

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CELESTINO GAMBINO

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness following the passing of Celestino Gambino, proprietor of La Parmigiana Restaurant in Southampton, NY and a beloved member of the community that I have the privilege of representing.

Celestino Gambino emigrated to the United States from Palermo Sicily, with little money and speaking no English, to make a better life for himself, his wife Josephine, and their seven children. He kept his family together, and with them and a lot of hard work, he built one of the most successful businesses on the East End of Long Island. He was devoted to his family, to his church and to his community, and he became a beloved figure in Southampton. On July 1 Mr. Gambino passed away at the age of 73.

Celestino Gambino opened La Parmigiana, or "La Parm" as it is affectionately known, in 1974 as a small pizza parlor, but over the years it became a Southampton mainstay. Located on Hampton Road in the heart of Southampton Village, La Parm is a family restaurant serving plates piled high with Italian food, such as their traditional Sicilian dishes, Penne alla Norcina and Margarita con Melenzane. A specialty shop in the restaurant sells Italian olive oil, La Parm's own sauce and salad dressing, pastries, pastas and other items.

As delicious as the food is, the true draw of the restaurant was the fact that patrons knew they would see Mr. Gambino, smoking his pipe and wearing his white apron, when they visited his restaurant, and if not him—then one of his family members. All of his children and several of his grandchildren work in La Parm, and all of them help give it the friendly, welcoming atmosphere it is known for—even when the pick-up counter is jammed with people waiting for their orders on a Friday night. People knew they could count on Mr. Gambino to give them good, quality service, whether they were ordering a slice or sitting down to a family meal.

It is a place of Old World charm, with good food for a good value. Mr. Gambino once said that the restaurant sold 20,000 pizza pies a year. But as busy as the restaurant kept him, Celestino Gambino always had time for people. He always took the time to listen and find a way to help, quietly and without fanfare. He was a gentleman, considerate and kind, and he was respected for that. In good times and in hard times, he kept his family together. On Mondays, the only day the restaurant was closed, the family would gather at his home for a family meal. He would always sit at the head of the table surrounded by his wife, their seven children and 19 grandchildren. On Sundays he made dinner for the priests at his church, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church.

The Gambino family is a shining example of the hard work, family love, and generosity of spirit that have made this country great. With the death of Celestino Gambino, we have lost a bit of Southampton, but we know that his family will carry on the traditions he established at the place he owned and operated for

36 years, and in them he will live on and we will be constantly reminded of the values for which he stood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 394. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 394: Yes—Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL
MICHAEL MILLER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me recognize and congratulate an outstanding Naval Officer, RADM Michael Miller, upon the completion of more than two years of distinguished service as the United States Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. I am honored to commend Rear Admiral Miller's achievements on the Navy's behalf as well as his devotion to our nation.

Rear Admiral Miller graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1974 and earned his "Wings of Gold" two years later. He has served tours around the world flying the S-3 Viking, and he has served at sea as Executive Officer and later in command of the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67), the USS *Coronado* (AGF-11), and Carrier Strike Group 7. Rear Admiral Miller also served as the first-ever active duty Director of the White House Military Office.

As Chief of Legislative Affairs, Rear Admiral Miller showed the integrity, skill, and professionalism for which we honor our brave men and women in uniform. His work helped ensure the United States Navy's readiness and superior capabilities.

Rear Admiral Miller was recently nominated and confirmed for appointment to the rank of Vice Admiral. In connection with this promotion, he will be assigned as Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I wish Rear Admiral Miller continued success and fulfillment as he undertakes this new challenge. I trust my colleagues in the House will join me in saluting this fine Naval Officer.

CONGRATULATING ABDUL HAMKA
AND DARIUS WILBERT FOR BE-
COMING NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL-
ISTS IN THE DASH+ NATIONAL
STUDENT COMPETITION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two students from my district

who have been named as semifinalists of the Progressive Insurance DASH+ National Student Competition.

