

Mr. Speaker, Edward 'Bud' Donahue is an exceptional member of the community. I ask you to join me in honoring the service of Mr. Edward Donahue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2018—I was not present for roll call votes 267 to 268 as I was required to be in Connecticut for a memorial service. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 267; and Nay on roll call vote 268.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAYNE ALTERISIO

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and admiration for Mr. Wayne Alterisio, and I offer my sincere thanks to him for his years of service to our state as the former President of the New Hampshire Letter Carriers Association.

Through his work with the New Hampshire AFL-CIO, the 'Stamp Out Hunger' Food Drive and the Nashua Central Labor Council, Wayne has made meaningful contributions to our community and our state. It is Granite Staters like Wayne who make New Hampshire such an incredibly special place to live, work, and raise a family.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Wayne again for his distinguished public service, and I wish him the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on June 20, 2018, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 272; YEA on Roll Call No. 273; YEA on Roll Call No. 274; NAY on Roll Call No. 275; and YEA on Roll Call No. 276.

JOHN T. MARGIE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corps Combat veteran, Mr. John T. Margie of Deptford Township in New Jersey's First Congressional District.

Mr. Margie was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In September 1948, he trained for three months at the MCRD, Parris Island, South Carolina. After completing his training, he then entered an infantry exercise on the USS *Worcester* in the Mediterranean Sea.

In June of 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea, Mr. Margie, along with his fellow soldiers, shipped abroad to the Suez Canal, South China Sea, Japan and Korea; contributing to the decisive battle of the Korean War, the "Battle of Chosin Reservoir".

After serving overseas, Corporal Margie became a Marine Recruiter in Defiance, Ohio, receiving the title of "Outstanding Recruiter of the Year". While transporting new recruits to Parris Island, he contracted Polio; however, with support from the U.S. Navy doctors, nurses and his family, he remarkably regained the ability to move.

Upon retirement, Mr. Margie received numerous awards including, the Legion of Honor, the New Jersey Volunteer of the Year Award, National Shipmate of the Year, Fleet Reserve Association award, the Human Goals award, the Commanders Naval Sea System Command award, and the Deptford Citizen of the Year award.

Following his formal service to the United States Armed Forces, Mr. Margie's contributions continued. He served as Co-Founder of the Semper Fidelis Detachment, Marine Corps League, Wenonah American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, the Fleet Reserve Association, and the Chosin Few; an organizations former for survivors of the Chosin Reservoir Battle of 1950.

Mr. John T. Margie is an honorable American, having served our great nation in a time of war, and merits our collective appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting John T. Margie for his heroism, his sacrifice in the Korean War, and his service to the United States of America.

HALL OF FAME—NAPLES ZOO

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Naples Zoo on its recent induction into the Trip Advisor Hall of Fame.

The Naples Zoo earned this designation after receiving five consecutive annual 'Certificates of Excellence' from Trip Advisor. Maintaining such an impressive record is no small feat, and requires a relentless commitment to quality customer service. An excellent visitor experience is a top priority of the staff at the Zoo, and their devotion to providing the best possible visit to the guest is indicative of the welcoming spirit present throughout Naples.

I am proud to recognize the Naples Zoo for its achievement, and gladly point to it as another shining example of the strong tourist appeal of Southwest Florida.

EULOGY FOR J. BRIAN GAFFNEY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD, a eulogy of J. Brian Gaffney. Brian was an exceptional man, devoted to his family, his community New Britain, his state of Connecticut, his Nation, and of course Notre Dame. The world of politics where Brian and many of his peers came of age in was a world where loyalty was, and still is, a tremendous value.

At his funeral service, the outpouring of the community had to be heartwarming for his beautiful and gracious wife, Mary Lou, and the entire Gaffney family. As they embraced a grateful public, the stories, the respect and the Irish humor were ever present, just what Brian would have wanted. I knew Brian but felt a special kinship to him from the stories told by Jay Malcynsky, his daughter Alicia, and his son-in-law Fritz.

Brian was the kind of man that when he held court, you wanted a front row seat to hear him. It's hard to capture the impact, the complexity of a man and his expansive influence. It was done in exceptional form by former Republican Chairman Chris Healy.

His remarks, his candor, his insights were the talk of the wake and captured the essence of a great American.

"John Brian Gaffney had as big and colorful a ride as any Connecticut politician over the last 60 years. He made New Britain a Republican town, he served locally and at the state Capitol, orchestrated the rise of a Congressman and then Governor, knew Presidents by name, ruled like a true state Party chairman, practiced law, raised six children with his wife of 5 years, Mary Louise, and got in lots of golf at Shuttle Meadow.

