

A TRIBUTE TO THE SONS OF THE  
REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California for 115 years of outstanding service to the people of the State of California and this great Nation.

For more than a century, the American Heritage Library and Museum has been operated for the purpose of acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition, and educational interpretation of historical artifacts of the colonial and early periods of America's history. The American Heritage Library and Museum has preserved precious documents by focusing on historic figures who contributed to the history of the State of California, including but not limited to archival records, histories, books, rolls, documents, artifacts and works of art that increase and diffuse knowledge into these periods of history for the enrichment of the citizens of California.

The preservation of our Nation's military heritage has always been of a primary concern of the Sons of the Revolution. When the Sons of the Revolution was formed, a National Archive did not exist. Originally, each branch and agency of the U.S. Government was responsible for maintaining its own documents, which often resulted in the loss and destruction of records. For almost 150 years, the Federal Government had virtually no method or place to safeguard historically important records. As a result, on November 8, 1810, fire destroyed most of the records of the American Army and Navy of the American Revolution in the custody of the War Department.

As part of a national organization, composed solely of the posterity of those venerable men who, by their acts or counsel between April 19, 1775, when the Revolutionary War commenced, and April 19, 1783, when that conflict ceased, in the military, naval or marine service of the United States, or in the service of the Continental Congress or the congress of any of the original 13 Colonies, helped achieve America's independence, these members of the Sons of the Revolution lobbied Congress for the passage of a law that directed the War Department to establish a national collection of both American Revolution and War of 1812 records.

Today, the main National Archives Building holds the original copies of the three main formative documents of the United States and its Government: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as well as Magna Carta. These are displayed to the public in the main chamber, called the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. The National Archives Building also exhibits other important American historical documents such as the Louisiana Purchase and the Emancipation Proclamation, as well as other historically and culturally significant American artifacts.

The Sons of the Revolution's national efforts to preserve America's priceless heritage was not limited to the establishment of the National Archives. In the intervening years since the establishment of the National Archives, the

Sons of the Revolution in the State of California and its members continued their efforts to preserve the records of both National and State significance and have assembled a collection of some 35,000 volumes of books and manuscripts which have been described as one of the best in its field. And, in keeping with the purpose of the Society, "to collect and secure for preservation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period," for over a century, the members of the Sons of the Revolution, through their patriotic spirit, love of country, and devotion to the principles on which our Nation was founded, have operated and maintained the American Heritage Library and Museum for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of California.

It is because of these numerous accomplishments I rise today to recognize the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California for its 115 years of service to the people of the State and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Sons of the Revolution for its outstanding service to the city of Glendale and surrounding communities.

HONORING SERGEANT MERLIN  
GERMAN

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine SGT Merlin German, who passed away on April 11, more than 3 years after surviving a roadside blast in Iraq.

Merlin, a graduate of Woodlands High School, was a dedicated friend, son, brother, and citizen. Those who met him could not deny his big heart, entrepreneurial spirit, and great sense of humor. The youngest of eight children born to Dominican immigrants, he and his siblings were not allowed to play with toy guns in the house. Yet this did not prevent him from realizing his childhood goal of serving in the military, and he enlisted in the Marines in September 2003.

Merlin German became part of a weapons platoon for convoy security in Iraq in the fall of 2004 and was charged with spotting improvised explosive devices. On February 20, 2005, a bomb exploded next to his vehicle. Merlin survived the blast, but began his own battle for survival.

Over 97 percent of his body was burned in the explosion, and he was given just a 3 percent chance of survival. Merlin proved to be a true fighter who, despite undergoing more than 100 operations over the next three years, maintained his positive outlook. He cracked jokes and mentored new patients at the Brooke Army Medical Center, where he was an inpatient. While recovering, he started a charitable foundation, Merlin's Miracles, to help burned children.

Sergeant German passed away last month, more than 3 years after returning from Iraq. Only 22 years old, Merlin was a true patriot and inspiration to all. A recipient of the Purple Heart, he fought valiantly on behalf of our country. He continued his fight to improve the lives of others, in his efforts to assist burn victims, upon his return to the U.S. Our Nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Merlin German serving in our armed services.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of SGT Merlin German, along with all of our Nations' other fallen heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE PEARL HARBOR  
NAVAL SHIPYARD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on its 100th anniversary. On this important centennial, I would like to commemorate the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the shipyard. In their honor, I have introduced H. Res. 1193.

