

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN HAYWOOD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Haywood County Sheriff's Office for their outstanding commitment to serving our community. With a population of more than 50,000 and over 550 square miles in the county, the 100 dedicated individuals in the Haywood County Sheriff's Office must maintain constant vigilance to ensure the safety of all those they serve.

Haywood County's Sheriff, Bobby Suttles, has done a phenomenal job since he assumed his post in early 2009. The previous Sheriff, Tom Alexander, served his community honorably for over 22 years. Sheriff Suttles began working with Sheriff Alexander and the Haywood County Sheriff's Office in 1995, joining the team as a deputy. His exemplary service led him to become Chief Deputy in 2003, and he was thus the natural choice when Sheriff Alexander retired in February of 2009. As a community, we look forward to working with Sheriff Suttles as he continues the remarkable legacy inherited from Sheriff Alexander.

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office has an extremely distinguished history in the community. They are able to react immediately to new and unexpected challenges. One of the most successful projects implemented by the Haywood County Sheriff's Office is a special squad of deputies called the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team which focuses on woodland operations, land navigations and man tracking. These skills are invaluable to other facets of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office, for example the Team has assisted the county's Drug Enforcement Unit with the service of high risk warrants and drug surveillance. The deputies on the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team undergo an additional sixteen hours of training per month and must maintain higher than average fitness standards. As this is a voluntary program, the deputies involved purchase much of the specialized equipment out of their own pockets, demonstrating their exemplary dedication and commitment.

In addition to their role as law enforcement professionals, the Haywood County Sheriff's Office also takes part in the Explorer Post program. This program affords young adults between 14 and 21 years of age access to community service projects that enable them to learn about the law enforcement profession. Participants have the opportunity to do "ride alongs" observing the work of deputies, participate in community fingerprinting, and take part in other events geared towards crime fighting and community involvement. Through this program they are also taught essential teambuilding and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in support of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office and our dedicated law enforcement professionals across the country. Without these committed individuals, none of us would be able to enjoy the quality of life or the security we experience in our great Nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARIA LARRIUZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Maria Larriuz, a dedicated community servant and activist.

Maria Larriuz, born in 1934 and raised in Guayama, Puerto Rico, moved to New York in 1955 and married Angel Manuel Larriuz in 1958. They raised two children together: Angel Manuel Larriuz, Jr. and Bernice Burkarth.

Ms. Larriuz was an active leader in her community's trusted civic associations, contributing in a variety of roles to the New Lots Lions Club for the past 30 years and serving as secretary of the Homeowners Association, Inc. She was also a member of the Rosetta Democratic Club, helping District Leader Earl Williams at meetings, and served as a volunteer hostess for the inauguration of President Barack Obama earlier this year. Ms. Larriuz was also someone who championed breast cancer awareness and the high incidence of diabetes in her community.

Ms. Larriuz was honored on numerous occasions for her work, receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship from the Lions Club and an award from the Knights of the Blind, and now rests eternally at the Pinelawn National Park with her loving husband who served our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering Maria Larriuz, whose extraordinary accomplishments will continue to be felt in her community for many years to come.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RETIRED MONSIGNOR THOMAS A. DAVIS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retirement of Monsignor Thomas A. Davis and his dedication and service as a Pastor and community leader in Laredo, Texas.

Monsignor Davis was born in Tipperary, Ireland on May 31, 1933 to Joseph and Brigid Davis. He has conducted missionary work and been involved with the Catholic Church for many years. More than a half a century has passed since Monsignor Davis began. He has spent his career in five different nations, driven by his devotion and humble beginnings. He will retire on October 28, 2009.

He began his career in 1954 in Ireland and would spend six years in a Monastery. Thereafter, he would spend another six years at St. Kieran's Seminary in Ireland. In 1968, he was ordained for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas. In the years following his ordainment, he earned his Masters in Education Degree from Our Lady of the Lakes College in 1974. The next few decades, he continued faith-based and Church involvement in Robstown, Texas to Arteaga, Mexico to help communities and churches. His work would continue as his

passion with his faith grew stronger. His contributions to Laredo, Texas have proven monumental for the community, spending a total of 31 years at San Agustin Church, Mother Cabrini Church, and Saint Patrick's Church.