Gaffney left this earth at age 85 this past week and with it a record for the ages during a time where honor, loyalty and laughter were the currency of the political realm. He was a New Britain guy, through and through and never lost his bearings about the important things—friendship, family and loyalty.

His life reads like a novel by Edwin O'Connor—a graduate of Notre Dame University and Fordham Law School, who joined the family law practice and apprenticed in the close quarter combat of Hardware City politics.

Thomas J. Meskill, also a local lawyer, who was tagged by one columnist during the day as all "Irish Fight" lured Gaffney into running for the Board of Alderman when he took another shot at the Mayor's office.

They both won and within eight years, they had lined themselves up to take on the formidable Democrat machine, led by John Bailey, a former National Democrat chairman and merciless operator by which all others were measured.

Meskill and Gaffney proved more than up for the task at hand, hardened by their City Hall experience. Once, Mayor Meskill had city police haul recalcitrant Democrat Aldermen back to a meeting when they walked out to deny him a quorum.

By late 1969, Gaffney's plate was full and overflowing. He had a part-time job doing Congressional field work for Meskill, practiced law, helped Paul Manafort Sr. hold the Mayor's office, had a seat in the state House representing the 29th District and chaired the local town committee.

Democrats had owned the governor's mansion since 1955 and 1970 would be the first

election after Richard Nixon's close Presidential win. The seat was open but there were some divisions in the Democrat ranks, particularly for the U.S. Senate race where a liberal challenger, Rev. Joseph Duffy challenged a wounded incumbent Thomas Dodd, the latter who ran as an independent candidate. The 1968 riots had scared many Connecticut cities, frightening suburban voters while the Vietnam War had divided Bailey Democrats from the growing Left.

Gaffney got the word out that Congressman Meskill would be willing to run for the top job and started beating the drums. But there was strong competition in State Senate Minority Leader Wallace "Wally" Barnes of Bristol and state Sen. T. Clark Hull of Danbury. Meskill won the convention, watched the well-oiled delegates pick Hull as his running mate and avoided a primary.

Bailey called Meskill "Tough Tommy" a moniker any Republican at that time would gratefully accept. If Meskill was the champ, Gaffney his corner man, fixing the cuts, wiping the sweat and telling his man to get back in and finish it. Meskill recruited and attracted a deep bench of young, eager Republican operatives—known as the Kiddie Corps—including two who themselves would become state Party chairmen, legislators, power brokers, lobbyists and gifted players at the game. They were hungry and eager—and Gaffney put them to work.

The Corps organized at the local level while Gaffney cajoled local GOP leaders, kept Meskill on a Conservative message of smaller government, less spending and business-friendly policies. In those days, patronage wasn't an obscenity and he used it appropriately as an effective incentive. Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew made personal appearances, including a famous parade through the streets of Hartford.

After Meskill defeated U.S. Rep. Emilio Q. "Mim" Daddario and U.S. Rep. Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., defeated Sen. Dodd and Duffy, Gaffney was rewarded with the state Party chairmanship. In two years, Nixon's 49-state landslide would sweep Republicans into complete power in the legislature. As Meskill governed, Gaffney made sure it ran as smoothly as possible.

In March 1974, everything that went well in 1972 turned upside down. With Watergate in full bloom and an urge to return to law, Meskill announced he would not seek a second term. While some blamed a freak ice storm that Meskill was slow to appreciate while out of state on vacation, the national storm clouds were darkening rapidly. When Republicans nominated Bob Steele, Gaffney stepped down as chairman.

In October, Meskill appointed Gaffney to the bench over the protestations of the Connecticut Bar Association. Gov. Ella Grasso didn't reappoint him three months later, so Gaffney went back to law.

In 1984, he and George Bennett formed Gaffney-Bennett and Associates. State lobbying was expanding at a rapid clip and along with a young Jay Malcynsky, also a New Britain lad, they came up with a winning formula of contract lobbying handled by both lobbyists from both Parties.

Every significant Republican over the last 50 years coveled or depended on Gaffney's counsel or high sign—Nancy Johnson, Stewart McKinney, Weicker and John G. Rowland not to mention scores of others who never measured up.

Almost to the end of his storied life, Gaffney kept his hand in the game, as honorary chairman of statewide campaigns for Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, delegating to a new group of operatives and making sure the vote got out. Even as he spent more time on his short game and his grand-

children, Gaffney would pick up the phone to call a Republican insider to find out what was going on—who was up, who was down and who the next up and comer was.

