

## TRIBUTE TO KATE SWIFT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kate Swift, a recently deceased Connecticut writer who is best known for her tireless work to end sexism in the English language. Kate, a resident of East Haddam, died of abdominal cancer on May 14 at the age of 87.

Born in Yonkers, NY, Kate attended Connecticut College in New London, CT. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1944 with a degree in journalism and spent the next two years in the Women's Army Corps serving as an information and education specialist before being honorably discharged. In 1965 she made her way back to Connecticut to enter the news bureau at Yale University's School of Medicine.

She began her writing career in the 1970s with her companion, Casey Miller, also a writer, who spent some of her career working in naval intelligence. While working with Casey to edit materials for a junior high school sex education program, the two noticed the dominance of male pronouns and references to men. They changed the language in the program to give girls a more prominent role and followed up by publishing their first article on the topic of gender-neutral language.

Kate's proposals gained a great deal of traction over time. Newspapers, textbooks, and public speakers continue to avoid sexist language like "firemen" and "stewardess", instead preferring more gender-neutral references. Articles by Kate and Casey have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and New York magazine on a wide variety of topics relating to sexism in language.

Since moving to East Haddam in 1972, Kate, a sharp intellect and incredibly talented writer, simply couldn't sit still. She was an activist heavily invested in women's rights and gay rights. She was a vocal advocate for Connecticut's marriage equality legislation and worked hard to help bring about its passage into law. She served on the Council of the Rathbun Free Memorial Library, the first Town Charter Commission, as well as the committee of the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, and the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for seventeen years. She traveled all over the world including to China for the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women.

Kate Swift, through her push to end gender discrimination in the English language and tireless activism, demonstrated that she was a true visionary. She was, in many respects, ahead of her time. Kate left her mark by forever changing how we use language and by fighting hard to root out injustice where she found it in the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the efforts and honoring the life of this remarkable woman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAMPUS  
SAVE ACT**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce important bipartisan legislation, the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act, which would close a serious gap in the law by requiring colleges and universities to clearly spell out their policies regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and will increase awareness and prevention of these acts by requiring transparency of information, prevention programs and assistance for victims. Senator BOB CASEY recently introduced the Senate companion bill (S. 834).

Sexual violence and violence in dating relationships are a serious problem on college campuses across the country. More than one in five female undergraduates will be victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during their time on a campus; only a fraction of incidents are reported and many victims go without adequate institutional support.

The Campus SaVE Act would increase the transparency of reports of sexual violence by institutions to include in their annual security reports statistics on domestic violence, dating violence and stalking that were reported to campus police authorities or local police agencies; promote prevention and bystander responsibility by requiring colleges and universities to develop clear statements of policy regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking prevention programs; ensure victims get the help they need by requiring colleges and universities to provide clear statements regarding their procedures followed when a case of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is reported and provide victims an explanation of their rights in writing; and requires clear procedures for institutional disciplinary proceedings and provides assistance to institutions to implement these requirements.

This legislation will help ensure our college campuses and universities are safe. I urge my colleagues to support it.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ILLYRIA**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in The Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosova in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and a common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosova who had built a successful

real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Monte Negro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosova. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosova against the regime of Slobodon Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States. The long list of distinguished Albanian-Americans introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel-Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle Endeavour, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American businessmen from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrami, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream. I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORHAM PARK  
MEMORIAL FIRST AID SQUAD,  
INC.**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad of Florham Park, New Jersey on celebrating their 60th Anniversary as of May 30th, 2011.

On May 30th, 1951 the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad was dedicated in fond

tribute to those who served or gave their all in our defense.

The all-volunteer Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They cover 7½ square miles and service 12,600 residents along with businesses, schools, colleges, assisted living facilities, local streets and highways, as well as provide mutual aid to neighboring towns.

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad is a non-profit organization financially supported only by donations; comprised 100 percent of volunteers. Students, professionals and retirees from all walks of life lend time to serve their community. Auxiliary members also volunteer on committees to preserve the house and grounds, as well as organize special social events.

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad handles approximately 1,200 calls per year. A typical crew includes an experienced chief, an EMT-B and driver, and a probationary member (who has served less than 6 months on the squad). Responsibilities of the crew on call include, remaining in town during the shift, inspecting ambulance and equipment, and responding to 911 calls, along with drills and instruction.

Aside from time responding to calls, volunteers of the first aid squad complete numerous hours of rigorous training preparing for any situation that may arise. Their selfless donation of their time, tireless commitment to service and compassion for others sets these volunteers apart from others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

#### HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF TURKEY'S FOUNDER

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, while Congress was in recess, the Republic of Turkey and Friends of Turkey commemorated the 92nd anniversary of the launching of Turkey's national campaign to establish an independent nation by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Turkey also celebrates May 19 as the birthday of Ataturk.

