

COMMEMORATING INDIANA UNIVERSITY TRACK COACH SAM BELL

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my hometown community in Bloomington, Indiana, and the many Hoosiers who crossed paths with legendary track coach, Sam Bell.

It's difficult to estimate just how many Hoosiers it is I speak for today, but suffice it to say, Coach Bell had a tremendous impact in his three decades coaching at Indiana University.

It would take all of the time allotted here and then some, to try to list all of Coach Bell's accomplishments.

But among the brightest in his long line of successes, was being a father of four, a grandfather to nine, and a source of confidence for so many young people that he coached.

Sam Bell remains one of the most highly-regarded coaches in the history of Indiana track and field—and for good reason.

He won hundreds of titles. He coached Olympians. He commanded a reputation for greatness which preceded him everywhere he went.

His athletes will be the first to tell you Coach Bell was intensely demanding. He was tough—some say old school or conservative even. But they respected him for it.

I was especially struck, Mr. Speaker, by one former Olympian who, years later, finds himself constantly quoting Coach Bell to his own children.

You see, because of the type of person Coach Bell was, he had the ability to transform not just a single athlete's life, but the lives of those who come thereafter.

There is perhaps no greater legacy one can leave, and I am privileged to share it here today—and offer my respects to the Bell family and all who called him "Coach."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 390 on the Palmer of Alabama Amendment No. 41 to H.R. 5485, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present. Roll Call No. 367, Yea. Roll Call No.

377, Nay. Roll Call No. 378, Yea. Roll Call No. 379, Yea. Roll Call No. 380, Yea. Roll Call No. 381, Yea. Roll Call No. 382, Yea. Roll Call No. 383, Yea. Roll Call No. 384, Yea. Roll Call No. 385, Yea. Roll Call No. 386, Yea. Roll Call No. 387, Yea. Roll Call No. 388, Yea. Roll Call No. 389, Yea. Roll Call No. 390, Yea. Roll Call No. 391, Yea. Roll Call No. 392, Yea. Roll Call No. 393, Yea. Roll Call No. 394, Nay. Roll Call No. 395, Yea. Roll Call No. 396, Yea. Roll Call No. 397, Nay. Roll Call No. 398, Yea.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BOB" WEGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert "Bob" Wege of Council Bluffs, Iowa who recently retired as a member of the Citizen's Police Advisory Board of Council Bluffs. The Citizen's Police Advisory Board acts as a liaison to strengthen relationships between the citizens of Council Bluffs and the local Police Department. Bob has served on the Advisory Board for over 30 years.

When Bob retired in 1984 from the U.S. Army he knew he wanted to do something for his community. He became a member of the Citizen's Police Advisory Board because it had a history of loyalty and structure similar to the U.S. Army. He served five different police chiefs while serving on the Advisory Board. Mr. Wege said he could remember something that President Lyndon Johnson had said, "Law enforcement cannot succeed without the sustained and informed interest of all citizens." When he read this statement, Bob knew this was something he could do for his community.

Bob was raised in Norfolk, Nebraska and attended Norfolk High School. There he met his future wife, Mary Ann, and they married in 1948. Bob joined the U.S. Army later that year and spent the next 36 years serving our country. Bob has not asked for any special recognition but has been motivated by his desire to serve his nation and his community.

I commend and congratulate Bob Wege for his service to our country and his commitment and dedication to Council Bluffs, Iowa. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bob Wege for his service and wish him the very best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK MCCARTNEY OF THE LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Mark McCartney, the Master Police Officer of the Leesburg Police Department, for his many years of service to the community of Loudoun County. Mr. McCartney has been a part of the Leesburg Police since August 1986, and his many years of service have been hallmarked with distinctions worthy of

such a dedicated officer who will soon be retiring exactly 30 years after he first started.

Mark began his police training in 1985 when he was enrolled in the Municipal Police Academy of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and then subsequently attended the 64th session of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. He served the following 10 years as a patrol officer before being promoted to the rank of corporal in 1989. He was furthermore a motorcycle officer for 18 years during which he investigated countless road accidents, and was a member of the Crash Reconstruction Unit. More notably still, Officer McCartney also acted as the sniper for the Special Operations Team, whilst also returning to the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy as a radar instructor. He was decorated as Master Police Officer in 2003.

Officer McCartney has gone beyond his duty throughout his years of service as evidenced by his exemplary record, and this record has not gone unseen. Indeed, Mark McCartney has been honored with multiple awards throughout his career including that of Officer of the Year, the Loudoun County Chamber Life Saving Award, and of course the Leesburg Police Outstanding Service Award. This is a man who deserves all our thanks and gratitude for all that he has done for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to congratulate Officer McCartney for his service, and to join me in wishing him a happiness and fortune in his future endeavors.

