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IN HONOR OF VACLAV HAVEL AND
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CHARTER 77

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, Edmond Burke once said that, "all it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Thirty years ago, good men and women came together, and together, they ultimately triumphed over evil.

In 1987, I traveled to Czechoslovakia with a Helsinki Commission delegation led by my good friend, STENY HOYER, who was then Chairman of the Commission. We traveled there just ten years after the Charter 77 movement had been formed and, amazingly, in spite of persecution and imprisonment, they had managed to publish 350 documents during its first ten years. And it was clear during my visit to Prague that this organization was having an impact, especially when the communist authorities went to the trouble of preventing five independent activists, including Vaclav Havel, from meeting with us.

In spite of this, our delegation was able to meet with several other Charter 77 signatories and sympathizers: Libuse Silhanova, Josef Vohryzek, Father Vaclav Maly, Zdenek Urbanek, and Rita Klimova. Libuse Silhanova, then serving as a Charter 77 spokesperson, described her fellow Chartists as "ordinary people who happen to be part of a movement." For a group of "ordinary people," they certainly accomplished extraordinary things.

One of the most notable of these "ordinary people" was the playwright Vaclav Havel, who is today the sole surviving member of Charter 77's first three spokespersons. At a time when most Czechoslovaks preferred to keep their heads low, he held his up. When others dared not speak out, he raised up his voice. While others hid from communism in their apartments and weekend cottages, he faced it down in prison.

In 1978, Havel wrote a seminal essay entitled, "The Power of the Powerless." In it, he proposed a remarkably conspiratorial concept: the idea that those repressed by the Communist Lie actually had the power to "live for truth," and that by doing so, they could change the world in which they live.

One of the people who read this essay was Zbigniew Bujak, who became a leading Solidarity activist in Poland. Bujak described the impact of Havel's message:

This essay reached us in the Ursus factory in 1979 at a point when we felt we were at the end of the road. Inspired by KOR [the Polish Workers' Defense Committee, which preceded Solidarity], we had been speaking on the shop floor, talking to people, participating in public meetings, trying to speak the truth about the factory, the country, and politics. There came a moment when people thought we were crazy. Why were we doing this? Why were we taking such risks? Not seeing any immediate and tangible results,

we began to doubt the purposefulness of what we were doing. Shouldn't we be coming up with other methods, other ways?

Then came the essay by Havel. Reading it gave us the theoretical underpinnings for our activity. It maintained our spirits; we did not give up, and a year later—in August 1980—it became clear that the party apparatus and the factory management were afraid of us. We mattered. And the rank and file saw us as leaders of the movement. When I look at the victories of Solidarity, and of Charter 77, I see in them an astonishing fulfillment of the prophecies and knowledge contained in Havel's essay.

Vaclav Havel's essay was not just the product of clever wordsmithing; it was an act of singular heroism. In fact, shortly after writing "The Power of the Powerless," Vaclav Havel found himself in prison, again. And it should be remembered that others, including philosopher Jan Patocka, Havel's close friend, and Pavel Wonka, paid with their lives for their opposition to the Czechoslovak communist regime.

Vaclav Havel is a man who has always been guided by the courage of his convictions. Remarkably, his courage did not fade upon his assumption of the presidency. Indeed, he is all the more heroic for his steadfast commitment to human rights even from the Prague Castle. From the beginning, he was a voice of reason, not revenge, as he addressed his country's communist and totalitarian past. In 1993, he rightly identified the situation of Roma as "a litmus test for civil society." And not only has he raised human rights issues in his own country but reminds the world of the abuses taking place in Cuba and China.

Throughout his presidency, he pardoned those faced with criminal charges under communist-era laws that restrict free speech. In 2001, he spoke out against the parliament's regressive religion law, which turned the clock back on religious freedom. And he has reminded other world leaders of our shared responsibility for the poor and less fortunate the world over.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of Charter 77, I want to join my colleagues from the Helsinki Commission in honoring Vaclav Havel and all the men and women who signed the Charter, who supported its goals, and who helped bring democracy to Czechoslovakia.