During his life time Ataturk was able to lift a country from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire and build a secular democratic nation located at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East. His reforms were widespread including political, social, legal, educational, and economic. Some were monumental such as abolishing the caliphate and the sultan, recognizing equal rights for men and women, adopting a new alphabet and adopting secular law. Ataturk had a vision for the country, one of a pro-western secular and democratic state in which the rule of law would prevail. He swiftly but steadily advanced toward that goal with the confidence of a born leader and the support of the Turkish nation.

Ataturk championed women's rights, and believed that education and scientific training was the key to advancement not only for the individual, but also for the country. During his

tenure, women were encouraged to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, and enter into politics.

The legacy of Ataturk is even more evident today, as the Arab Spring leads to dramatic changes in the Middle East and North Africa. There are lessons in Turkey's history which can be applied to the current situation around the world. With the right leadership and determination, democracy can take root and lay the foundations for a prosperous future in the region.

#### HONORING ADOLFO ALVAREZ, SR.

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Former Frio County Commissioner Adolfo Alvarez, Sr. to honor his contributions to South Texas. On May 28, 2011, Mr. Alvarez celebrates his 80th birthday and a lifetime of achievements as a Veteran and Former County Commissioner.

Mr. Alvarez was born May 27, 1931, in Harlingen, Texas, to the parentage of Gernaro and Dominga Alvarez. He attended Harlingen High School in 1950 and served his country in the Korean War upon graduation. Mr. Alvarez returned from battle and married Guadalupe Morales Alvarez soon after. The couple has been happily married for 55 years and their union produced 9 children, 19 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Mr. Alvarez began working in the auto repair industry and has been the proud owner of A and A Auto Parts retail stores in Pearsall, Dilley and Cotulla, Texas since 1973. In 1980, he was elected Frio County Commissioner and devoted himself to the people for 20 years. In addition to his post as Commissioner, Mr. Alvarez also served on the State Democratic Executive Committee for the 21st Senatorial District, was an active member of the Mexican American Democrats, and was appointed to the Commission on Aging by Gov. Ann Richards during her time in office.

Residing in Pearsall, TX, Mr. Alvarez spends his days as the city's first life member of VFW Post 9185, a life member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens. He remains spiritually active as a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in the city in which he resides. As a former County Commissioner, he remains devoted to his community through his volunteer activities, church involvement, and interests.

Former Commissioner Alvarez has lived in Pearsall, Texas for over 30 years and served Precinct 3 for 16 years beginning in 1980 and ending in 2000. In addition, he is a Korean War Veteran and founding member of the VFW post in Pearsall, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the remarkable life of Mr. Adolfo Alvarez, Sr. and his 80th birthday celebration. Thank you.

#### CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN PATRICK J. LEVAR

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Alderman Patrick J. Levar on his recent retirement from his position as Alderman of the 45th Ward of the City of Chicago.

For the last 24 years, Alderman Levar represented the residents of the 45th Ward and worked to bring many improvements to the schools, businesses, and safety of his constituency. One of his many accomplishments as Alderman was the building of a new police station for the 16th District—Chicago Police Department to ensure that the 45th Ward was one of the safest in Chicago. He brought over \$7 million in improvements to local neighborhood schools and built the first new library on Chicago's northwest side. He returned over \$1 million to the 45th Ward by improving parks, playgrounds, and local streets.

He also wanted to make sure his ward thrived economically and worked tirelessly to rejuvenate businesses and create jobs by helping build shopping complexes and business structures. His dedication to his job and the city he loves is an example of why Chicago is known as "The City That Works."

Alderman Levar is very proud of the northwest side of Chicago, the area he has called home for his entire life, and of the Jefferson Park neighborhood, the area where he and his wife have raised their family.

Pat would be the first to tell you that his family is his first priority, and they have provided support for his entire career. He has been happily married for 37 years to his wonderful wife, Mary Ann. His family also includes his son, Patrick, Jr., and his wife, Jeanene, his daughters, Michelle and Julie, his son, Ryan, and his grandchildren, Patrick, Clare, and Maeve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Alderman Levar's years of service to the City of Chicago. I hope that his dedication and hard work inspire us all to see the difference we can make by serving our local communities. I wish him a happy and successful retirement and all the best in the future.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ALEX MICHAEL JAGIM

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Michael Jagim for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Alex is a junior at Waukee High School.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Alex's service project was to install a