DR. AND MRS. PRAVINCHANDRA H. PATEL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an outstanding man, distinguished medical professional and special friend, Dr. Pravinchandra H. Patel, MD in his union of holy matrimony with Ms. June Cassman. They exchanged nuptials on Saturday, June 25, 2016, in San Francisco, California and the wedding will be followed by a reception as well as a traditional Garba and Raas ceremony, which will take place at the Columbus, Georgia Convention and Trade Center on Saturday, July 9, 2016.

Pravinchandra, or "P.H.", as he is known by his loved ones, is an extraordinary physician who specializes in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine. P.H. graduated from Kasturba Medical College in 1979. He went on to intern at the Jewish Hospital For Chronic Diseases in 1982, and then attended Eastern Tennessee State University College of Medicine where he completed both his residency (in 1984) and his fellowship (in 1987). He is now one of the leading physicians at Gastrointestinal Diseases, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia. Dr. Patel's gastrointestinal practice serves as a primary source of professional care for digestive diseases in the Columbus area.

He has provided extraordinary medical care to the patients in the Chattahoochee Valley Area for more than 34 years. Moreover, Dr. Patel is an exemplary entrepreneur and philanthropist. Having immigrated to the United

States from India, Dr. Patel nevertheless retains his cultural and religious heritage. His luxurious home is designed, decorated, and furnished with authentic materials, art and other decor imported from India. Indeed his wedding celebration will include the traditional Garba and Raas ceremony.

Dr. Pravinchandra H. Patel is truly a man of achievement, service and public distinction and will certainly be complemented in his life and career going forward by his union with his new wife, June.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with more than 730,000 citizens of the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, in congratulating Dr. Pravinchandra H. Patel, MD and his new wife, June, on their marriage and continued service to their community. They are so deserving of this magical moment and a lifetime of happiness to follow. May love reign in their lives forever.

REMEMBERING ROMERO: GOD
PASSED THROUGH EL SALVADOR

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in the Spring 2016 edition of *ReVista Magazine*, Gene Palumbo has written a beautiful remembrance of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated in 1980 and recently beatified in May 2015 in a moving ceremony that I was privileged to attend.

I have known Gene Palumbo for over three decades. He first began reporting on the war in El Salvador in 1980, when he moved to El Salvador to continue covering the civil war over the next twelve years. I remember speaking to him frequently when I traveled to El Salvador during those turbulent times, and I have always valued his insights and knowledge of the people, institutions and internal dynamics of that country. Gene has reported for the *New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, the *Canadian Broadcasting Company*, and most frequently, for the *National Catholic Reporter*. He teaches at the *Casa de la Solidaridad*, a semester-long study abroad program for U.S. university students in San Salvador.

Gene's reporting continues to inform and inspire me. This moving tribute to Archbishop Romero reflects the hope Gene continues to have in El Salvador's future. I urge all my colleagues to read and reflect on the life of the martyred and blessed Oscar Romero and the dedication of Gene Palumbo, who continues to write about the challenges facing the Salvadoran people.

REMEMBERING ROMERO: "GOD PASSED THROUGH
EL SALVADOR"

(By Gene Palumbo)

SAN SALVADOR.—Fr. Paul Schindler remembers the day when Oscar Romero sat beside him, trembling. Romero knew he wasn't among friends. The scene was a clergy meeting in early 1977, and many of the priests were furious: a man they'd clashed with—Romero—had just been named as the new archbishop.

As the meeting was ending, Romero—who hadn't yet been installed—was asked if he'd like to say a few words. For all Schindler knew, they would be the last words he'd ever

hear from Romero. Discouraged at the prospect of working under someone he was unsure of, Schindler had told his bishop back in Cleveland that he'd decided to return home after eight years of parish work in El Salvador.

"He walked to the front of the room and began to speak," said Schindler, "and after a half hour, I said to myself, 'I'm not going anywhere.'"

It was Schindler's first glimpse of something that, until then, had been unknown to him and many others: Romero had begun to change. Earlier, in his years as an auxiliary bishop in San Salvador, many had regarded him as too docile, too accepting of a social order which, they felt, cried out for change. Then, in 1974, he was named bishop of Santiago de Maria, a rural diocese where government repression was widespread, and where, while Romero was bishop, the first massacres of peasants took place. His three years there affected him deeply.

Those were the years when Eva Menjivar came to know him. She was one of many nuns who, in the 1960s, left their convents in San Salvador and went to work in rural parishes that had no priests.

