

HONORING JAMES L. MARTIN,
PRESIDENT "THE 60 PLUS ASSO-
CIATION"

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has fought for the honor of millions of Americans.

Jim Martin has a distinguished track record of public service that began as an United States Marine from 1953–1958. He then went on to have a successful career in politics and journalism. In 1992, Jim founded "the 60 Plus Association" an organization that has become an influential voice for seniors all across the nation. Jim has been a fierce advocate for all issues facing seniors, especially the solvency of Social Security, energy independence and the "Death Tax."

Jim has been the voice of our nation's seniors in Washington, reminding Congress of the importance of taking action to ensure Social Security is able to meet the needs of seniors who depend on the program, while at the same time ensuring our children and grandchildren have the same opportunity for a retirement safety net. Grandparents are just as concerned with their grandchildren's future as with their own welfare.

Over the past year, Americans have been feeling additional strains on their budgets with the increased energy prices—this is especially true for seniors. The increase in energy prices has a burdening effect upon those with fixed incomes who struggle to pay bills and are too often forced to make difficult choices between food, medicine and transportation costs. Jim knows and understands their concerns and has been a leading proponent for energy security.

Jim has also led the charge against one of the most egregious taxes in our tax system, the estate tax. Jim is credited for reframing the debate over the estate tax by renaming the tax to the more appropriate term, the "Death Tax." As a result of this tax, a business that has been in a family for generations can be lost overnight because of the enormous burden of the death tax. When a business leaves its family roots, there is a loss of pride in the fundamental traditions that helped make the business successful. This is not the legacy parents want to leave their children and grandchildren.

On behalf of all Americans, I want to thank Jim Martin for his service to our country. On behalf of our nation's seniors, I want to thank Jim and the 60 Plus Association for their efforts to ensure the solvency of our Social Security system, protecting seniors against rising energy costs, and permanently eliminating the "Death Tax."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
GWATNEY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Bill

Gwatney, a public servant, faithful husband and father, and a true Arkansan, who worked tirelessly as the State Chair of the Arkansas Democratic Party, and previously as a State Senator for 10 years. He was a man dedicated to public office, and is sorely missed by many. It is my humble request that we stand and recognize the life and work of Mr. William Gwatney.

Over the past two decades, Bill Gwatney served the public good of Arkansas in one position or another. From 1993 to 2002, Bill served as an Arkansas State Senator, and also served as the financial chair for Mike Beebe's run for Governor in 2006. In 2008, he also received the honor of being selected as a superdelegate for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. When he was not directly involved in Arkansas politics Mr. Gwatney owned and managed three successful car dealerships.

Bill was also honored by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Athletic Department, who posthumously inducted him into their Hall of Fame.

Bill was respected and loved by many as a man who appreciated integrity and honesty in his business, as well as in his personal life. Throughout his rise as a politician and successful businessman, Bill maintained a sense of humor, humility, passion, and respect for others that was magnetic to those around him.

I wish Bill's family the deepest condolences for their loss, and hope they can find some comfort in the thought of what a powerful and positive impact Bill's personality had on those he met, and those that carry his memory on. He has left an indelible mark on the state of Arkansas, and I ask today of my fellow colleagues that we stand and honor the legacy of Mr. William Gwatney.

REMEMBERING JOHN J. HORGAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today and pay tribute to a good friend, John "J.J." Horgan. J.J. passed away on Monday, July 12th in Saginaw, Michigan, at the age of 72.

Born in New York, J.J. served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force. He moved to Bridgeport Township and was active in the community. He served as Chair of the Bridgeport Festival Committee, the Bridgeport United Community Task Force, and as Director of the Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a longtime volunteer, member and past Chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party. J.J. was an active member of St. Christopher Catholic Church. He functioned as the President, past Treasurer and member of the Administration Commission and he served as the President of the Men's Club.

He ran for a seat on the Bridgeport Board of Trustees and he was a candidate for the 95th Michigan House of Representatives when he was diagnosed with cancer. After having won two battles against cancer in 2001 and 2007, J.J. was upbeat until he succumbed to the disease. He leaves behind to treasure his memory his wife, Geri, his daughter, Frances, sister, Maureen, brother, William, a large ex-

tended family and numerous friends. J.J. touched many lives and everyone has fond memories of his kindness, his intelligence and his decency.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and take a moment to remember John "J.J." Horgan. He was a thoughtful, kindhearted, forthright man, full of enthusiasm for life, his family, his church, his community and his country. I valued his friendship and wisdom, and I will miss his cheerfulness, his integrity and his optimistic spirit.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR AFTER TROPICAL STORM AGATHA

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1462, stating our nation's unequivocal support for those people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador who have been affected by Tropical Storm Agatha. In the aftermath of the storm, mudslides and sinkholes formed, not only marring the natural beauty of these countries, but also causing immense amounts of damage and suffering.

Hundreds of people lost their lives, and tens of thousands were displaced from their homes. Food shortages, destruction of infrastructure, economic losses in agriculture, and damages to vital buildings will inevitably adversely affect these countries for a long time to come.

These Latin American nations represent crucial U.S. allies in the region and key economic trading partners. It is in the interest of our economic stability and national security to help them through these tough times.

Our own experiences from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina remind us that we are all vulnerable to the cruel whims of nature. We will never forget how many countries around the world stood with us during those trying times for our nation, and we need to stand with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador now.

I commend the United States Southern Command for providing food, water, and necessary supplies to the victims of these natural disasters. We have not been alone in providing assistance to the disaster areas; the international community has come together in support of those who have been affected, contributing millions of dollars in medical supplies and other assistance.

I urge the House of Representatives to keep in mind today those lives and livelihoods that have been destroyed in the aftermath of this disaster by supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO WOODY LAUGHAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and outstanding career of Mr. Woody Laughnan.