Congress established the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on May 13, 1908, and it has grown from a "coaling and repair station" to being known as the "No Ka Oi Shipyard" and a national treasure that is strategically important to our Nation and equally vital to Hawaii. During World War II, shipyard workers earned the motto, "We keep them fit to fight", by resurrecting the United States Pacific Fleet from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, helping turn the tide of the war at Midway, and maintaining the ships that would ultimately win victory at sea and sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay.

Throughout the decades, the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting America's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, and national missile defense. It continues to support the United States Pacific Fleet as the largest ship repair facility between the western coast of the United States and the Far East, providing full-service maintenance for Pacific Fleet ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater.

The shipyard has become the largest single industrial employer in Hawaii and is the largest fully integrated military-civilian workforce involved in full-service shipyard work in the United States. The shipyard has a direct annual economic impact of more than \$600,000,000 in Hawaii, and through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student-hire programs, provides extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities for residents. Moreover, the shipyard has earned multiple national awards for its dedicated environmental stewardship and excellent safety programs, such as the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Star award in May 2007.

On this historic day, I would like to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and congratulate the men and women who provide exceptional service to our military and keep our Pacific Fleet "fit to fight."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL O'NEILL

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to

William A. O'Neill, who passed away on November 24, 2007. Bill O'Neill was Governor of the State of Connecticut from 1980 until 1991. Before he held Connecticut's highest office, during his Governorship, and after, he was a mentor and friend.

I had the great honor to serve in Connecticut's General Assembly with Bill O'Neill when he was Governor of the State of Connecticut. Bill and Nikki O'Neill were long time friends of East Hartford. Nikki was an educator in my hometown of East Hartford and Bill and I shared a longstanding political friendship from his time in the House of Representatives, where he rose to majority leader, to State party chairman, Lieutenant Governor, and then, of course, Governor of the State.

He was the embodiment of decency and humility. When my father passed away in 1988, Governor and Nikki O'Neill stood in line for more than 2 hours to pay their respects. Though offered countless times to come to the front of the line, he said politely, "I'll stand here with others who are waiting to pay their final respects." His actions made him forever revered in the Larson family and were legendary in East Hartford.

It is a great honor for me to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the words spoken at the funeral services of Connecticut's Governor who, like the sweater he wore in his television ads, made us feel comfortable and at home with a man who understood the everyday problems of the citizens he served so nobly.

The eloquence of the funeral remarks captures the sentiment in St. Patrick's Church that day in East Hampton and all across Connecticut. I submit them as a tribute to Governor O'Neill and his loving wife Nikki. The following are the eulogies of Governor Jodi Rell, James Wade, George Hannon, and the lyrics to the song "We'll Meet Again," during which the entire congregation joined Nikki in a final goodbye:

IN MEMORY OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL

To Nikki and to all of Governor O'Neill's family and friends, on behalf of the State of Connecticut I certainly want to offer our deepest condolences.

Nikki, you and Bill were truly a team, a real team. It was always Bill and Nikki, Nikki and Bill. You shared an incredible love; you shared so much, including the ups and downs of life and politics. You shared laughter, memories and friends, and a beloved hideaway home right here. You were fortunate to have each other, and to share your lives with each other. And you were blessed with a great many friends, true friends, real friends—not just acquaintances—that became a family.

The Governor's Irish Gang, including Wade and Hannon is legendary. In fact, some of those tales told at the Capitol of their exploits have become bigger and bigger. A lot of them were told this week, like fish stories, they do keep getting bigger and bigger with each retelling. But like all of us we continue to laugh at the end of each, as if we had never heard them before.

And that's how many of us will remember Bill O'Neill, with a fond smile and a little wry laughter. We will also remember his humanity, his common touch, and his uncommon leadership. He steadied the state at a time when its heart was broken. He led us through difficult financial times and he blazed many a path for equity and advancement. He made a lasting contribution to our education system, our transportation infrastructure, healthcare and veterans issues.

His accomplishments were many and they were far reaching and they were lasting. And

he never lost himself in the glare of being Governor.

He was simply Bill O'Neill, he was someone who loved politics and loved public service. A guy from East Hampton who was honored to be elected to office by his friends and neighbors. A guy who fiercely protected that public trust throughout his entire career. He was a man of his word and he was a man of integrity. Someone who too often was underestimated and frankly too often underappreciated. Someone who never ever dreamed of being Lieutenant Governor or Governor of this great state of Connecticut, but was both and was darned good at it.

