

Born on the neighboring island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, he moved with his family to St. Croix when he was two months old. He was the valedictorian of the then Christiansted High School in 1958 and went on to attend Inter-American University in Puerto Rico. He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1968 as a sergeant. He later taught at the then Christiansted Grammar School and worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I have two special recollections of personal interactions with him as Governor. He made time to meet with me when there was a controversy surrounding the naming of the park in Frederiksted. Several of us had decided to ask him to consider vetoing the bill as passed by the Legislature and he did. I don't exactly remember the details of his negotiations with the HESS refinery. But at the time it seemed to me that he was not getting the support he needed and so in an attempt to rise above party politics, I secured the signatures to call a special meeting to urge the Territorial Committee of the Democratic Party to support him during the negotiations. My efforts were not successful, but I know he appreciated the attempt.

I believe that history will be exceedingly kind to the memory of Governor Luis as we can see his contributions in the health care system, in education, in the economy and in other aspects that affect the daily lives of Virgin Islanders. His efforts were sincere and those of us in office today build on the foundations that were set during his tenure. With the passage of time people have the chance to assess the contributions of those who live their lives in service to the public. It can be said of Governor Juan Luis that he had a clear vision and that he worked diligently to accomplish his intended goals and that we the people, were better off for it.

Mr. Speaker, my family, staff and I extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Mrs. Luz Luis and his children Juan, Jr. and Carlota Amalia. May Governor Juan Francisco Luis rest in peace.

HONORING DYERSBURG
SUPERINTENDENT LLOYD RAMER

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor and thank Mr. Lloyd Ramer for an outstanding 42-year career of serving in public education as Superintendent of the Dyersburg City Schools. Mr. Ramer will retire from service as Superintendent on June 7, 2011. We celebrate his accomplishments and wish him well in his future endeavors.

As an exceptional leader and education advocate, Mr. Ramer began with the Dyersburg School System in 1969. He has functioned in numerous roles ranging from a contemporary studies teacher, acting director, basketball coach, curriculum coordinator, and assistant superintendent. In 1994, Mr. Ramer accepted the responsibility of Superintendent, demonstrating what a colleague calls his "driving commitment to excellence and his continued quest for quality educational opportunities for our students." His commitment has been prov-

en by spending all 42 years of his career working for the Dyersburg City Schools. His years of working with the city schools prove his tremendous commitment to public education.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Mr. Ramer for encouraging thousands of young Americans to achieve their fullest potential.

Please join me in honoring Mr. Lloyd Ramer upon his retirement from public education.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA WOJCIK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I pause to remember the great life and work of Patricia Wojcik the longtime director of the Department of Senior Services in Cheektowaga, New York.

For nearly two and a half decades Pat dedicated her life to making the lives of seniors in Western New York healthier, happier and more fulfilled.

Upon first assuming her leadership role in town government in 1980, Pat made it her mission to give local seniors a place to gather, learn, have fun and build friendships.

Two short years later the Cheektowaga Senior Center opened its doors and over the years since, thousands of seniors were greeted at those doors by Pat's smiling face and kind words.

The many ways Pat touched the lives of others is far too great to mention here but her commitment is demonstrated in the respect she had for the commitment of those she served. Each year one of her trademark events was a ceremony which included a splendid celebration for Cheektowaga couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Her devotion to her work didn't go unrecognized. She received citizen of the year awards from the Am Pol Eagle and Zonta Club, was recognized by the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation and in 2005 I was honored to nominate her to represent our area for the White House Conference on the Aging.

That same year, 25 years after she first started, Pat turned over her duties at Cheektowaga's Senior Center and began a well-deserved retirement.

On June 10, 2011 I will join long-time Cheektowaga leader Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak, Pat's friends, family and co-workers to plant a tree in Pat Wojcik's honor in front of the building where she spent so many years.

Her memory will live on with this tree as well as in the hearts of all of us who knew and loved her.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the LaTourette amendment and of the thousands of American workers, contractors and small businesses that benefit from the use of Project Labor Agreements.