Abdul Hamka and Darius Wilbert of The Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn Michigan designed an eco-friendly dashboard for the Dash Plus National Student Competition. Hamka and Wilbert designed a dashboard that is able to communicate to the driver how they are impacting fuel economy and the environment. Abdul and Darius's panel connects multiple information sources that increase driver awareness. The dashboard can also calculate routes that have fewer hills and traffic lights, helping the driver reduce unnecessary acceleration and braking and in turn reduce overall fuel emissions. The dashboard is constructed out of emerging industrial-grade bio-plastics that are derived from vegetable oil, corn, soy, and algae. This gives the panel a reduced weight which in turn means less fuel consumption and a smaller carbon footprint.

Projects like the DASH Tech competition provide students with a platform to be innovative and put to use skills they learn while studying STEM fields. Madam Speaker, one out of every ten people in Southeast Michigan is an engineer. Helping to promote the new green economy will help drive job creation and innovation in Michigan. My constituents and I are proud of what Abdul and Darius have accomplished and we know that they will be industry leaders one day.

THE FEDERAL LANDS COUNTER-
DRUG STRATEGY AND ENFORCE-
MENT ENHANCEMENT ACT (H.R.
5645)

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 30th, I introduced H.R. 5645, the Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy and Enforcement Enhancement Act, legislation designed to combat drug trafficking on our nation's public lands.

Drug traffickers, primarily Mexican and Asian drug gangs involved with cannabis cultivation and marijuana distribution, are increasingly using our nation's public lands to operate large-scale operations. Eighty three percent of all plants eradicated from U.S. forests between 2004 and 2008 were removed from national forests in California. Sadly, Tulare County, California, recorded three consecutive seasons in which the number of marijuana plants seized exceeded \$1 billion.

Traffickers find the remoteness of the public lands appealing as it reduces the risk of detection and asset forfeiture. By cultivating marijuana on our public lands, international drug trafficking organizations avoid the risk and expense of smuggling their product across the border. It also makes distribution less risky because it can be easily driven to major cities, where it is distributed to street dealers. Accordingly, cultivation of marijuana is expanding from the M7 states including California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, and West Virginia, into Utah, Idaho, Texas, Wisconsin, and Ohio. This illicit activity poses a significant threat to our nation and those Americans who choose to

camp, hike, hunt, ride, or otherwise use our nation's public lands.

Drug traffickers also are growing increasingly aggressive toward law enforcement officials and members of the public who enter the area in which drugs are being cultivated and produced. They are encircling their plots—some of which have as many as 75,000 plants—with crude explosives and patrolling them with firearms, including AK-47s. In one instance reported last year by The Washington Post, two Lassen County, California, law enforcement officers were wounded by a gunman guarding a grove on Bureau of Land Management property. In another incident, an eight-year-old boy and his father were shot after they accidentally stumbled onto a hidden marijuana grow in El Dorado County, California. One Placer County, California, law enforcement official reported that, "In every garden, every single encounter, we find weapons."

Moreover, drug traffickers are causing serious and extensive environmental damage to our public lands. Animal poisons are used as are chemical repellants, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides many of which are banned in the United States. Traffickers often pour fertilizer directly into streams and pools and run it through their homemade irrigation systems. The use and abandonment of these and other hazardous substances—such as gasoline—results in toxic levels of chemicals in the soil, groundwater, streams, and rivers. Eventually, these hazardous substances enter our residential and agricultural water supplies.

I find this situation utterly unacceptable. We cannot meaningfully address drug trafficking on public lands without a comprehensive strategy. Such a strategy has been authorized and developed for the southwestern border and I am firmly convinced that one should be done to better combat drug trafficking on public lands.

The Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy and Enforcement Act would address this situation by requiring the Office of National Drug Control Policy to develop a strategy to combat drug trafficking on public lands. The bill would also increase the penalties available for cultivating or manufacturing drugs on public land as well as for using hazardous chemicals, diverting streams, removing vegetation without authorization, and using boobytraps or firearms to produce drugs on public lands. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 29, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 395–401. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 395, "yes"—On Approving the Journal; rollcall No. 396, "yes"—Congratulating the Chicago Blackhawks on winning the 2010 Stanley Cup Championship; rollcall No. 397, "no"—On Motion to Adjourn; rollcall No. 398, "yes"—Restoration of Emergency Unem-