Like anyone in the game that long, Gaffney made his share of enemies who felt he hadn't been straight with them or was expedient in his relationships. No one's street is always clean, but most of those who complained the loudest were masking their own failures and looking for a convenient excuse to explain their defeat.

I enjoyed my chairman-to-chairman conversations with Gaffney, who always returned the "Mr. Chairman" salutation without hesitation. He knew how to work people and I was as thrilled as anyone to hear it. When we would share a timeless frustration that all chairmen have endured, he would let out a loud roaring laugh only the Irish can muster.

In going through the clips, I noticed a profile done by Hartford Courant report Michelle Jaklin, who quoted why a long-time Conservative GOP operative was supporting George H.W. Bush for President in 1988 and not her previously preferred choice of Jack Kemp or Pierre "Pete" DuPont. "Because Brian Gaffney asked me to," she replied. "Any loyalty you give Brian, you get back in spades. People have been with him for years and years."

Gaffney represented a time when Democrats and Republicans would beat each other senseless but when the whistle sounded, they picked each other up, wiped away the blood, picked up the loose teeth and went to have a cold one to make sense of it all.

He loved the game, the competition and the people up and down the line who made politics serious and fun, and he did it by living by a code that put a high premium on being true to yourself and others in the fox-hole.

Gaffney knew how to use power during a time when you could. By the late 1980's, the role of the state Party had shifted to one of communication, back office and training. It no longer held the cards to make candidates, reward friends and punish the wicked.

He was an Irish warlord, but with a sense of humor.

His passing is the final chapter of a bygone era—for good or bad—but one that worked."

It is my hope that the eulogy by Chris Healy will have future congressional scholars or those who peruse the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD understanding the rich life and contribution of J. Brian Gaffney. The whole Connecticut delegation joins me in honoring Brian and extends our sincere condolences to the Gaffney Family.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN SRI LANKA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing on human rights concerns in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan civil war ended almost 10 years ago this May. The 25-year war cost an estimated 100,000 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands more. The civil war was a brutal ethnic conflict between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils; both sides—the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the rebel "Tamil Tigers"—have

been credibly accused of unimaginable war crimes.

To this day, justice for many of the victims remains elusive. Although many observers hoped that the reformist government of President Sirisena would increase access to justice, focus on human rights, emphasize transparency and accountability, and improve the rule of law, his administration has been criticized for having an inadequate response. Despite having run on a platform of ethnic reconciliation, President Sirisena has done little to mend the ties between the groups, and the political polarization has increased among both ethnic groups.

As one of our experts, J.S. Tissainayagam, attested, there has been no progress on holding those responsible for war crimes to account. And he will describe forced disappearances of Tamils and torture were endemic during the war. Much of this was facilitated by the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act, or the PTA. The PTA has yet to be repealed, and is still in use by the government and security forces. Whereas most Tamils nowadays simply desire some semblance of self-governance and federalism, their areas in the north and eastern part of the island are increasingly militarized.

A concerning development in Sri Lanka is the resurgence of Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism. As one of our expert witnesses, Dr. Michael Jerryson, described, this particularly virulent strand of nationalism preaches exclusion of other ethnic and religious minorities, with Buddhist fundamentalists in groups such as the BBS saying "This is not a multi-religious country. This is a Sinhalese country."

What of the minority groups, such as the predominantly Hindu Tamils, then? Or the Muslims, who constitute a distinct minority, or the Christians, who can be either be Sinhalese or Tamil? If the character of Sri Lanka is solely Buddhist and Sinhala, there is little room for these ethnic and religious minorities to thrive, and reconciliation will remain a far off goal.

Unfortunately, the trend is heading in the opposite direction—in local elections in February of this year, a newly formed Buddhist nationalist party gained 45 percent of the vote, beating the government coalition combined. Furthermore, in March of this year, Sinhalese mobs engaged in an anti-Muslim pogrom after a local dispute, forcing the President to declare a state of emergency.

Sri Lanka's stability is of critical importance to the United States national interests. Strategically located in the sea-lanes linking the Persian Gulf to East Asia, this island-nation has seen a spike in recent activity by the Chinese. China's strategy globally is one of indebting countries and binding them in servitude so it can extract resources, so it is safe to say that Beijing's initiatives will not emphasize ethnic reconciliation and/or human rights. This presents the United States with an opportunity to stand up for justice and the rule of law and to oppose China's malign influence.

After a brutal war that cost an unconscionable loss of life, we must do better to help Sri Lanka get on the right page again. The country has promise and the people deserve better. Once all sides recognize this, this island-nation will finally have some semblance of peace.