

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PETERS,  
OUTSTANDING MILWAUKEE EDUCATOR

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to an outstanding leader within the Milwaukee educational community, Mr. Robert L. Peters. Mr. Peters, who worked in the Milwaukee Public Schools for over thirty years, is retiring this month as Principal of James Madison University High School. As an educator and principal, he made a difference in the lives of thousands of young Milwaukee residents.

Mr. Peters came to Milwaukee from Mississippi. He received a B.S. cum laude from Jackson State University in 1972, earning his M.S. shortly thereafter from the University of Southern Mississippi.

As a principal, Mr. Peters sought to address long-standing problems—like discipline and attendance—in new ways. Ever an educator, he continued to teach and to develop new curricula throughout his career as an administrator. Mr. Peters developed five Milwaukee Public High Schools into praiseworthy educational facilities, creating nurturing, safe instructional environments that fostered student learning and academic excellence.

Mr. Peters is also an upstanding member of the Milwaukee community, taking an active role in his church, Tabernacle Baptist Church, and participating in numerous civic organizations and community activities. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he was active in the Annual Fund Raising Campaign. As a volunteer with Project Return, he provided counseling to local residents attempting to make the difficult transition from incarceration to regular society. He found ways to integrate this community leadership with his educational mission, for example, by developing a curriculum and conducting workshops for teachers to prepare for Black History Month.

His awards and commendations are numerous. Mr. Peters was recognized as one of North America's 100 Best Educational Administrators by Executive Educator and has been selected as Wisconsin's Principal of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Robert L. Peters for the immeasurable service he has rendered to our country and his community. I sincerely thank Mr. Peters for his enduring commitment to Milwaukee's children, and wish him a long, enjoyable retirement.

**BUFFALO NEWS ARTICLE: CLOSE BASE ON LONG ISLAND, NOT IN NIAGARA, SAYS PENTAGON OFFICIAL FROM REAGAN YEARS**

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD an article that appeared

in the Buffalo News on May 24. The article details how a former Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan has disagreed with Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendation to close Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

[From the Buffalo News, May 24, 2005]

CLOSE BASE ON LONG ISLAND, NOT IN NIAGARA, SAYS PENTAGON OFFICIAL FROM REAGAN YEARS

(By Jerry Zremski and Sharon Linstedt)

A former assistant secretary of defense under President Ronald Reagan has rushed to the defense of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, saying the Pentagon should consider closing a base on Long Island instead.

Lawrence J. Korb, who oversaw personnel and base issues at the Pentagon from 1981 to 1985, wrote an op-ed article for the New York Times' Long Island regional edition Sunday that criticized the proposed Niagara closing.

He urged the independent commission that is reviewing the Pentagon's base-closure recommendations to instead consider shutting an Air National Guard station at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach.

"It should take a close look at Niagara and Gabreski," Korb wrote.

The two bases perform different tasks. The Niagara base services a Guard unit that performs refueling missions and an Air Reserve unit that hauls cargo, while the Gabreski base services a search-and-rescue Guard unit.

Korb suggested that the search-and-rescue team be moved to Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, north of New York City, and that Niagara stay open for several reasons.

For one, he said, such a move would keep jobs in-state and prevent the Niagara operations from being dispersed to Arkansas, Maine and Georgia.

"Moreover, the Pentagon will need to spend a lot just to bring Gabreski up to minimum standards," Korb wrote. "Paradoxically, Congress allotted Niagara more than \$14 million last year for upgrades."

Korb, a native of Long Island, noted that while Gabreski contributes about \$100 million to Long Island's economy, the Niagara base generates more than \$150 million. "Suffolk County is better positioned than Niagara to absorb the cutbacks," he said.

In an interview, Korb said he decided to write the opinion article after reviewing the Pentagon's proposed closures. "This just doesn't make sense" that Gabreski would stay open and Niagara would close, he said.

He said that it would be very difficult for part-time air personnel from Niagara to travel to out-of-state bases to train and that Long Island would be better able than Western New York to withstand a base closing economically.

Korb, now a senior fellow at the liberal-leaning Center for American Progress in Washington, is one of Washington's most prominent and oft-quoted defense experts.

In another development, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority board of commissioners is throwing its support behind efforts to keep the Niagara Falls base open and will ask NFTA workers to do the same.

The NFTA board Monday unanimously approved a resolution backing the Niagara Military Affairs Council in its efforts to get the base off the list for closing.

Commissioners also approved a plan to send letters to the NFTA's 1,500 employees asking them to write to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission showing their support for keeping the base open.

"This is an important issue for the Niagara Falls community and all of Western New

York. I think we need a full-court press," said Commissioner Henry M. Sloma, who represents Niagara County.

"It makes a lot of sense to show support," NFTA Chairman Luiz F. Kahl said of the USA Niagara-led effort to amass 10,000 letters before a June 27 hearing in Buffalo on the Pentagon proposal.

**COMMENDING VINCENT PAUL DIEGO, PH.D.**

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Vince P. Diego for the completion of his Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology from the State University of New York at Binghamton. I had the privilege of attending Dr. Diego's Doctoral degree presentation on May 14, 2005, and was extremely impressed by the accomplishments of this promising man who hails from the village of Inarajan and completed his undergraduate studies in biology at the University of Guam. Vince is an outstanding role model for young Chamorros in Guam and a shining example that perseverance, dedication and excellence will be recognized and rewarded.

One of Dr. Diego's primary research interests is the rare neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/Parkinsons-dementia complex, which has a historically high prevalence in Guam where it is known as lytico-bodig. Dr. Diego's ongoing research with his dissertation advisor Dr. Ralph M. Garruto seeks to provide a greater understanding of this disease, which is one of the most compelling unresolved mysteries of modern medicine. He would like to return to Guam after he completes his training to carry out his own research on the biomedical problems of Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guam, and other Micronesians.

His research interests also include diseases that are described as "metabolic syndromes," which include heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and obesity. Chamorros, Filipinos, and other Asian and Pacific Islander American groups in Guam suffer disproportionately from these diseases. As the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus's Health Task Force, I have called for the need to better understand how our communities are affected by these devastating diseases. Dr. Diego is one of the scientists who is on the front line of learning more about these diseases and how they can be prevented and treated in our communities. His current research activities as a post-doctoral scientist at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research's Department of Genetics include the statistical genetics of the metabolic syndrome in American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Mexican Americans of San Antonio and on theoretical modeling in statistical genetics.

Dr. Diego's parents are Frank Paulino Diego and Teresita Taitague Diego of Inarajan and he is the youngest of six children. He graduated from Guam's Father Duenas Memorial School in 1990.