

Military and Veterans Affairs Office, has assisted countless constituents with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Today, Richard begins his retirement, but he will always continue to be an advocate for the men and women who've worn our nation's uniform.

Richard Garza was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1948. In 1961, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and has been a California resident since. From 1968 to 1970, Richard was drafted and served in the United States Army. After his period of service, he continued his education. He received a Bachelor's of Arts in Interdisciplinary Social Science from California State University, San Francisco and a Master's of Public Administration from California State University, Hayward.

Richard began his public service career in 1974 as a Benefits Counselor and Program Administrator with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1980, he continued serving veterans as the Veterans Service Officer of Sonoma County. Since 2003, Richard has been with the Military and Veterans Affairs Office of Monterey County. As Director of the county office, he has assisted veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and welcomed home returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Moreover, Richard is the first individual in the State of California to become a Certified Veterans Advocate through the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

Madam Speaker, Richard Garza has dedicated his life to taking care of our veterans and troops. I know I speak for the whole House when I both commend him for his dedication to public service and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my best wishes to the people of Somalia living throughout the world on the 50th anniversary of Somali Independence.

It is my pleasure and honor to represent a large and vibrant Somali-American community in Minnesota. I want to offer my congratulations on this special day as they continue to work to advance the cause of peace.

I am grateful for the contributions of Somali-Americans to Minnesota's rich tradition of diversity. The Somali-American community continues to enrich our state through its lively culture, optimism, and wisdom.

Sadly, Somalis in their homeland have endured a tremendous amount of strife and suffering. On this anniversary we must continue to focus on diplomatic efforts to create a lasting peace for the people of Somalia. I continue to have faith that renewed diplomatic efforts will lead to good governance, respect for human rights, and democracy for the people of Somalia.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ROBERT R. O'BRIEN, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD NEW YORK SECTOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Captain Robert R. O'Brien, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement as Commander of the United States Coast Guard's New York Sector. He has served our Nation, and its greatest city, with distinction, and all Americans owe him a debt of gratitude.

Captain O'Brien assumed command of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector New York on June 15, 2006 after completing his previous assignment as the Commander of the USCG's Marine Safety Office in Hampton Roads, Virginia. I know that my distinguished colleagues join me in extending our appreciation and gratitude to Captain O'Brien, who throughout his career has courageously and selflessly dedicated himself to protecting, defending and serving his fellow Americans.

Captain Robert O'Brien's remarkable career in the United States Coast Guard has spanned more than four decades. Enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1970 after leaving the Roman Catholic Seminary, he first served aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Laurel in North Carolina. In 1976, he was assigned as Officer-in-Charge of the USCGC Blackberry, also stationed in North Carolina. Upon his promotion in 1979 to Chief Boatswain's Mate, he was transferred to the largest Aids to Navigation Team in the Atlantic Area as Officer-in-Charge.

In 1983, Robert O'Brien was promoted to Lieutenant, and for the next 20 years served with distinction in assignments that found him in areas ranging from Galveston, Texas to Detroit, Michigan, and numerous places in between. Upon his promotion to Captain in 2003, he assumed command of the Marine Safety Office in Hampton Roads, Virginia. After serving in that capacity for three years, he then became Commander of the New York Sector, where he has been stationed since.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in the United States Coast Guard, Captain Robert O'Brien has earned a number of awards and honors. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon, among many others.

Captain Robert O'Brien was born in Savannah, Georgia and raised in Ridgeland, South Carolina. He and his wife, Martha, have three children: Reid, Jennifer and Caroline, all of whom must be tremendously proud of their father's accomplishments and honorable service to this Nation.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his lifetime of service to this country, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Captain Robert R. O'Brien, Jr., a distinguished member of our armed services and a patriotic

American who has devoted his professional life in service to our country. Captain O'Brien's selfless and enduring dedication to our Nation provides a worthy example for all of us.

HONORING REV. MARK DUANE HAIL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Mark Duane Hail, who has lived a dedicated life of service to his community, the ministry, and to our Nation. Reverend Hail is a man of many remarkable gifts and talents, and has been devoted to employing those gifts to benefit his fellow man.

