

Therefore, Mr. Beasley, I congratulate you on a long productive and beneficial life, I also commend you and your family for your active civic and community involvement. It has been a pleasure to personally know you and your family and to have had you as part of my life. I thank you Madam Speaker.

KURT VONNEGUT, JR.'S CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LITERATURE

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and to extend my condolences to his family on his passing.

While teaching at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, which I am honored to represent in Iowa's Second District, Mr. Vonnegut received the Guggenheim Scholarship to return to Dresden, Germany and begin work on the novel that would eventually come to be known as *Slaughterhouse Five*. Mr. Vonnegut taught at the Workshop from 1965–1967, and Iowa mourns the loss of one of America's finest writers and one of the many fine writers who have helped to carry on the tradition of exceptional writing in Iowa.

Kurt Vonnegut was a writer capable of capturing the imagination of not only his generation, but of America's youth for generations to come. His works examine the moral compass of America, and his often hilarious satirization of the culture of our time has earned him the rightful reputation of America's most celebrated satirist since Mark Twain. Yet he was also a humanist who not only examined some of the most defining moments in our history—most famously World War II in *Slaughterhouse Five*—but also, and in spite of the violence he had seen as a prisoner of war, concluded that human kindness is alive and well. His contributions to American culture are immense and will not soon be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Vonnegut, for your contribution to American literature.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. GUT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a person I am proud to represent, Mr. Robert E. Gut, who will be recognized on Thursday, April 19, 2007 on the occasion of his retirement, for his dedication to education and scholastic sports.

Bob was born in 1932 to Antonina and Frank Gut. He and siblings Nellie, Stanley and Eugene grew up in the City of Passaic until the family purchased a home and moved to Garfield. Bob attended Holy Rosary Elementary and Pope Pius XII High School in Passaic, where his talents began to shine. He earned varsity letters in three sports each year and was captain of the baseball and basketball teams and co-captain of the football team. Upon his retirement, coach and athletic direc-

tor Paul Kelly called Bob, "The greatest athlete he ever coached—bar none," and "a natural." Bob was named to the All State teams in all three sports. His record has stood the test of time; in 2000 he was named a Passaic County "Player of the Century" in football by the Bergen Record and Herald News.

Bob caught the attention of some of our area's most legendary coaches, Al Yaskiw and Manlio Boverini of Passaic, Arthur Argauer of Garfield, and Paul Kelly of Pope Pius XII. They mentored him, and helped him earn numerous football scholarships. He accepted a full football scholarship to the University of Virginia, where he played offensive center and defensive linebacker. He continued to thrive, being part of a defense that in 1952 was number one in the Nation. In 1954, he returned to Passaic to coach football at Passaic High. Later that year, he completed R.O.T.C. and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Fort Knox, KY for training in the Armor Division, and assigned to serve in Germany. Bob married his wife, Florence, on April 17, 1955, and they moved together to Wieseck, Germany. While there, their daughter, Karen, was born in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1956, Bob returned from Germany and began his professional career teaching physical education at School 21 in Paterson. During his first year of teaching, he was transferred to Central High where he taught science and was the school's first track coach. In 1965, Central closed, and Bob moved to the new John F. Kennedy High School. While teaching at Kennedy, Bob coached many teams. He became the head coach of golf, track and tennis and was an assistant to many great football coaches like Nelson Graham, Aubrey Lewis, Joe Biscayan, Bob Smith, and Jim Bradshaw. In 1960–65, he was head football coach at Pope Pius XII while teaching at Kennedy. In 1966 he returned to the assistant coach role at Kennedy, and in 1974 became the Knights head coach. In 1974 the football team had its first undefeated season, going 9–0. Importantly, his team never lost a Thanksgiving game to Eastside, and shut the Ghosts out in four of the six games.

In 1979, Bob became the Athletic Director at Kennedy High, which under his leadership in the 1980s and 90s, became known as "Championship High." The Boys Basketball team won four County titles in a row, and a sectional title; the Girls team won five straight county titles and the Tournament of Champions. Championships, League and Sectional titles were also won by the Track, Cross Country, Soccer, Baseball and Football teams. As Athletic Director, Mr. Gut has organized the annual John F. Kennedy All Sports Awards Dinner, and he was involved in the creation of the Central-Kennedy Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bob's professionalism has extended beyond Passaic County. He has long been a high school referee and umpire. He formerly served as President of the Tri-County Basketball Officials Association, which held tournaments for freshman and JV teams from 32 schools. He has served for the past 28 years as the Chairperson of Bowling in the Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League. He has served for 20 years on the Advisory Board and Eligibility Committee of the NJSIAA, the governing body of high school sports in New Jersey, and has been the chairperson of the Eligibility Committee for the past 10 years. He also volun-

teers his time as part of the Passaic County Coaches Association, the Old Timers Association of Greater Paterson, and The Do-Good House.

