which are included in the energy legislation.

First, require oil companies to expand gasoline storage capacities, require them to hold significant amounts in that storage, and reserve the right to order these companies to release this stored gas to address supply and demand fluctuations.

Second, block mergers that make it easier for oil companies to manipulate gasoline supplies, and take steps, such as forcing companies to sell assets, to remedy the current highly concentrated market.

Third, re-regulate energy trading exchanges that were exploited by Enron and continue to be abused by other energy traders.

Fourth, discontinue filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve while prices are high and conduct a study of building crude and product reserves that can be used as economic stockpiles to dampen price increases.

Fifth, reduce oil consumption by implementing strong fuel economy standards. Substantially improving CAFE standards over a ten-year period would reduce the oil used by one-third in 2020 and save consumers \$16 billion at the gas pump.

Sixth, request the Federal Trade Commission conduct a study of the reasons why the

market forced the closure of over 50 predominantly small and independent refiners in the past 10 years and assess how to bring fair competition back to the refinery market and thus expand capacity.

By employing all six of these strategies, substantial reductions in the price of gasoline are attainable.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in supporting these strategies to lower gasoline prices for consumers. I want to thank WEWS for their public service of bringing these signatures to Washington. The people of Ohio have spoken. It is time for Congress and the Administration to respond to meet the people's needs.

HONORING MICHAEL DOYLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Michael Doyle who was former Knight Journalism Fellow at Yale Law School and recent author of *The Forestport Breaks: A Nineteenth-Century Conspiracy along the Black Forest Canal*. I have had the pleasure of forming a relationship with Michael Doyle because of his continued fair and balanced Washington Politics Beat coverage in my district newspaper, the Fresno Bee. Doyle's latest literary achievement follows a string of exceptional work including numerous articles for McClatchy Papers in California's Central Valley. *The Forestport Breaks: A Nineteenth-Century Conspiracy along the Black Forest Canal* depicts a conspiracy to sabotage part of the Erie Canal system along the Black River Canal.

A Publisher's Weekly Review called the work "carefully researched and nimbly written . . . Doyle's account of a 19th-century conspiracy to sabotage part of the Erie Canal system is a delight to read. Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal was an engineering marvel that vastly improved commercial transportation. In 1856, canal boats carried over four million tons of goods—more than twice the load of the railroads. But by 1869, the tide had turned in favor of New York's railroads; the canal had fallen into disrepair and was subject to costly breaks that flooded the countryside. In 1895, New York voters approved \$9 million in improvements—but a subsequent investigation revealed that all but \$25,000 of the money had been spent, but only one third of the work was complete. The subsequent scandal made heads roll, including the governor's. After Theodore Roosevelt was elected in 1898, he appointed Colonel John N. Partridge as superintendent of public works. Aware that Forestport in Oneida County (which was along the Black River feeder canal) had acquired an unsavory reputation, Partridge hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to investigate. The locals fought the Pinkertons as enemies of the working man, but the latter eventually uncovered a plot that involved nearly every family in Forestport (and, in the words of one prosecutor, had 'no parallel in viciousness') in which the canal was 'the plaything of the politically connected' while the working men assigned to protect it damaged it for a tiny slice of the pie. In the end, 13 men went to jail for

sabotaging the canal in an effort to rob the state treasury. History and mystery fans should enjoy this well-told tale."

Again, I would like to thank Michael Doyle for his continued service to the Central Valley of California and the general public through his work in journalism and his latest example of literary excellence in *The Forestport Breaks: A Nineteenth-Century Conspiracy* along the Black Forest Canal, enlightening us to some of the history that marks the only time New York state officials have charged men with conspiring to destroy canal property and detailing the evolution of this important transportation waterway.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor small businesses, especially, the small businesses in Puerto Rico. Small businesses represent the foundation of the economies of the United States and Puerto Rico. Their success both depends on and supports a successful economy. Since arriving in Washington, I have had the pleasure and honor of sitting on the Small Business Committee. Through this committee and the leadership of our ranking member, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, we have fought for the success of small businesses, particularly minority owned businesses.