His legacy will last for generations and his successes and contributions will last for longer, much longer than that. I received a card this morning in my mail and it really just kind of hit me and it was someone who knew Bill O'Neill briefly; I just wanted to share a couple of points with you. He said dear Governor Rell, I was greatly saddened with the passing of Governor O'Neill this past weekend. I will never forget how gracious and passionate he was during my ten years as a summer tourism supervisor for the Dept. of Economic Development. I remember especially an August day in 1990 when I had a photo session with him, saluting my ten years with the State of Connecticut as just a part timer. I remember he had unusually large hands as he squeezed my right hand, the bond we shared during those ten years was both real and present at that moment. I only hope that I am so gracious as the Governor was to me in his retiring year, just as his loss is huge I salute both him and the Office of the Governor on this day.

Many people talk about Bill O'Neill just the common man, here's a man who met him just once for a photo-op, shook his hand, had his picture taken with him and remembers it this many years later. That's the kind of man Bill O'Neill was.

I'm just going to tell you one quick story, and I promise I will never try to compete with Wade and Hannon. I had the occasion to meet Governor O'Neill at an event after I was sworn in as Governor; and I said to him, Nikki was there, I said, "Governor, I just want to tell you, I want to apologize for anything I ever said bad about you, or to you, because you don't know what it's like being Governor until you're on that side of the desk, and he looked at me and said, Jodi, you never said anything bad about me, that I can remember. And I know that you never said anything bad to me. Good luck." And I thanked him.

I want to say thank you to you Nikki, for sharing him with us, he absolutely adored you and that is evident in his life and love of you.—Governor M. Jodi Rell

Bill O'Neill was not a proud person. Modest, humble, self-effacing—now those are words you would associate with Bill O'Neill. But never proud.

During his years as governor, his pollster, Al Unger, would periodically take the pulse of the electorate to see how he was doing with them. He would ask the voter, "If you could describe Bill O'Neill in a single word, what would it be?" Year after year the unsuggested responses came back: "Honest," "Reliable," "Trustworthy". As Al said, "Not a bad set of words to describe how you are perceived by your fellow citizens."

Not a proud man, but what I call a "proud of man. By that, I mean he was proud of the people, the institutions and the places he served that molded his character.

For example, Bill O'Neill was proud of being Irish. As you know, his mother was born in Ireland. On some of his trips there he would visit his mother's home town of Port Laoise and spend time with the locals just to

absorb the atmosphere that helped shape his mother, her thoughts and ideas. On one trip, he went to a rugby match and wound up the evening in a rugby club in Limerick full of rowdy, laughing, singing rugby players. O'Neill broke into a ballad called "Til We Meet Again" in a pure tenor voice. He brought the place to silence with not a dry eye in the house. Now there was a side of Bill O'Neill that the Connecticut public never saw.

He was proud of being Catholic. It was a quiet, ingrained faith that he did not wear on his sleeve or drag out in an election year to pick up a few votes. Rather, it gave him an abiding moral code which impacted his entire life and decision-making process.

And, of course, he was proud of being a Democrat. He directed that every single piece of political material that bore his name should also bear the title—Democrat. He saw himself as being cut from the Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Ribicoff, Grasso line of Democrats. He was fiscally conservative, yet had a social conscience that led him to believe the little guy should enjoy the same opportunity to get ahead in life as he had. As Democratic State Chairman, following the death of John M. Bailey, he personally held the party together as it went through a spasm of rule changes and reapportionment. And, of course, it was the climactic vote before the Democratic State Central Committee whereby he was re-elected State Chairman that solidified his role as a political figure in his own right.

He was proud of the state of Connecticut. He saw his fellow Nutmeggers as hard-working and industrious people who would follow his lead. On the campaign trail, he would repeat his mantra that "I am not a show horse, I am a work horse." The people of Connecticut believed that because it was true and returned him to office twice.

He was proud of the Office of Governor. He believed it was a mantle of trust, given to him by the people of his state and that he was duty bound not only to wear that mantle with distinction but to return it in as good a condition as he received it. So, he was forever conscious of how his conduct would reflect on that office, a consciousness that stood him in good stead.