Created by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, Project Labor Agreements, or PLAs, allow construction workers to enter into a collective bargaining agreement that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for all workers on a construction project.

Project Labor Agreements are cost effective and pro-business. They are used in every State on private- and public-sector construction projects. Fortune 500 companies such as Wal-Mart, Toyota, and Boeing praise and use PLAs because they provide contractors with a reliable and uninterrupted supply of trained workers at predictable costs for wages and benefits.

PLAs provide uniform working conditions and rules on construction sites, thereby making the work site safer while businesses benefit by paying less in worker compensation and avoid project delays due to the lessened risk of job site accidents.

PLAs encourage the employment of local residents, ensuring that these workers' paychecks will be spent in the local community. PLAs can also be used as a way to enhance the work opportunities of military veterans and underrepresented communities.

PLAs have been used for the construction of some of our Nation's most iconic building projects, including the Coulee Dam in Washington State, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

PLAs represent the best of what can happen when labor and business come together.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support American workers and businesses and vote in favor of the LaTourette amendment.

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of New York's 20th District to express our sincere appreciation for the Open Space Institute's continued preservation and protection of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in my hometown of Kinderhook, NY.

The Martin Van Buren National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1974 in order to commemorate the life and work of President Martin Van Buren through the preservation and interpretation of Lindenwald, his home and farm. When the site was established, Kinderhook was a rural farming community, like many towns in the Mid-Hudson River Valley. Over the years, new homes and the loss of agricultural land began to threaten the area surrounding the park. These changes compromised the historic integrity of the property.

The Open Space Institute (OSI) is a non-profit organization that has worked for over 30 years to conserve land in eastern New York, New England, and New Jersey. The primary geographic focus of OSI's program has been the Hudson River Valley. To date, OSI has protected nearly 90,000 acres for parks, farmland preservation, historic sites, and other conservation purposes. In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), the Columbia Land Conservancy, the Town of Kinderhook, and others, OSI identified a "Kinderhook Creek Conservation Corridor." Within this area lie two significant historic sites: Martin Van Buren National Historic Site and the Columbia County Historical Society's Van Alen House. In addition, this land encompasses a largely unspoiled agricultural landscape and a creek that is popular with fishermen, swimmers, and boaters. Over the years, OSI has helped protect nearly 1,000 acres of open space and working farmland within this corridor.

Addressing the concerns of citizens and the National Park Service at a critical time, Open Space Institute purchased a large tract of Van Buren farmland, including the historic Lindenwald farm cottage. OSI worked with the NPS to establish easements protecting Van Buren resources, and held those until such time as citizens and public organizations, including the Friends of Lindenwald, could request and achieve congressional approval for a boundary expansion in 2009.

In order to keep the farmland in agricultural use, Open Space sold a 101-acre parcel to Roxbury Farm, a community-supported cooperative organic farm. Roxbury Farm agreed to the easement stipulations suggested by the National Park Service protecting historic resources. This year, OSI donated 26 acres of land within the historic core of Lindenwald, including a Van Buren era farm cottage, to the National Park Service to benefit the people of the United States.

In addition to protecting Lindenwald in its historic agricultural setting, OSI has worked with the NPS to create a trail easement that will offer increased opportunities for public enjoyment of the park and surrounding land as part of an overall plan that was developed in concert with local landowners, citizens, and governments.

The unique partnership between OSI, Roxbury Farm, Friends of Lindenwald, and the NPS has created new opportunities to help visitors understand the importance of agriculture in President Van Buren's life, the role of the changing agricultural economy before the Civil War, and the value of agriculture to America's future.

HONORING MR. GEORGE MARTIN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th birthday of a proud son of the city of Buffalo and an ardent believer in the Jesuit educational tradition—George Martin.

When I think of George Martin, I think of a man of deep faith, commitment to public service, and a man who most of all places tremendous value in quality education. George Martin

is one of the proudest Buffalonians I have ever had the pleasure to know. His commitment to education is so vast, so complete, that these words hardly live up to the record he has compiled.