RECOGNIZING SHAUN ANDREW
ROBINSON FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shaun Andrew Robinson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shaun has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Shaun has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 30 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, chaplain's aid, and den chief. He is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Shaun's dedication to his school work and church are outstanding. Shaun works hard in school, while being an active member of the Liberty United Methodist Church. He has also contributed significantly to the community by using his leadership skills to lead a group of boys and adults in completing a landscaping project at the Liberty United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shaun Andrew Robinson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TOM
MOONEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tom Mooney and his accomplishments as a champion of public education, the labor movement and social justice. A sudden and tragic loss for education advocates, Tom's December 9, 2006 passing also marks a sad day for the State of Ohio.

Tom began his career as a teacher in 1972 in Cincinnati. Quickly, though, his natural leadership brought him to represent his fellow educators as the president of the Local 1520 of the American Federation of Teachers between 1979 and 2000. During that time, he forged a reputation as a tireless and outspoken proponent of ensuring funding for public schools. Through his work with the Federation, he eventually rose to become the vice president of the national organization and served on its executive board.

A man of candor and American moxie, Tom's aggressive and enthusiastic public defense of teachers was an ongoing testament to his dedication to the idea that education is a fundamental and essential human right. Tom firmly believed that the success of the public education system rests on the will of the people to uphold its standards. Often, this meant challenging the status quo. Tom was not afraid to push forward and vehemently fight for higher standards and a higher quality of education. His strength, conviction, and outright courage to stand up steadfastly for the rights of educators have led to vast improvements in the field of education for the State of Ohio and the country.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the life of Tom Mooney for his exemplary dedication to public education and the labor movement. Tom will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE SEEVERS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a gentleman in our district, Mr. Clarence Seavers of Sandusky, OH, who will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Erie County Democratic Party on February 23, 2007. Our former

colleague and Ohio Governor Ted Strickland will present Clarence with the inaugural award. I know of no finer person to receive this distinguished recognition in its first year than my friend, Clarence Seavers.

Wherever one goes in Erie County OH, there will be Clarence Seavers. Well into his eighth decade of life, Mr. Seavers remains an active community participant. Not one to seek the glory of leadership, he is nonetheless a community leader in the truest sense, leading us by example to be good citizens.

A lifelong resident of Sandusky, Mr. Seavers is a World War II veteran, and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame for his service with the 811th Aviation Engineering Battalion. He served the whole of U.S. involvement, 1941–1945, building airfields in the Pacific Theatre. Following military service, Mr. Seavers joined the ranks of the civil service, working as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years until his 1978 retirement.

In addition to his presence at many community events, Mr. Seavers has also formally given of his time in numerous ways. He has served on the boards of the YMCA, Goodwill Industries, Providence Hospital, Firelands Regional Medical Center, Erie County Board of Elections, Erie County Health Department, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts and Erie Huron Community Action Commission. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and a member of St. Stephen's AME Church. He volunteers as a baseball umpire and at the Ohio Veterans Home. His community calls him "one of Erie County's heroes and treasures," a sentiment I echo. Yet, true to the man, Clarence Seavers says of his involvement, "I just tried to give something back. As long as you're able, you can never give back too much."

Clarence Seavers has never been one to hide his light beneath a bushel. Instead, he has let his light shine forth in guidance. Quiet, humble, with graceful dignity, he is a fine example of the best that is in us. He has been a wise counsel to me, and countless others, and we dearly value his friendship. Clarence Seavers has spent his lifetime in achievement, and I am so honored to share with my colleagues a glimpse at the embodiment of a true American patriot as I congratulate Clarence Seavers on his receipt of this distinguished recognition.

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL AGENT
JAMES G. MACFARLANE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Special Agent James G. Macfarlane, currently the Deputy Inspector General and Deputy Assistant Director for the Office of Inspections of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, NCIS. He will retire on March 1, 2007, after more than 23 years of service to our great Nation.

Jim began his career as a special agent with the then Naval Investigative Service in 1983 as a general crimes investigator at Portsmouth, VA. Special Agent Macfarlane was then selected as the Special Agent Afloat aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) in June 1985. While serving aboard the *JFK*, Jim

helped arrange law enforcement and force protection support required as the *JFK* was selected to participate in the rededication of the Statue of Liberty and the first naval "OPSAIL" celebration in New York City.