In 2003, Msgr. Davis established the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Patrick's Church, which ensures Laredo residents have a place to go in times of need at any hour. This chapel is the only one of its kind in the area and is a great contribution to the efforts of the church and outreach.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the faith and dedication of Monsignor Thomas A. Davis.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009, which reauthorizes the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program for four years. The Ryan White program provides critical funds to cities, states and non-profit organizations for medical treatment and support services for people living with HIV and AIDS. The program currently serves more than 500,000 HIV-positive low-income people throughout the United States, many of whom would not be alive today without it.

The continuing need for the Ryan White Program cannot be overstated. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States today, and every 9½ minutes, another person is infected.

Racial and ethnic minorities continue to be severely impacted by HIV/AIDS. African Americans account for 49% of new AIDS diagnoses, and Hispanics account for 19%. All minority groups combined represent 65% of new HIV infections, 67% of people living with HIV/AIDS, 71% of new AIDS cases, and 70% of deaths caused by AIDS.

Eleven years ago, in order to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS among minorities, I worked with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Clinton Administration to develop the Minority AIDS Initiative. This initiative provides funds to community-based organizations in order to build their capacity to serve minority communities and deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services.

This bill recognizes the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS among minorities and reauthorizes key provisions of the Minority AIDS Initiative. The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on activities under the Minority AIDS Initiative across governmental agencies and identify best practices in capacity-building. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare a plan for the use of Minority AIDS Initiative funding, taking into consideration the GAO report.

I thank my good friend Delegate DONNA CHRISTENSEN, along with the other Members

and staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee, for consulting with my office on the reauthorization of the Minority AIDS Initiative, and I appreciate all of their work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF THOMAS J. ORLOFF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Thomas J. Orloff on his recent retirement as district attorney of Alameda County. A third generation resident of Alameda County, his 15 years as district attorney capped an extraordinary career of 40 years of service as a prosecutor on behalf of the people of both Alameda County and California. Mr. Orloff joined the Alameda County District Attorney's office in 1970 after graduating from the University of California's Boalt Hall School of Law. He distinguished himself as a trial lawyer, prosecuting many high profile cases including leaders of the Black Panthers and the notorious BGF prison gang. In addition to his trial prosecutions, Mr. Orloff served in many supervisory and administrative capacities including 5 years as the chief assistant district attorney.

Tom Orloff was elected district attorney, without opposition, in June 1994 and has been re-elected in June 1998, June 2002, and in June 2006, all unopposed. During his tenure, he established special units to emphasize prosecutions of domestic violence, stalking, gang violence, real estate fraud, and abuse of the elderly while expanding ongoing efforts to combat public assistance fraud, sexual assault and consumer and environmental crimes. Unlike most elected district attorneys, Tom recently personally tried and obtained the conviction of a street gang member who murdered San Leandro police officer Dan Niemi.

In addition to his work in Alameda County, Tom has given his time to the California and national prosecutors associations, serving as president and on the board of directors of the California District Attorney's Association and as a member of the board of directors of the National District Attorney's Association. Among many legal honors, he has been selected as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. Active in Alameda County as well, Tom has for many years served on the board and as treasurer of the One Hundred Club which provides financial support to the survivors of Alameda County police officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty and on the advisory board of the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland.

Most importantly, I would like to commend Tom Orloff on his stewardship of the finest prosecutor's office in the country. Every day, since taking office in January 1995 Tom sat down behind the same desk Earl Warren used when he served as Alameda County District Attorney from 1925–1939. He proudly displayed on his office wall a framed indictment signed by both Warren and another Thomas Orloff, Tom's grandfather, then the foreman of the Alameda County grand jury. As only the

fifth Alameda County District Attorney since Warren, Tom has guided a prosecutor's office that has seen remarkable stability and has been characterized by its innovation, creativity, and remarkable commitment to the highest ethical standards.