What Bob is proudest of is his strong moral and ethical standards, which led his coaches to nickname him "The Monsignor." Sportsmanship has always been his first priority for his players, coaches, and the fans. This effort is shown by the many times the NJSIAA has given Kennedy its "Sportsmanship Award," and the NNJIL Sportsmanship banners they have earned. Always important to Bob has been his family; he and Florence celebrated their 52nd anniversary this month. His daughter lives nearby with her husband Jim Giblin and their two children. His grandson James is a sophomore at The College of New Jersey and his granddaughter Kristen is a senior at Wayne Valley High School.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like Bob.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the students of the Paterson Schools, the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey, Bob's family and friends, and me in recognizing Bob Gut's outstanding service to his community.

IN HONOR OF PETER SHUGERT

HON. ALBIO Sires

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. Sires. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Peter Shugert, Chief Public Affairs Officer of the Army Corps of Engineers, who is about to retire after more than two decades of dedicated service. Mr. Shugert has worked tirelessly, not only to keep area residents informed of vital Corps operations, but he has also gone above and beyond the call of duty by becoming a treasured liaison during emergencies between government agencies and the people of the New York Metropolitan region.

Mr. Shugert, who earned a reputation as a highly credible spokesperson and media representative for the United States Army, began his professional career in the military. His service in the Vietnam War won him the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1977, Mr. Shugert became Public Affairs Specialist for the Military Traffic Management Command in Virginia, and in 1982, made important contributions to the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserves, where he developed products to increase public awareness.

In his 20 years as Chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District of New York Division, Mr. Shugert developed and maintained excellent media relations that ensured the best possible image for the Army Corps of Engineers. During his service, Mr. Shugert faced the tragedy of the 9/11 terror attacks and worked around the clock to keep the public informed. His dedication earned him the Locke L. Mouton Award for Excellence in Public Affairs, the Crisis Communications Award, the Superior Civilian Service Medal, and the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.

Mr. Shugert also acted as an important liaison between government officials and area residents during the floods that devastated parts of New Jersey in 2000. More recently, he was instrumental in disseminating information during the difficult removal of the Intrepid Museum from Pier 86 in New York, for its reconstruction in Bayonne, New Jersey.

In addition, Mr. Shugert has offered his unwavering support to the Elizabeth River Arthur Kill Watershed Association Earth Day Celebration. The event teaches hundreds of students about the importance of protecting our environment.

Please join me in recognizing Peter Shugert for being the most loyal of civil servants. I congratulate him and wish him continued success in future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGAL EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Legal Employee Verification Act and ask for its consideration and support. This bill overhauls the broken employment verification system we have today and replaces it with the mandatory, efficient, and transparent process our country needs.

Today, too many working men and women are denied the job opportunities they deserve because it is more convenient for some employers to go around the system and hire an illegal immigrant. Employers who break the law should be held accountable, and the Employment Eligibility Confirmation System created by this bill will make it more difficult to evade our employment regulations. At the same time, business owners who play by the rules every day can rest assured that they are competing on a level playing field.

Instead of dealing with a confusing process that often yields inconclusive results, if any, employers will quickly know the status of their prospective employees. Within as little as one day, an employer will know whether that person is eligible to work here in the United States. This efficient system will bring peace of mind to both employers and employees by giving definitive answers in reasonable periods of time.

In addition, the Legal Employee Verification Act makes use of the technology used in our nation's immigration documents.

This critical security upgrade currently helps fight identity fraud and gives security officials a new tool to protect our country from those who seek to do us harm. Now this upgrade will also discourage illegal immigrants from using falsified documents to secure jobs here, giving our law-abiding workforce a fair shot at every job available.

I don't fault people for wanting to come to live and work in America. It's a great place to live and raise a family. All I ask is that they do it legally.

Madam Speaker, it's time we get serious about enforcing our immigration and employment laws. The Legal Employee Verification Act will give us important new tools to do just that. It's common-sense policy, and I'm proud to introduce this bill for consideration.

HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment, today I am introducing the bipartisan Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007. Ranking Member DAVE REICHERT joins me as co-author of this bill.

April 19th marks the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, which claimed 168 lives and injured over 800. Only September 11, 2001, eclipses that dark day as the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

My own district in California has not been spared from the threat of homegrown terrorism. An episode there offers a chilling illustration of the type of domestic threat we face. In the spring of 2005, four men—three U.S. citizens and one Pakistani national residing legally in this country—finalized plans for a series of gas station robberies intended to finance terrorist attacks around Los Angeles. Their kill targets were U.S. military bases and recruiting stations, the Israeli Consulate, synagogues filled with worshipers on Jewish holy days, and the El Al ticket counter at LAX.

The indictment alleges the men were pawns of an inmate at Folsom Prison who had embraced radical Islam after being incarcerated and founded the militant prison gang “Assembly of Authentic Islam.” One of them was radicalized by the inmate while doing time at Folsom; his accomplices were recruited from a local mosque and had no criminal records.

The men engaged in a spree of 11 armed gas station robberies until their arrest by local police in July 2005. A subsequent search of their apartment uncovered jihadist literature, bulletproof vests and a list of potential targets. Local police promptly contacted the FBI, which led to a major investigation involving more than 200 agents, Los Angeles police detectives, and counterterrorism officials.

The suspects now await trial, and are charged with conspiring to wage war against the U.S. government through terrorism; kill members of the Armed Forces; and murder foreign officials.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has said that “radicalization is a global problem that must be addressed through focused efforts targeting its root causes.” This legislation does just that. It would establish a grant program to provide funds to the States to foster badly needed vertical information sharing down to the local level. It would create a Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Radicalization and Home Grown Terrorism to examine the social, criminal, political, psychological, and economic roots of homegrown terrorism and to propose solutions. It would require Homeland Security officials to learn from other nations that have experienced their own Oklahoma City tragedies. And, perhaps most importantly, it would ensure that our cherished civil liberties, the protections and safeguards guaranteed by our Constitution, are protected.

We urge its enactment.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO MANUEL PULIDO LÓPEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Dr. Alfredo Manuel Pulido López, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Pulido López is an independent journalist and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. Before he became a human rights activist and a leader in the pro-democracy movement in a country oppressed by a totalitarian tyrant, he worked as a dentist. In 1998 he was forced from his job because of his support for democracy and the rule of law. In 2001, Dr. Pulido López joined the “El Mayor” news agency in Camagüey, Cuba to expose the despotism and corruption of the tyranny as an independent journalist. He wrote on all aspects of totalitarian Cuban society and contributed to numerous foreign press agencies because he wished to make known the true nature of the regime that enslaves Cuba.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the regime’s deplorable island wide crackdown on peaceful prodemocracy activists, Dr. Pulido López was arrested because he wrote the truth about a ruthless and repressive tyranny. After a sham trial, where he was accused of “endangering independence and the state’s territorial integrity” and of “writing tendentious articles on various aspects of national and provincial life,” Dr. Pulido López was sentenced to 14 years in a totalitarian dungeon.

On April 18, 2006, Rebecca Rodriguez Souto, Dr. Pulido López’s wife, visited her husband and was immediately alarmed by his condition and the severity his deterioration. According to a report she filed with the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Dr. Pulido López is dangerously malnourished, deeply depressed, and having great difficulty breathing. Since his incarceration he has lost over 40 lbs and he finds it difficult to consume the grotesque food fed to the political prisoners. Despite his seriously declining health, Dr. Pulido Lopez continues to be caged in a totalitarian dungeon, sharing its squalor with at least 100 hardened common criminals. He has witnessed innumerable acts of violence and he must continually fear for his life.

Also fearing for her husband’s life, Rebecca Rodriguez Souto has repeatedly requested that the tyranny release her husband on medical parole. She has yet to hear a response from the brutal tyrant’s machinery. Dr. Pulido López himself has stated that he has no real reason to ask for medical parole since he is an innocent man to begin with, and that what the dictatorship’s officials really have to give him is his freedom. To his wife he has explained that with every day he is firmer in his convictions, that he will not renounce them, and that “they (the tyranny) can do what they want.”

Dr. Pulido López was arrested because of his belief in liberty. His commitment to freedom, in the face of his declining health and the regime’s complete and utter disregard for human rights and dignity, is a testament to the heroism of the Cuban people. It is abominable that just 90 miles from our shores Castro’s