In June 2010, Reverend Hail retired from the ministry after 27 years. He was ordained a minister in the Southern Baptist Church in 1983 and has served as pastor of several churches in Pulaski County, Kentucky. Mark was also an ordained deacon, teaching Sunday School and serving on church committees. Reverend Hail was also a veteran of the Korean War—serving in the United States Navy from 1955 through 1959. He was awarded the China Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He later served as the Chaplain of the American Legion Post 38 in Somerset.

Before entering the ministry, he taught in the Somerset Independent City School system for 30 years. After retiring from teaching in 1988, he remained active in the schools and in the community, joining the Retired Teachers Association, where he served as president in 1989, as well as serving two terms on the Somerset Independent Schools Board of Education. In 1990, he was elected as vice chairman of the Board of the Somerset Independent School System. In addition to his career as an educator and minister, Mark was also a farmer in the Dabney community for 12 years, worked as a real estate agent with Gosser Real Estate for 20 years, and was a member of the board of directors of the Somerset Pulaski County Development Foundation.

As an elected official in Somerset, Reverend Hail was very active in politics throughout his life. Mark was elected to three terms as the chairman of the Republican Party of Pulaski County. He served as county campaign chair for numerous Republican officials, including President George H.W. Bush, and Senators MITCH MCCONNELL and JIM BUNNING. He was a member of the Republican Lincoln Club and served as a Republican precinct officer for over 20 years. He was a Kentucky Colonel and active in many civic organizations.

These accomplishments only scratch the surface of Reverend Hail's accomplishments and contributions to his community. His work serves as a pattern for all of us who desire to serve our Nation. The Bible in First Timothy instructs us that "the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor." Madam Speaker, Reverend Hail has proven he is worthy of at least that much and more.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DAN'S PAPERS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication Dan's Papers, celebrating its 50th anniversary as a purveyor of culture and a staple of community life on Eastern Long Island.

Dan's Papers was first published on July 1, 1960, by Dan Rattiner, who was at the time a junior at the University of Rochester. Dan's impetus for creating Dan's Papers stemmed from a desire to create a fun, light-hearted, and welcoming publication for tourists visiting Suffolk County, New York.

Gathering a devoted following, Dan's Papers was instrumental during a 1967 protest to prevent the U.S. Coast Guard from allowing the historic Montauk Point Lighthouse to fall victim to the eroding cliffs on which it is perched. Through the efforts organized by Dan's Papers, not only was the lighthouse saved, but the community was united in a common cause.

Dan worked individually for the first six summers of Dan's Papers, writing, editing, and crafting his newspaper to entertain residents and tourists alike. As populations grew and the demographics of the South Fork began to shift, so too did the scope of Dan's Papers, providing articles, editorials, and updates on the visitors and inhabitants of the East End.

Madam Speaker, Dan's Papers has played an important role in helping to promote the iconic culture of Long Island's South Fork and has personified the American spirit of creativity and community for five decades. I am proud to congratulate Dan's Papers on its 50th anniversary and join eastern Long Island in wishing the publication success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JUDGE DAVID TOBIN

HON. CHARLES A. WILSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the judicial and civic contributions of Judge David Tobin. This month, Columbiana County is losing a great public servant. Judge Tobin devoted twenty-five years of his life to serving on Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas, the second longest tenure of any judge on the Court. His time spent on the bench and prior decade of service as a Columbiana County Prosecuting Attorney greatly benefited the citizens of Columbiana County.

During his service, he had the honor of serving on the Ohio State Bar Association's Board of Character and Fitness as a Commissioner. He also worked hard to bring the Supreme Court of Ohio to the Columbiana County Courthouse to host a court session. These are just a few of the examples that illustrate the professional respect for Judge Tobin exhibited from Lisbon to Columbus.

He was also greatly respected throughout the community. From community service through the Calcutta Rotary, to his work with the Calcutta Community Park Committee, to his various coaching positions, Judge Tobin exhibited a strong commitment to his community.

The people of Columbiana County have been blessed by the long service of Judge Tobin, and upon his retirement this July, he will be sorely missed. I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring Judge Tobin, a respected judge and public servant who has been and will always be dedicated to the people of Columbiana County.

UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD
MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF MEDIA

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to a troubling situation occurring in Ukraine. Less than 100 days ago, President Victor Yanukovich assumed leadership of the Ukrainian government. During this short period of time, there have been alarming reports that many of the democratic achievements of the 2004 Orange Revolution are being rolled back—including the freedoms of speech and media.