For over 20 years, Woody contributed his wit, intelligence, and passion to the Fresno Bee and our community. His work was widely read by the people of our Valley, and his regular column reflected his own personal biography while informing so many of our daily lives.

Born in 1924, Woody was a Montana native who served in World War II. He dedicated his career to the printed word, and his work in the newspaper industry took him from the Martinez News-Gazette to the Paso Robles Press. Along the way, Woody worked as a reporter, an editor, an advertising salesman, and a publisher.

The Fresno Bee and its readers were lucky enough to land Woody in 1967. His Around Here column became a mainstay of its pages, and the stories and wisdom he passed along touched so many in our Valley. While Woody's column ended in 1989, I can still remember opening the Bee and turning to the latest edition of Around Here.

Outside of work, Woody was dedicated to his family and helping those in need. His charity over the years was remarkable and he will be remembered by his generosity and compassion.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with Woody's family and friends as we honor the life of an individual who contributed so much to our Valley.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE PART- NERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution to support the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas. This resolution focuses on an initiative launched by President Obama in Port of Spain, Trinidad during the Summit of the Americas in April 2009. The President called on all governments to join him in an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) to address the common challenge of securing reliable or affordable access to energy.

Many countries like Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, and El Salvador responded to the President's invitation and are working in a variety of efforts to promote energy efficiency, fight climate change and increase energy access. What makes ECPA stand out is that it's not a U.S.-led or wholly U.S.-financed initiative but a collaborative and flexible process for moving the hemisphere forward on issues of energy security. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called it, ECPA is like "Facebook," any country "can start an initiative and invite others to join and countries can be part of as many initiatives as they choose." ECPA helps strengthen energy security by encouraging energy alternatives and by letting governments share best practices and expertise about what policies and technologies can help them meet their national objectives.

This resolution highlights the valuable work that ECPA does to strengthen energy security in the Western Hemisphere. Under ECPA, some of the more than 2,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving in this Hemisphere will be

trained in renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts to educate their host communities and implement small-scale renewable energy projects. Another ECPA initiative in Central America addresses the issue of the regional power grid. Six Central American countries have been working for many years to interconnect their power grids in order to reduce power blackouts. With U.S. assistance under ECPA, these countries can address some of the last regulatory hurdles to trade power in a regional market once their grids are interconnected.

The resolution also notes the important role played by other countries under ECPA. Brazil is leading an effort to encourage sustainable and energy efficient low-income housing, and promote urban development and planning. Mexico will lead an energy efficiency working group, while Costa Rica and Peru have created energy efficiency centers. Trinidad and Tobago and Chile are developing renewable energy centers to promote sustainable energy practices in the region.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution supporting the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas. The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas bolsters energy security, reduces energy poverty and encourages low carbon growth in the Western Hemisphere. This resolution also encourages the efforts of the United States government to expand collaboration to other countries in Western Hemisphere as well as promoting active participation by the private sector and civil society. I urge my colleagues to strongly support this resolution.

HONORING THE HONORABLE DOLPH BRISCOE, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express condolences and celebrate the life of a true Texas hero and my friend, The Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Jr. His legacy is one that is admired by people from all political backgrounds and influences across the state of Texas.

With family roots running back to an original signatory of the Texas Declaration of Independence, former Governor of Texas Dolph Briscoe, Jr. had in his blood to serve the citizens of this great state. Also the son of a cattle rancher, he never lost his humility though he amassed fortune, land and political fame known to few. As a freshman member of the House of Representatives in 1972 when Governor Briscoe took helm of the state, I came to admire the quiet dignity and authority by which he led the way for laws that would protect and enhance the rural Texas farm and agricultural way of life.

A man of few words, his actions reflected his dedication to the State and the preservation of its history and its history makers. He was a great supporter of the University of Texas at Austin, and in 2008 was aptly honored as the namesake of the UT Center for American History. He has been quoted as saying, "I firmly believe that we cannot really understand the present without knowledge of

the past." Mr. Briscoe was not only a dedicated public servant but also a caring family man. I was fond of his wife Janey, who passed in 2000, and respected their devotion to their family.

It would be difficult to describe Texas without including the great impression made by Governor Briscoe. He will be missed. A man of cowboy hats and boots, Mr. Briscoe was a true native son. I urge my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Mr. Dolph Briscoe, Jr.

THE FAMILY OF SIMON SAKO SIMONIAN: SURVIVORS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Below is one of those stories:

FROM SIMON SAKO SIMONIAN, AN ARMENIAN MAN, ON BEHALF OF HIS FATHER, NERSES, AND GRANDPARENTS, JOHNNY AND GOLANBAR

"My Grandfather, Johnny, and my Grandmother, Golanbar, lived in Orumieh, a city in Iran close to the Turkish border. They had been blessed with four children (one of them named Nerses, my Father). My Grandfather was a well-educated and knowledgeable person. He was fluent in more than 12 languages, as well as one of the few people at that time who was able to properly and accurately translate and describe the Bible. He was a respected man—a religious man devoted to God. He was so highly respected that whenever the Consul of the U.S. would go there, he would always request to meet with my Grandfather.

"During the Armenian Genocide, the Shah (King) of Iran was a very weak person; therefore the Turks were able to enter Iran and do the mass killing and elimination of Armenians and Christians in that area.

"One day, during the dark years of the Armenian Genocide, a group of Turkish soldiers knocked on my Grandfather's door. One of the Turkish soldiers told my Grandfather that they were going to kill him and that he should speak now or never if he had any requests. My Grandfather said that his only wish is for them to let him pray just one more time. He was allowed to step forward to the courtyard for his prayer. As soon as he