A proud alumnus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, George's service to that institution is unparalleled. A longtime board chair, George was designated an Affiliate Christian Brother due to his faithful service to St. Joe's and to the wider LaSallian community.

George has demonstrated as deep a commitment to Canisius College, where he is accurately regarded as a living legend. George was the very first lay Executive Vice President of Canisius College, where he blazed a trail and set an example for literally thousands of impressionable students. Today, a dormitory and an academic award are named in his honor, and an endowed scholarship fund exists in his name, demonstrating all the more the deep and abiding commitment George has to the college itself and to education in general.

George has a great history in public service as well. A veteran of the Sedita administration in Buffalo City Government, George was also a friend and confidant to Governor Hugh Carey. George also served with honor and distinction for many years in leadership of the New York State Council of Parks, where he worked tirelessly to maintain the New York State Park system's preeminent position as among the very best state systems in the nation.

Hailing from the proud neighborhoods of South Buffalo, George served his country with honor and bravery in World War II, and is patriarch to many nieces and nephews—many themselves alumni of Canisius. Our community is fortunate that this proud family shared their uncle with us, to dedicate so very much to the growth and success of these important Jesuit institutions.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me and with the membership of the House to honor the dedicated service of Buffalo's George Martin, and to wish good health and Godspeed to him upon the occasion of his 90th birthday.

PAUL MADAY RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mr. Paul M. Maday on his retirement from his position as Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for the Boilermakers Local 374, as well as his position as Recording Secretary-Treasurer for the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council. Paul, a member of the Boilermakers Local 374 for many years, has dedicated his life to the interests of his fellow tradespeople and the entire community in Northwest Indiana. For his lifetime of service to the Boilermakers, Paul was honored at a retirement dinner that took place at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, June 10, 2011.

Paul Maday has been a member of the Boilermakers Local 374 for 34 years. During his tenure, he has held numerous positions. After

four years as an apprentice, Paul became a journeyman, a general foreman, and a union steward. Paul's career continued to advance, and he was named Assistant Business Manager in 1995, a position he held for ten years. Because of his hard work and tremendous leadership skills, Paul went on to become Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer in 2005 and was reelected to this position in 2008. Paul also has served as Recording Secretary-Treasurer for the Northwestern Indiana Building Trades Council since 2005. For his noteworthy level of skill and commitment, Paul was appointed to the Indiana State Pressure Vessel Board in 2002, 2005, and 2008. Additionally, he has served as chairman of the Boilermakers National Pension Trust and the National Annuity Trust and also served as chairman of the Tripartite Committee for U.S. Steel, ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor and Burns Harbor, representing the Northwestern Indiana Building Trades Council. Paul's passion, devotion, and continuous support to the Building Trades is truly remarkable, and for this he is worthy of the highest praise.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in the craftsmanship and loyalty of tradespeople. For many years, Paul Maday has displayed unwavering dedication to the members of the Building Trades, and his various positions have allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of countless individuals. Not only has Paul selflessly served his local members, but through his work with the Building Trades, he has been a remarkable example of just how much good a dedicated individual can do for a community. When it comes to serving those in need, Paul Maday has been a leader of his members and the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council to ensure that innumerable good works are done. Paul also selflessly gives of his time to many charitable organizations. He has been involved in the Alzheimer's Association walk-a-thon fundraiser and has served on the executive board for the American Heart Association of Northwest Indiana, as well as the Northwest Indiana Workforce Investment board. Although Paul has served the Building Trades and his community with complete dedication, it is his commitment to his family that is most impressive. Paul and his wonderful wife, Terry, have two beloved children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Maday has given his time and efforts selflessly to the union members he has worked so tirelessly with and represented so well. He has given to the people of Northwest Indiana personally and through his work with the Building Trades Council. He has been a true role model to his peers and a true friend to Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Paul for his outstanding contributions and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2055

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today, with passage of the FY 2012 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, we renew our