ployment Compensation Act; rollcall No. 399, "yes"—Recognizing the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition for its now five-year effort to promote cyber security curriculum in institutions of higher learning; rollcall No. 400, "yes"—Firearms Excise Tax Improvement Act; and rollcall No. 401, "yes"—Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ROBERT GREENE OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Robert Cushing Greene, USA (Ret.) of Citrus County, Florida. On July 24th Colonel Greene will do something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Bob was born July 24, 1910 in Keene, NH, he is the fifth of six children, born to his mother, Lillian Francis Greene and his father, Corydon Burton Greene, a furniture salesman. In April of 1931, while still attending the University of New Hampshire, he married his first wife and eventual mother to his three children, "Betty". That summer he was commissioned into the United States Army Reserve. One year later, he graduated college in the thick of the Great Depression. He took a job working for Betty's father's lumber company until 1939 when, he began working as a traveling cement salesman.

In April of 1941, war clouds were gathering and Bob was called up to active duty. He reported to Ft. Benning, GA to receive his infantry training. In August of 1943 he received his orders to head overseas to serve in the Northern Combat Area Command in China-Burma-India during World War II where he served as an intelligence officer. While in Burma, he was promoted from captain to major.

In 1945, at the wars end, many soldiers were trying to get out of the Army, but Major Greene and Betty decided that they liked the Army life and decided to stay in. From 1947 to 1949 Major Greene, Betty and their children lived in Panama, followed by Virginia where he transferred into the Quarter Master's Corps. He served in the Korean War, followed by two additional posts in Massachusetts and France. In 1961, after serving in two wars, crossing 69 countries and earning two Bronze Stars with oak leaf cluster, he retired from military service as a full colonel.

He served as a civil servant until 1975 when, he and Betty were once again bit by the travel bug. They embarked on what Betty called "the world's longest bridge game". For nearly three years they traveled the country in a motorcoach. In 1979, they finally parked in Inverness, FL to be close to many friends whom they had met along their journey together. Betty passed away five years later. Their children, Bob, Sherry and Michael say their parents were, "the very best".

In 1995, Colonel Greene married his current wife, Lori. His son, Bob, remarked that they

credit Lori for their dad's enduring spirit. She encouraged him to become a mentor at the Inverness Primary School; He is also a former president of what is now the Citrus County MOAA Chapter. He enjoys spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom will join him on the 24th for his centennial celebration.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Colonel Greene for his service and congratulating him on one hundred years of life.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS', SENIORS', AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2010

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans', Seniors', and Children's Health Technical Corrections Act of 2010. This bill contains many time-sensitive provisions that affect our nation's veterans, seniors, and children and that have already been considered by the House as part of H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010, which passed the House before the Memorial Day recess. I understand that the Senate is renewing their consideration of this jobs legislation. I encourage them to do so—and to do so quickly—as it contains critical provisions to create jobs, cut taxes, and support American workers. Should the Senate face delays in passing that larger legislation, this bill guarantees the consideration of necessary, time-sensitive, and non-controversial health care provisions.

This legislation contains clarifications and extensions under Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. For veterans, this legislation clarifies a special enrollment period to ensure that they can properly enroll in Medicare Part B and retain their TRICARE eligibility.

For children, this legislation clarifies that eligible children's hospitals retain access to discounts for expensive orphan drugs. Children will also benefit from technical corrections in this bill that relate to Medicaid and CHIP.

For teaching hospitals that train our newest physicians, this legislation makes a technical correction to clarify that residency positions currently shared between teaching hospitals will not be redistributed. In 36 states, this will affect more than 300 hospitals with affiliation agreements in place that are currently using these residency slots.

For Medicare beneficiaries receiving care at a skilled nursing facility, this legislation guarantees that they will be covered under the most current refined payment system.

We pay for this bill largely with funds from the Medicare Improvement Fund. CBO estimates that this bill results in small savings to the federal government.

So colleagues, I ask you to join me in supporting this time-sensitive and noncontroversial legislation pertaining to veterans, Medicare providers including skilled nursing facilities, teaching hospitals, and children's hospitals.