He was proud of his accomplishments as Governor, not as much for what these accomplishments said about him, but because of what they meant in the daily lives of the people he was elected to serve. Shelter for the homeless. A job for the unemployed. Safe roads and bridges for the traveler. Care for the elderly and infirm. Education for a child. A hand up. Not a hand-out.

He was proud of being a politician. He saw it as a calling from which he did not shrink. For him, a politician's word was his bond. He recognized that in America the people who built our nation and our states were politicians. Thomas Jefferson, Abe Lincoln, FDR, the people whom we revere, were all politicians. And, he loved the hurly burly of politics. Whether he was counting votes to gain the nomination at a state convention or challenging attacks on him as a candidate, O'Neill had no peer. His political instincts and street savvy were dead on. And, oh, did he love a parade. George Hannon used to say that a lot of men relax by playing golf or watching a ball game, but, give O'Neill a parade and he was happy as a clam—especially if the parade fell on March 17th.

He was proud of East Hampton. If you wanted to find the tap root of Bill O'Neill, you need to look no further than this community where he grew up, was educated, lived and died. His little house on Lake Pocotopaug was Shangri-La as far as Bill was concerned. Old Home Day was an event

not to be missed, regardless of his gubernatorial duties. And, of course, O'Neill's Tavern was the spot where old friends gathered and new friends were made.

He was proud of the people he appointed who formed part of the O'Neill administration. He did not seek to be surrounded by yes men or women, but rather by people who had the confidence to carry out their tasks with the knowledge that they were fulfilling the O'Neill goal of providing a better place for the people of Connecticut. Tony Milano, who guided him through the budgetary process in good financial times and bad. Bill Burns who carried out the largest highway infrastructure program in the country. Jay Jackson, his peerless and trusted attorney. Chad McCollam who provided years of good counsel as his Chief of Staff, followed by his successor, David McQuade. His loyal secretary, Anne DeNoia, and the woman who ran the scheduling for the governor's mansion, Ruth Sharaf, all helped shape the O'Neill years. And, Tim Bannon, Tax Commissioner, speech writer, advisor and office wit—all roles that Bill O'Neill relied on. So many others.

He also was proud of the prominent roles in government that he filled for the first time with members of ethnic and minority groups and women. Bill O'Neill appointed the first female State Treasurer, the first female Attorney General, the first African-American Associate Justice and the first female Chief Justice to serve on the Connecticut State Supreme Court. He also appointed the first Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Polish and Italian extraction. He opened the door to strong and capable individuals and the doors he opened will never be closed again.

I'm not sure he was proud of George Hannon, Jack Mahaney and me, but we made him laugh so he kept us around. And, every now and then, we managed to get in a word of advice that he actually followed. As a result of the several political battles that we fought together, it can be said with confidence, that the four of us became: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."

He was proud of the Troopers who drove him and protected him—Rick Perdue, Jim Gaylord and Al Lane. They were the sons he never had. In his final days at the Nursing Home when he could not help himself, Al and Jim were there feeding him. What does tell you about friendship and loyalty?

And, finally, he was proud of his wife, Natalie—known to all of us as Nikki. What a team! In every election in which he ran, she was there plotting strategy, rounding up votes, thanking donors and workers. Like Bill, her political sonar was dead on. He listened to her, to her counsel and followed her advice. He was proud of the grace and charm that she shared with the people of Connecticut as its First Lady. The two were a pair that couldn't be beaten—and, by the way, never were.

So, there you have it. Bill O'Neill—Reliable, Honest and Trustworthy.

And, Old Pal, because you lived your life and ran your administration by that code, the people of Connecticut were proud of you.

And, if I can indulge myself in a little hubris, I am proud I was able to call you my friend.—James Wade

Governor Rell, Senators, Representatives, I haven't seen this many politicians under one roof since an O'Neill fundraiser in 1986. I'll not speak to you about the many accomplishments of Bill O'Neill; they are well documented in Connecticut history. I'll tell you about the Bill O'Neill I met in 1967 and beyond. I refer to them as recollections and reflections; 41 years ago this month Bill O'Neill was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly, you couldn't miss him, his tight dark curly red hair, trimmed perfectly, his cadet-like erectness, neat and natty of dress, except for what turned out to be his

favorite trademark, a hounds-tooth sports jacket that contained at least 19 colors. We found out over a period of years the jacket would just not wear out. Some of us asked, no begged, Nikki, his wife of then four years, to have the jacket burned. She just wouldn't or couldn't do the deed.