She was assigned to Ciudad Barrios, the small town in eastern El Salvador where Romero was born and grew up. The town was located in the Santiago de Maria diocese, and by the time Romero was named bishop there, Menjivar and her fellow sisters had catechetical and literacy programs underway, and were offering job training in sewing and auto mechanics.

Menjivar says that when people invited Romero to visit their far-flung hamlets, he almost always accepted. She recalls an occasion when residents of one of those hamlets staged a play for him, a play they had written about several Gospel parables. Afterward, they spoke about what the parables meant to them.

At the end they turned to Romero and—as one might ask an expert—said, tell us what these parables really mean. His reply, Menjivar recalls, was, "I have nothing to add. I've learned more about the Bible today than I did when I studied it in the seminary in Rome."

"We had never seen a bishop draw near to the people the way he did," says Menjivar. "He'd greet them all, try to speak with them all, and when they had questions for him, he was happy to try to answer them."

Schindler's experience was similar. "Whenever I'd invite him—and not just to the main church, but to the rural villages—he would come. He was always there with the people. That was his whole thing: to walk with them, to feel with them, to inspire them."

Menjivar recalls the sisters' monthly retreats with Romero, and the time in late 1976 when, informed that the National Guard had arrested two teenage catechists in Ciudad Barrios, he went there immediately to demand their release. To ensure that they wouldn't be re-arrested, he took them back to Santiago de Maria where he listened to their accounts of being tortured.

Menjivar was later transferred to a parish near the town of Aguilares. There she worked with Jesuit Fr. Rutilio Grande, whose sainthood process is now underway. On the evening of March 12, 1977, she was at Mass when she was handed a note saying that Grande had disappeared. She went straight to Aguilares and, upon arriving, learned that he had been murdered along with an elderly campesino and a teenager.

Grande and Romero had become close friends in the late 1960s, when both were living at the seminary in San Salvador. When Romero was named bishop in 1970, he asked Grande to preside at his installation ceremony.

In the following four years—up until the time he left for Santiago de Maria—Romero had bitter disputes with priests in the archdiocese, and when, to their dismay, he was named archbishop in 1977, it was Grande who stood up for him.

"Rutilio said to us, 'Yes, he's conservative. But he's honest, and he's someone you can work with'" said Fr. Pedro Declercq, a Belgian missionary whose work with grass-roots Christian communities led to the bombing of his parish.

Declercq didn't have to wait long to see how much Romero had changed. They'd had an ugly falling out in 1972, when his parishioners invited Romero to visit them to say Mass and explain why he had justified, on behalf of the bishops conference, a military invasion of the National University.

The army had wounded some people, arrested others, and evicted people whose homes were on the university's campus. The discussion between Romero and the parishioners began at the homily, but quickly turned into a shouting match, with Declercq finally tearing off his vestments and saying the Mass was over.

When Romero returned to San Salvador as archbishop, he visited the parish again. As recounted by Sister Noemí Ortiz in *María López Vigil's Monseñor Romero: Memories in Mosaic*,

[Romero] brought up [the earlier incident] as soon as he got there. "We couldn't even celebrate the Eucharist that afternoon . . . We were insulting each other. . . . Do you remember? I remember it well and today, as your pastor, I want to say that I now understand what happened that day, and here before you I recognize my error.

"I was wrong and you were right. That day you taught me about faith and about the Church. Please forgive me for everything that happened then."

Well, all of us, young and old, started crying . . . We broke into applause, and our applause melted into the music of the party. . . . All was forgiven.

On the night of Grande's death, Menjivar was sitting beside his corpse, using a towel to absorb the blood that was trickling out, when Romero arrived at the parish. She said Romero approached the corpse and, after standing in silence for several moments, said, "If we don't change now, we never will."

Jesuit Fr. Jon Sobrino, a prominent liberation theologian, was at the parish that night, and answered the door when Romero knocked. Earlier Romero had criticized Sobrino's writings on Christology; later, as archbishop, he would consult Sobrino when preparing his pastoral letters.

Sobrino says that after Romero himself was murdered, "people began speaking of him as an exceptional person and Christian. In the funeral Mass we held for him at the UCA (Central American University), Ignacio Ellacuría said, 'In Archbishop Romero, God passed through El Salvador' The people spontaneously proclaimed him a saint" (In 1989, Fr. Ellacuría, along with five other Jesuits and two women, was murdered at the UCA.)

When Pope Francis ratified Romero's status as a martyr, Schindler said, "The people in the parish have been waiting and waiting for this. They hold him as a saint, and they've always held him as a saint, and now that the pronouncement has been made, they're going to be overwhelmed."

Menjivar said that when she heard the news, "I felt great joy—and at the same time, I thought to myself, I hope this will be the occasion for those who killed him to be converted."