The Small Business Committee recently sent a joint bi-partisan letter to the Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee requesting \$79 million for the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan guarantee program in FY 2005. I hope that my colleagues will understand how severe the situation would be without this fundamental program. The 7(a) program is highly utilized in Puerto Rico. I join my Ranking Democratic Member, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, and the committee Chairman, DONALD M. MANZULLO, in urging the Chairman, Congressman FRANK WOLF, and the Ranking Democratic Member, Congressman JOSE SERRANO, to provide the necessary funds to continue this highly successful and highly utilized program.

I would like to close by honoring one small business owner from my district, Evaristo Freiria-Villamil. He was chosen as the 2004 Small Business Person of the Year from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. I applaud his work as a small business owner and wish him continued success.

Lastly, I wish to applaud the efforts of all small business owners in Puerto Rico. Through their hard work and dedication, we will build a stronger economy for Puerto Rico.

CONGRATULATING UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 50th anniversary on Monday at Genetti's in Dickson City, Pennsylvania.

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania is an agency that exists solely to serve people with disabilities.

UCP was founded in 1953 by a group of people, including parents of teenagers and young adults with cerebral palsy. For the first few years, the agency consisted of volunteers who developed recreational activities for those disabled by cerebral palsy. The organization received funding from the community contributions and special events conducted by various groups.

After becoming a member agency of the United Fund, the precursor to the United Way, and through several cooperative agreements with other local organizations, UCP began providing professional services. Government funding began in 1970, and made possible the extension of the area that the agency serves.

Government funding also expanded services and increased the eligibility for services of persons with disabilities other than cerebral palsy. In fact, while the agency specializes in serving children and adults who have cerebral palsy, more than 75 percent of its clients have other related disabilities.

The growth of the agency over these past five decades mirrors the changes that have come about in society for persons with disabilities. However, the commitment of this agency to people with disabilities is something that has not and will not change. There is no higher calling than being part of an organization that served those less fortunate, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Executive Director Sarah Drob, Director of Operations Timothy McHugh, Coordinator of Residential Services Karen Himchak, Coordinator of Children's Services Cheryl Astolfi, Coordinator of Adult Services Faith Smith, Accountant Ruta Labutis, Coordinator of Communications and Development Barbara Siarkiewicz and Administrative Assistant Tessie Bauer.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to represent this fine organization that has shown its commitment to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Today I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. EBERLY, SR.

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary individual, Mr. Robert Eberly Sr., of Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

As with all great humanitarians, it is impossible to fully assess the impact Robert Eberly's life has had on his community and our country. A true gentleman and tireless philanthropist, known for his grace and humility as well as his passion for bettering the lives of others, Robert Eberly's generosity is legendary not only in Pennsylvania but across the country.

Bob often said that others worked just as hard as he did, but were not as fortunate because of circumstances beyond their control. Guided by this basic belief, he donated tens of millions of dollars to support education and economic development.

Robert Eberly was a man of incomparable energy and was actively involved in many of the projects he funded. Though he could have resided anywhere in the world, his heart and home remained in Fayette County, Pennsylvania where his father, a coal miner, raised him on the importance of education. His desire to help the economically depressed region in the wake of the downsizing of the steel and coal industry led him to found Fay-Penn Economic Development Council to support economic development in his home county.

He believed that education is a key to economic development—that the two are intertwined. He therefore donated heavily to colleges and universities throughout Pennsylvania as well as across the United States to promote education in the sciences and to make education accessible to those who could least afford it.

Robert Eberly passed away yesterday at the age of 85. He will be remembered for the example of true character he set for everyone who knew him as well as for the profound legacy of his work. His was a life well spent in the effort to help others. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched—and we will never know all of them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was not present in the House due to a medical consultation at the Howard University hospital. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

MEMORIALIZING ROBERT MASAHIRO YOSHIKAWA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Mr. Robert Masahiro Yoshikawa who recently passed away. He was a pillar of the community and a personal friend of mine. Mr. Yoshikawa made an immeasurable impact on all those around him through his career, his volunteer work, and his devotion to family. His tireless efforts improved the lives of countless people in his community.

I met Robert Yoshikawa many years ago when we were both students at San Jose