The jacket was a staple at the Capital from 1967 to 1970, but as fate would have it, O'Neill and his jacket appeared in a campaign photo with Gubernatorial Candidate Emilio Daddario in 1970, the good news was, that O'Neill won reelection, the bad news was that Mim didn't. Now I'm not saying that the jacket had anything to do with Mim's loss, but you never know.

Bill was not a culinary trail blazer. What he wanted, Nikki cooked. When asked by a few of us if he would join a small group for dinner, he demurred saying, Nikki's cooking a pot roast. Secretly, we kept track of his subsequent refusals. They added up in one year to 87 pot roasts, 32 meatloafs, and 19 hot dog dinners. In 1991, after Bill and his lovely wife Nikki retired to the lake, he would often call during the summer and ask what Sue and I were doing for dinner. The four of us would meet at the Governor's Tavern, the successor to O'Neill's tavern. Now dinner and cocktails for four is not very complicated, Bill made it even less complicated. When menus were handed out, Nikki turned and whispered to Sue and me, "I don't know why they're giving him a menu, he orders the same thing every time. A half order of tenderloin tips and a side of mashed potato." Nikki was right, over the next four years, every time we gathered, Bill would take his menu and look at it from cover to cover. And then order a half order of tenderloin tips and a side of mashed potatoes.

Back in '82 during the gubernatorial campaign we hired what we considered to be the best pollster and the best media guru. We launched a massive number of cocktail parties, many at the homes of his ardent supporters. It was an undertaking that would push Bill and Nikki into multiple appearances in an evening and weekends. I was asked and I won't say by whom, I was asked, late in the campaign, why we needed so many cocktail parties, my response was, "because we are in an aggressive and people oriented campaign". The person shook his or her head and said, "Well, we may win the election, but I hope Bill and Nikki will outlast that." They did and O'Neill won.

Bill has a church full of relatives, friends, admirers honoring him today. I see faces in the crowd today of people who served with him, those who worked for him and of course his beloved people from East Hampton, who he never forgot. As I express my feelings towards him, I know they are also yours. He was my dear friend before he was governor, he was my dear friend when he was my governor, he was my dear friend after he became retired. I remember the phone would ring when it was his turn to call me in Naples, and when I answered, when it was him, I knew what he was going to say, "how are you old pal?"

Men are not usually known for their long friendships with other men, women do a much better job with long term friendships. But I am now, and will be forever grateful and touched by the relationship between Bill and me. Like all celebrations, this one will end soon. Nikki, asked me to tell you a brief story about Bill's favourite chanteuse, now Irish kids don't get a chance to use that word, chanteuse, very often. Well if you got your dictionary handy, chanteuse is a singer of folk narratives with simple stanzas. Bill's chanteuse of choice was a Brit, circa 1940's, her name was Vera Lynn. She's best known for her rendition of "White Cliffs of Dover" during World War II. But lesser know, and Bill's favourite, was her rendition of "We'll Meet Again". Soon, we leave this church

today, remember well the simple and true words of Vera Lynn, "we'll meet again, goodbye for now Bill."—George Hannon

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

(By Vera Lynn)

We'll meet again,  
Don't know where,  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through,  
Just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"  
To the folks that I know  
Tell them I won't be long  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go  
I was singing this song

We'll meet again,  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

[We'll meet again,  
Don't know where,  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do,  
'Til the blue skies  
Drive the dark clouds far away  
So will you please say "Hello"  
To the folks that I know.  
Tell them it won't be long.  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go,  
I was singin' this song.

We'll meet again,  
Don't know where,  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT  
IADAROLA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Antoinette "Toni" Iadarola, president of Cabrini College in Delaware County in Radnor, Pennsylvania. On June 30th of this year, Dr. Iadarola will retire after 16 years as president of the College.

During a tenure which comprises more than 30 percent of the College's 50-year history, Dr. Iadarola has led Cabrini to expand academic offerings, construct state-of-the-art facilities, and raise its regional and national profile. The College's academic standing was enhanced, SAT scores and grade-point-averages of incoming students increased, and full-time undergraduate enrollment grew from 763 in 1992 to 1,650 in 2008.

Under her leadership, the College completed \$100 million in capital improvements, and the endowment and reserves increased from \$3 million to \$30 million. During her tenure, Cabrini's annual operating budget went from \$12.3 million to more than \$60 million.

With a history of preparing students for engaged citizenship, Cabrini was among the first