Prosecutors are the only lawyers who are ethically bound to serve two masters. The public prosecutor, as Justice Sutherland put it in his United States Supreme Court opinion: "is the representative not of an ordinary party to a controversy, but of a sovereignty whose obligation to govern impartially is as compelling as its obligation to govern at all; and whose interest, therefore, in a criminal prosecution is not that it shall win a case, but that justice shall be done. As such, he is in a peculiar and very definite sense the servant of the law, the twofold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer. He may prosecute with earnestness and vigor—indeed, he should do so. But, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one." (Berger v. United States (1935) 295 U.S. 78, 88.)

Like Earl Warren and the four others who separate them, Tom Orloff has demonstrated a profound, personal commitment to the ethical administration of justice. More than anything else, this commitment, on the part of the elected district attorney, to ethics in criminal prosecution sets the Alameda County District Attorney's office apart from the rest. I know that Tom, while proud of his many personal accomplishments, takes his greatest pride and satisfaction in the office of the Alameda County District Attorney. In public life we are all too often confronted with many whose sole purpose in seeking or attaining public office often seems to be self-aggrandizement. Tom is that rare public servant who truly has served the public and who has put the interest of his office ahead of his own.

Tom has demonstrated courage and independence in making many hard and occasionally unpopular choices during his tenure as district attorney, authorizing the prosecution several years ago of several officers of the Oakland Police Department, known as the "Riders" who were accused of a variety of crimes including robbing, kidnapping and framing street-level drug dealers. Most recently, Tom filed murder charges against a Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer who shot and killed a BART passenger. The shooting was videotaped and received a very high level of publicity. This is reportedly the first murder charge lodged against an on-duty police officer in California history.

It should come as no surprise to learn that Tom Orloff has long led the way in hiring women and minority lawyers. Under his watch, and due to his personal commitment, the Alameda County District Attorney's office is now one of the most diverse prosecutor's offices in the country—a special challenge considering the debt most minority law school graduates carry and the small salaries starting prosecutors earn.

One of Tom's former colleagues wrote, many years before she became an associate justice of the California Supreme Court, "If our nation of laws is to remain both strong and free, we must have system of criminal justice

in which every citizen can have confidence. The weight of maintaining this confidence falls on the shoulders of those lawyers who walk into court to represent the People. It is, as it should be, the highest calling of an American advocate." (Carol Corrigan, *On Prosecutorial Ethics* (1986) 13 *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly* 537.)

I have known Tom Orloff for many years. In the time he has served as Alameda County's district attorney he has given me the highest confidence that the administration of criminal justice in Alameda County was in the most capable hands possible. To me, he epitomized the prosecutor who always sought justice first. In determining whether to initiate criminal charges he always made what he felt was the right decision, not the popular decision. In the trial courtroom, he fought hard and he fought fair. More importantly, he instilled that ethic in all of his prosecutors. As a result, I share with the citizens of Alameda County an enduring and deeply felt confidence in the work of our criminal justice system. I wish Tom and his wife Pam a long, healthy and productive retirement.

HONORING ALAN H. JEPSON ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I could not be more pleased than to have this opportunity to rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and outstanding member of the Milford community, Alan H. Jepson. I am proud to join family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders in thanking him for his many years of dedication and commitment as he celebrates his retirement from public life. It is difficult to put into words what Alan means to the Milford community—he is one-of-a-kind.

Alan is a rare individual who has dedicated a lifetime to public service. He bravely left high school after just three years to join the Navy during World War II and proudly served for two years, eight months, and twenty-four days. Upon his return from military service, he went back to high school, earned his diploma, and completed his college degree under the original GI Bill—in just three years, eight months, and twenty-four days. His first professional experience was as the Director of the Junior Achievement Program in Lynn and Salem, Massachusetts. It was this calling that brought him back to Connecticut in 1956 when he became Director of Junior Achievement for the City of New Haven. Moving his family to Milford, Connecticut, it was shortly later that Alan would begin his more than forty years in civic service.

In 1960 Alan was appointed as the Director of the Citizens' Action Commission where he worked with the City of New Haven in connection with the federal requirement of urban renewal. It was through this work that his interest in government, politics and eventually elected office was sparked. In 1962 he found himself chairing a charter revision commission for the City of Milford which required that he work with both Democrats and Republicans to accomplish. Just a year later he ran and was