Some of the reported actions occurring include the Ukrainian Security Service's, SBU, agents approaching university deans to warn them against their students' participation in pro-opposition rallies, as well as instances of the new government intimidating journalists. Furthermore, two TV channels with a history of independent coverage—Channel 5 and TVi—are under threat of imminent closure due to reported pressure from executive bodies, including SBU.

These troubling instances of pressure against Ukraine's beleaguered opposition and independent media outlets are arguably part of a disturbing, coordinated effort by the executive to squelch a healthy political debate and assure an uncritical coverage of the government's policies. In fact, these reports are so widespread that the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, John Tefft, even recently expressed his concerns about the increasingly difficult climate for Ukraine's independent media and stressed that "it is essential to protect and even expand the media freedoms that emerged" after the country's 2004 Orange Revolution.

I understand that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will visit Kiev, Ukraine on July 2, as part of her five-day, five-nation tour of Eastern Europe. I would encourage Secretary Clinton to raise these issues with President Yanukovich and reiterate the importance of not returning to Ukraine's old system of government pressure on journalists and media companies.

I am including a copy of an article titled, "Ukraine channels cry foul as frequencies pulled" that appeared in the June 8 issue of The Financial Times, Europe. As such, I urge my colleagues to follow and engage in this vitally important issue.

[From the Financial Times, June 8, 2010]

UKRAINE CHANNELS CRY FOUL AS
FREQUENCIES PULLED

(By Roman Olearchyk in Kiev)

Two Ukrainian television channels cried foul on Tuesday after a high court pulled crucial broadcasting frequencies away from them, sparking media freedom activists to reiterate concerns of an organized attempt to block objective news coverage.

The development follows weeks of growing complaints by journalists about the resurgence of censorship and heightens fears that a Kremlin-styled crackdown on media freedoms could be in the works five months into the presidency of the Moscow-friendly Viktor Yanukovich.

Management and journalists from channels 5 and TVi pledged to appeal against the controversial ruling and hope to remain on the air in the near term. But during a press conference held after Tuesday's regional administrative court ruling, they openly expressed fears that media freedoms and democratic gains made by Ukraine since 2004 could be at risk under Mr. Yanukovich. He is accused by oppositionists of setting up an authoritarian regime.

"We lived through 2004," said Channel 5 director Ivan Adamchuk, recalling attempts by authorities to muzzle the channel ahead of the pro-democracy Orange Revolution, which overturned a fraud-marred presidential vote for Mr. Yanukovich. "We could not imagine that those times would return, but they have," he added.

Oleh Rybachuk, a former presidential administration chief turned civic activist, said "censorship is re-emerging, and the opposition is not getting so much coverage. There are similarities to what [Vladimir] Putin did when he came to power. We are seeing Putin-style attempts to monopolise power."

With Mr. Yanukovich's coalition having swiftly consolidated control over the nation's legislative, executive and judicial branches of power, the channels could face an uphill battle if he opposes their survival.

Mr. Yanukovich's administration on Tuesday repeated denials of cracking down on free press. But media watchdogs warned that if stripped of the frequencies, the two channels—seen by media watchdogs as rare sources of reports critical of Mr. Yanukovich's coalition—would be blacked out from much of the country.

Such a scenario would preserve the strong grip over Ukraine's television airwaves held by Mr. Yanukovich's billionaire business backers.

One of them is Valery Khoroshkovsky, currently head of Kyiv's SBU spy agency and owner of UA Inter Media Group, the nation's largest television holding. The latter filed the court appeal asking for the frequencies to be pulled on grounds that they were wrongfully issued in January.

Both 5 and TVi have repeatedly accused Mr. Khoroshkovsky of abusing his power and influence to preserve his monopoly control over Ukraine's media airwaves and limit objective news reporting.

Mr. Khoroshkovsky denies wrongdoing and insists his wife manages his media empire as he dedicates his time to public service.

But on Tuesday, Mykola Knyazytsky, director of TVi, which was set up by exiled Russian businessmen, blamed Mr. Khoroshkovsky for the crack down on the two channels and described his simultaneous role as a presidential backer, intelligence chief and media mogul as a "huge and blatant conflict of interest."