In 1986, Jim was selected as the Representational Resident Agent (RRA) at the Naval Investigative Service resident Unit in Misawa, Japan. In 1989, Jim was reassigned to NCIS Headquarters and worked in the Offensive Counterintelligence Operations Division, where he served with distinction for 5 years. During this time, SA Macfarlane was selected to attend Strategic Arms Reduction Training and deployed to Votkinsk, Russia, for 3 weeks in 1992 as the inspection team's CI specialist. In January 1994, Jim was selected to attend the Military Operations Training Course. In May 1994, he was reassigned as senior special agent working counterintelligence cases in Okinawa, Japan.

In 1996, Jim was selected as a Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) and began his first supervisory assignment at the NCIS Washington DC Field office where he provided Counterintelligence support to Navy special access programs. In 1997, Jim established the NCIS office at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, VA, where he was cited by DoD for setting the standard in providing Counterintelligence support to Navy Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RTD&E) programs. In 1999, Jim returned to the Washington DC field office, where he became the SSA for all offensive CI activities. In 2000, he was selected as the SSA for the Office of Special Projects and in August 2001, Jim was promoted to GS-14 and selected as the Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge (ASAC), NCIS Middle East Field Office, in Manama Bahrain.

Jim served as the sole ASAC during a period of great national interest and military activity, supporting both OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. Jim brought great credit upon himself and the NCIS during his tenure in the Middle East and was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award.

In July 2003, Jim was promoted to GS-15 and assigned as the Senior NCIS Representative to Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC). For his significant efforts at HQMC, he was awarded the Marine Corps' Meritorious Civilian Service Award. In 2005, Jim was selected for his current position as the Deputy Inspector General.

I wish to express my gratitude to Special Agent MacFarlane for his many years of distinguished service to this country.

IN MEMORY OF MR. ROBERT
GUSTAFSON

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the life and achievements of a great business leader, teacher, and Michigander, Mr. Robert Gustafson, who passed away on February 20, 2007.

While Mr. Gustafson's career rose to great heights as CEO and Chairman of Hubert Distributors, Inc. in Pontiac, Michigan, his humble beginnings give insight into his future achieve-

ments. After graduating from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mr. Gustafson became a teacher at Wayland High School in Wayland, Michigan. An avid music fan, his leadership of the school's band program saw a threefold increase in student participation during his tenure.

After teaching, Mr. Gustafson went on to pursue his interest in aviation. He founded Michigan Air Activities, where he taught hundreds of students under the Federal G.I. flight program, as well as sold and repaired aircraft. In addition, Michigan Air Activities had a fleet of aircraft that serviced well known customers such as General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler. Mr. Gustafson would later establish Kalamazoo Aviation and serve as President of the Airport Advisory Group.

Mr. Gustafson then joined Hubert Distributors where he oversaw the construction of one of their warehouses. From there he rose up the ranks from a sales manager to the CEO and Chairman. Utilizing his teaching experience, Mr. Gustafson overhauled the employee training program at Hubert by writing, producing, and directing the training videos that are required for all new hires.

Yet Mr. Gustafson's works reach beyond the realm of business as he was actively involved in philanthropy and charitable work. The Robert Gustafson Wing of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital bears witness to his commitment to give back to the community.

Today, I remember Mr. Robert Gustafson for his lifetime of service and dedication to our community. My sincerest thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones.

REMEMBERING STATE SENATOR
ADELARD L. "ABE" BRAULT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the passing of Virginia State Senator Abe Brault on February 13, 2007. Senator Brault served in the Virginia General Assembly for 18 years, including a term as majority leader from 1976 to 1980.

A Navy veteran who served during WWII, Abe opened a law practice in Fairfax County during the 1950s and dedicated his life to serving those in Fairfax and the surrounding area. He was a good man who served Virginia well and I was honored to know him. A family man and true Virginia gentleman, Abe died at the age of 97 and is survived by his wife, three children, and nine grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I insert for the RECORD an obituary published in The Washington Post which details the many accomplishments of Senator Brault.

[From Washingtonpost.com, Feb. 14, 2007]

ADELARD L. 'ABE' BRAULT, 97; INFLUENTIAL
N. VA. SENATOR

(By Adam Bernstein)

Adelard L. "Abe" Brault, 97, a feisty Fairfax County Democrat who retired in 1983 after 18 years in the Virginia Senate, including a term as majority leader, died Feb. 13 at his home in Front Royal, Va. He had pneumonia.